

## Volunteer Intern 2024

Oceanswell is looking to fill one position within the organization. This position is open to any Sri Lankan looking to support the work of Oceanswell and gain experience.

To apply, email [opportunities@oceanswell.org](mailto:opportunities@oceanswell.org) with the following:

1. Cover letter (maximum 200 words) outlining why you are suited for this position and a short description of your previous related experience(s)
2. CV (maximum two pages)
3. Name and contact details for two referees
4. Please mention your last name and the job you are applying for in the subject of your email. E.g. deSilva\_VolunteerIntern

The application deadline is the 09th of January 2024, after which short-listed applicants will be contacted for a brief Zoom call; the final decision will be announced by the 11th of January, and the start date will be the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.

### The Organisation:

Oceanswell is Sri Lanka's first marine conservation research and education non-profit. Oceanswell conducts much-needed marine conservation research around Sri Lanka, provides opportunities for students to experience marine research first-hand, educates future ocean heroes with knowledge about the oceans using traditional and social media and encourages and provides opportunities for ocean engagement.

Oceanswell is currently seeking to recruit one volunteer intern to assist both in the field and in the office.

### Duration:

- The duration of this position will be from mid January – mid March 2024.

### Reporting:

This position shall report directly to the Executive Director of Oceanswell.

### Job Description

The volunteer position entails assisting during field surveys in the south of Sri Lanka, analysing photo-identification (photo-id) and communications, and working on the photo-id database in the office post-field work. The successful applicant will gain valuable experience conducting marine mammal field research, identifying individuals based on the dorsal fin and fluke characteristics, and using databases to archive field data.

Field work is physically and, at times, mentally demanding. Still, it is a great opportunity to gain knowledge in visual cetacean surveying, to get hands-on field experience with survey techniques, photo-id, and behavioural observations, and to improve practical skills. The intern must be available full-time, including weekends, and be prepared to work long hours with early starts when doing fieldwork (13-23 January). In post-field work, the intern must report to the office five days a week (any remote working requests will only be accommodated in due course).

## RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assisting with; boat-based photo-id surveys from a large vessel and collecting other relevant behavioural data.
- Analysis of all data; including assistance with photo sorting, grading, and matching of photos, maintenance of a long-term photo-id catalogue, identifying behavioural events on video, and data entry. Research assistants should be prepared to work long days in the field and work hard with analysis and matching of photos for the identification database.
- Assisting with data collection
- Assisting with preparing, carrying and deploying equipment

## PREREQUISITES:

- Be reliable, adaptable, hardworking and patient as fieldwork is highly weather dependent
- Have a mature and independent attitude towards marine mammal research
- Speak fluent English. Sinhala and/or Tamil is a must.
- Be sociable, enthusiastic and have a positive attitude
- Strong interest in the marine environment and conservation
- Participants must be able to swim and should be comfortable working on boats

## QUALIFICATIONS:

- The internship is open to students who are currently enrolled in, or recently graduated from an accredited college or university.
- Preference will be given to students or recent graduates working towards biology, environmental studies, zoology, ecology, marine science, conservation, education, or other related fields.
- Basic computer proficiency in MS Office
- Strong and innovative science communication skills are an added bonus.
- Intern should demonstrate strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Students that are adaptable, responsible, hardworking, willing to learn, and can pay attention to detail are encouraged to apply.
- Must be able to work independently and as part of a team.
- Interns should be available for the entire field season and for the period after..

Bonus skills (if you have them flaunt them!):

- GIS skills
- Skills related to creating and working with databases (particularly MS Access)
- Filming and photography skills

Preferred qualifications but not required:

- Prior experience working on vessels
- Field research including photo-id experience
- Previous experience in survey techniques, especially in marine mammal research
- First AID/CPR certification

As this is a volunteer position, there is no monetary compensation. Intern will travel from Colombo to the field with the field team and be provided with basic housing (on a sharing basis) and food during the field component.