

MSc to investigate coral reef responses to climate change

We are seeking an enthusiastic and self-motivated South African candidate to join our multidisciplinary coral reef programme. This position is for two years on a full-time basis commencing in March 2018. The candidate will have an Honours degree in the natural sciences and have good written and verbal command of English. The ideal candidate would have experience and skills in experimental design and data analysis, ecology, physiology and chemistry. Candidates with ecological experience in the marine environment and marine aquarium husbandry will have a further advantage. The candidate will be required to undertake at least one field trip at sea on an inflatable and will therefore need to be physically fit. Applicants should have an understanding of climate change and the various mechanisms in which it may affect coral reefs.

Interested candidates may apply by submitting a 1) short cover letter in which you motivate why you would be the preferred candidate and where your specific interests and experience lies in the field of marine ecology; 2) CV with the names and contact details of two referees; and 3) official academic transcripts of undergraduate and Honours degrees. Applications should be sent to Dr Sean Porter (sporter@ori.org.za) and Prof. Michael Schleyer (schleyer@ori.org.za). The successful applicant will be based in Durban at the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI) and registered with the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She/he will be supervised by Dr Sean Porter and Prof. Michael Schleyer of ORI. The deadline for applications is the 12th February 2018.

Please see detail of the project below:

Coral reef responses to climate change

Coral reefs are threatened by numerous factors, one of which is anthropogenically-induced climate change. Climate change may lead to increased ocean temperatures and a shift in the carbonate balance to higher acidity and reduced pH. Different scenarios may have differential effects on coral reef organisms and coral reef ecosystems. The work will involve setting up *ex-situ* mesocosms of representative coral reef communities in the ORI open-circuit saltwater aquarium system. These reef communities will then be exposed to different climate change scenarios. Various parameters will be measured to provide empirical data on how such organisms respond at the organism and community level.



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