Environmental Studies

Assignment Description Form

Organization/Agency: Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge
Supervisor/Sponsor: Erica Donnelly-Greenan  Supervisor/Sponsor title: Ecologist II
Address: 180 Benito Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062  Email: erica@oikonos.org
Phone:       Fax:       Website: www.oikonos.org

# of interns needed/Hours worked per intern:  Options (choose one)
   2/60-120  Fall  x Winter  _ Remove your listing by ____________
   _ Spring  _ Summer  _ Or keep on file for one year

Describe the internship assignment: Brief statement about the agency; role of the intern and specific objectives of the projects assigned to the intern; tasks to be performed.

Seabird Diet and Ingested Plastics Internship, Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge

The non-profit Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge (www.oikonos.org) seeks two, motivated UCSC student interns to process seabird stomachs (Albatrosses, Fulmars, and Shearwaters) collected from fishery bycatch carcasses. The data collected from these samples contribute to the Biological Indicators of Ocean Plastic Pollution Network (www.oikonos.org/plastic-ingestion/) to quantify bio-available plastic in the North Pacific marine ecosystem. This is a great opportunity to contribute to a long-term data set on a global conservation issue as well as learn basic, diet study techniques that can be applied to a variety of marine wildlife studies. Interns will gain hands-on experience in the laboratory learning dissection techniques, how to distinguish seabird prey items, and potentially assist in other volunteer opportunities related to ongoing seabird projects. Primary duties for the internship will include processing and sorting natural and non-natural (ingested plastics) stomach contents for subsequent identification in a laboratory setting. Work for this position will be conducted at the Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center (MWVCRC), California Department of Fish and Wildlife office/necropsy laboratory in Santa Cruz, California.

Prerequisites: Outline the skills and background information necessary to participate in this internship.

Requirements: attention to detail - this work requires thoroughness and sorting of very small objects; ability to follow scientific protocol and direction; ability to work independently and reliably in a laboratory setting once properly trained on sampling techniques; interest in pursuing a marine science and/or conservation career pathway.

Interns must be able to commit to work days in the laboratory every week for the duration of the academic quarter dependent on the number of units they are committing to. Internships can be extended into senior projects if desired and arranged for ahead of time (please review the Environmental Studies Internship Program Learning Contract to ensure you meet all requirements).

2-unit interns: 60 hours (1 work day per week)
5-unit interns: 120 hours (2 work days per week)