

Cetacean research internships - Last call Winter-Spring Season 2015

Hi everyone,

On behalf of the Bottlenose Dolphin Research Institute (BDRI), I am pleased to announce that we are currently accepting internship applications for winter-spring term 2015 (a minimum of 60 days of participation) for our research project along the North-western coast of the Iberian Peninsula (Galician waters, Spain). Our mission (since 2005) is to promote the conservation of marine mammal species and their habitat through education and research.

Interns can expect to gain a solid foundation in cetaceans behavioural ecology and sociobiology with a focus on dolphins ethology, habitat use and communication. Furthermore, as the Galician coastline is known for frequent strandings of various marine mammals species, the participants will be a part of an important network for rescue and data collection from these stranded animals. The BDRI offers the interns the chance to work during many steps of the research. Your participation means that you will not only be observing the studied animals at sea, but you will also be collecting different types of scientific data, using various research methods, and helping on board the research vessel in general. When back in the lab, you will participate in the transcription of the collected data, with the database work, you will use various softwares, perform photo-identification analysis, use of GIS and more. Moreover interns will also assist with marine mammals rescue (cetaceans and seals), carcass salvage, analysis of stomach contents, and field necropsies as needed in Galician waters. Hence, interns will also receive cross-training in different areas related with the strandings (Response, Rescue, Necropsy and data collection).

As an internship, you will be encouraged to work hard and gain an insight of what it is actually like to work as a marine mammal researcher. An academic background in biology, veterinary or natural science, coupled with motivation, willingness to work hard and interest in marine mammals research make the most qualified individuals.

Our centre understands the importance of giving the participant the responsibilities and experience which give an insight and reflect the ones of a true future job in the field of marine mammal science.

The BDRI is a private and self-funded centre, hence, there is no compensation for the internship positions. The tuition fee includes the accommodation in an apartment, tuition and a small part of other expenses derived of your participation (use of equipment, field trips by car, use of research vessel). Successful applicants will be responsible for their own transportation expenses to and from the research centre (O Grove, Galicia, Spain). Internship start and end dates are flexible but the position requires a minimum 8 weeks continuous commitment sometime between January 15th through November 30th.

The intern is required to complete a project and present a 10 minute presentation at the end of their internship. Undergraduate and postgraduate students could, as a part of one of BDRIs projects, present a personal research project as their thesis work. In order to do so, this is requested within your internship application. If the intern intends to receive academic credit, he/she will be responsible for making all arrangements with their educational institutions.

There is no deadline to apply. However, approved applications are accepted on a first-come, first serve basis. Apply early! Positions are open until filled (maximum 8 vacancies). Prior field research experience is recommended but not required.

Please download the internships general information and application form at:

www.thebdri.com/resources/downloads/internships.pdf

www.thebdri.com/resources/downloads/applicationinternships.doc

Send the application form, resume, recommendation letters, and cover letter by email to the email: info@thebdri.com

For more information about BDRI's research and conservation work, please visit www.thebdri.com or our Facebook page.

See you on site!

Bruno Diaz Lopez

Chief Biologist and Director

Bottlenose Dolphin Research Institute (BDRI)

Av. Beiramar 192, O Grove CP. 36980

Pontevedra-Spain

tel. 00 34 605 521441

www.thebdri.com