

Marine Mammal Research and Conservation

Background: The eastern Aegean is a region rich in marine biodiversity, including cetacean (dolphins and whales), monk seals and sea turtles. Numerous of these species are listed as at risk, vulnerable and/or endangered by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), as their habitats have been significantly impacted by human presence and activities.

Description: The goal of the Archipelagos marine mammal research team is to monitor the regional status of marine mammal populations and their habitats in the eastern Aegean, a region where data relating to these species is largely lacking. By gathering knowledge on species populations and their respective threats, the research team identifies critical habitats that are especially susceptible to human and environmental impacts. Projects have a wide range of focus, including:

- Collecting and analysing data on cetacean presence, abundance, distribution and behavioural studies through boat, ferry and land surveys
- Collecting and analysing data on species movement, residency pattern and social structure using mark recapture photo-ID techniques
- Monitoring and recording cetacean bioacoustics
- Collecting and analysing data on the presence, abundance, distribution and behavioural tendencies of Mediterranean monk seals and various sea turtle species
- Analysing microplastic content in marine animal digestive system
- Monitoring and assessing marine litter on shore and at sea
- Aegean Marine Life Sanctuary: the creation of an in-sea rehabilitation facility for marine mammals and turtles, but also for dolphins rescued from captivity.
- Cetacean and sea turtle basic first aid and stranding response

These projects provide field-work and hands-on research opportunities for graduate and post-graduate students who have achieved a bachelor's or master's degree, and who are looking to gain experience outside of the classroom. The skills and expertise acquired through this internship are useful towards a professional career in marine biology and environmental management.

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of marine, ecological, environmental sciences and/or veterinary science
- Capacity for accurate and consistent data collection and analysis
- Comfortable working under low supervision as well as leading a project independently
- Ability to write scientific reports and papers
- Ability to work both individually and as part of a dynamic, multi-cultural, multidisciplinary team
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills
- High standard of work
- Fluency in English
- Sincere desire to work towards Archipelagos' conservation efforts
- Motivation to live in a small island community

Duration:

A minimum duration of 3 months is highly recommended for all participants, although shorter placements can be tailored to the needs of groups and individuals. Placements can last as long as 12 months.

Starting dates: September 3rd, 2018 and onwards

Location:

Archipelagos' research bases and stations in the eastern Aegean Sea, on the islands of Samos and Lipsi.

Placement fee:

Monthly fees of 650 euro include:
Living expenses (shared accommodation, all meals, wi-fi)
Use of equipment & research boats
Transport for working purposes
Greek language lessons

Students and recent graduates are advised to explore possible funding through their universities, by getting in touch with the Finance / International Relations / Placement/ Erasmus+ Offices at their Universities or other relevant grant providing organizations in their region.

*Travelling costs are NOT included and are covered by the participant.

Application details:

Please submit CV and covering letter to admissions@archipelago.gr