



NURSERY INTERNSHIP

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN SEABIRD CHICK HAND REARING

The African penguin's population is on the brink of collapse. Urgent conservation efforts are needed to prevent this species from becoming functionally extinct in the wild by 2035.

The SANCCOB Cape Town branch is offering a unique 3-to-6-month voluntary Nursery internship programme. This dynamic, mentored program provides the opportunity to develop both hard and soft skills, with a special focus on caring for larger African penguin chicks usually weighing more than 1.3kgs. Depending on the season, you might also work with other fascinating species, such as Cape Gannets different cormorant species and young shoreline waders (depending on time of year).

The schedule includes five days a week of immersive work (including weekends and public holidays), with the potential for extended hours during busy periods—so be ready to roll up your sleeves and go the extra mile! This is your chance to be a key player in seabird conservation.

Space for this niche seabird conservation experience is limited, therefore only candidates who have the following skills will be considered for the Nursery internship:

- Someone who is highly motivated, and cares about seabird conservation and rehabilitation.
- Possesses excellent communication and inter-personal skills.
- Is detail-oriented with a commitment to providing exceptional care for seabirds.
- Ability to multi-task and perform tasks in order of importance and priority.

HOW WILL THIS PROGRAMME WORK?



PROGRAMME PERIOD:
Runs throughout the year



DURATION:
Minimum 3 months, can extend up to 6 months



TRAINING
Conducted by skilled SANCCOB staff

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES



WORKING HOURS
08:00-17:00
(could be extended during peak season)



Willingness to work weekends and public holidays



Willing to work in all weather conditions, frequently outside



Able to work according to SANCCOB's standard operating procedures



Able to maintain a high level of hygiene and cleanliness

COSTS

ZAR 2,000 refundable deposit

PROGRAMME FEE FOR INTERNATIONAL INTERNS

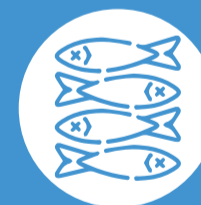
3 months: ZAR 2,000
6 months: ZAR 3,000

PROGRAMME FEE FOR LOCAL INTERNS

No cost



TRAINING TOPICS



- Handling and feeding African penguin chicks (over 1.3kg)
- Maintaining a high level of hygiene and cleanliness and biosecurity within the Penguin Nursery
- Weighing of chicks
- Calculating and updating medication amounts for individual birds under supervision of the Veterinarian
- Record keeping for individual birds

- Working independently as well as part of a team
- Assisting in basic training of other interns
- Identifying behaviour in chicks to determine health status
- Maintaining adequate temperature control in the Penguin Nursery
- Evaluating of basic blood results (packed cell volume, buffy coat and total protein)

NB! Participants will progress with skills at the discretion of the Chick Rearing Unit Supervisor and according to the current skill levels of the participant.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION



- MOTIVATIONAL LETTER
- CV/RESUME
- COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM

Should you have any questions or would like to receive more information, please call or email us.