IN COLLABORATION WITH

SAVANNA SCHOLARS | CAPE RADD RESEARCH & DIVER DEVELOPMENT

MARINE RESEARCH INTERNSHIP



CAPE RADD MARINE RESEARCH STATION SOUTH AFRICA

Work alongside marine biologists to study sharks, kelp forests, and coastal ecosystems while developing practical skills in scientific diving, field research methods, data analysis, and marine conservation.

REAL RESEARCH
Collect data for active marine projects

SCIENTIFIC DIVING
Learn underwater research techniques

ACADEMIC VALUE
Complete a research project and earn credit*

CAPE TOWN LIFE
Live by the ocean and explore Cape Town's spectacular coastline



PROGRAM DATES
May 31 - June 26, 2027



**Credit arrangements vary by university and must be approved by the student's home institution*

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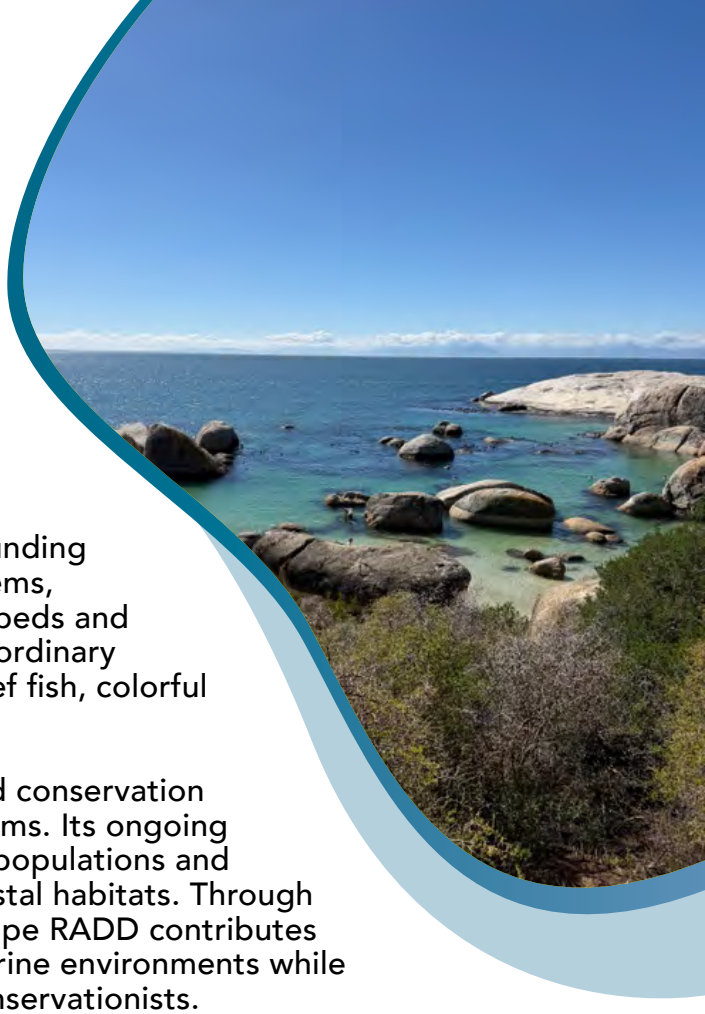
ABOUT CAPE RADD

RESEARCH INSTITUTE • SOUTH AFRICA



Based in Simon's Town on South Africa's Cape Peninsula, Cape RADD (Research and Diver Development) is a marine research and education organization located just outside Cape Town. The surrounding coastline is home to remarkably diverse marine ecosystems, from towering kelp forests and rocky reefs to sandy seabeds and open water. These nutrient-rich waters support an extraordinary variety of marine life, including endemic sharks, rays, reef fish, colorful nudibranchs, and numerous other invertebrates.

Cape RADD combines scientific research, education, and conservation to better understand and protect these marine ecosystems. Its ongoing research projects investigate kelp forest ecology, shark populations and reproduction, marine biodiversity, and the health of coastal habitats. Through long-term monitoring and standardized field surveys, Cape RADD contributes valuable data to our understanding of South Africa's marine environments while training the next generation of marine scientists and conservationists.

Working alongside Cape RADD's marine biologists, interns will explore these ecosystems firsthand through scientific diving, underwater surveys, and hands-on research. With the beautiful beaches, rugged mountains, and vibrant culture of Cape Town nearby, the internship offers an opportunity to develop marine research skills while experiencing one of South Africa's most spectacular coastal regions.



LEARN MORE

Explore more about Cape RADD here:

https://www.caperadd.com/

MARINE ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION RESEARCH

GAIN HANDS-ON RESEARCH EXPERIENCE WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO ONGOING MARINE CONSERVATION PROJECTS



SHARK ECOLOGY & REPRODUCTION

- Monitor shark populations using photo-ID, AI, and underwater video.
- Study shark egg-case distribution, predation, and hatching success.



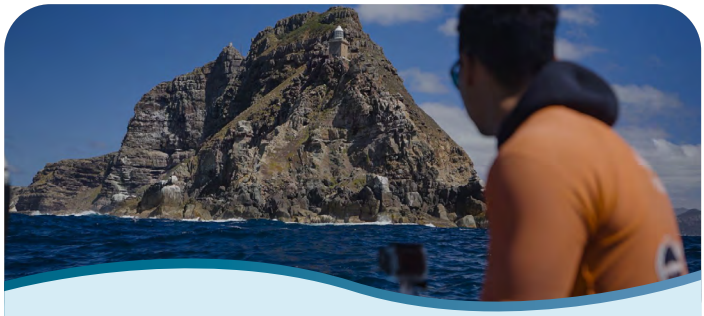
KELP FOREST ECOLOGY

- Survey fish, algae, and invertebrates to assess kelp forest health.
- Monitor kelp density and the effects of sea urchin grazing.



MARINE BIODIVERSITY

- Study nudibranch diversity and abundance through underwater surveys.
- Assess biodiversity in rocky reefs, intertidal zones, and tidal pools.



COASTAL CONSERVATION & MONITORING

- Compare marine biodiversity across protected zones.
- Monitor marine debris and collect environmental DNA samples.

FIELD RESEARCH TECHNIQUES



SCUBA DIVING

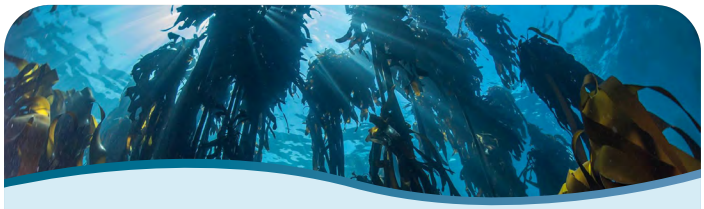
- Optional SSI Open Water Diver certification available during week 1 through Cape RADD for an additional $400.
- Training includes dive theory, safety briefings, buoyancy control, underwater communication, and safe diving procedures.
- SCUBA certification is not required for the internship.
- Students who do not SCUBA dive may participate through snorkeling and freediving skill development.
- Already-certified divers begin with refresher and acclimatization dives, then progress to scientific research dives.
- Interns dive with Cape RADD marine biologists and instructors at Cape Peninsula sites, collecting data in kelp forests, rocky reefs, and other habitats.
- All dives include safety briefings and are adapted to weather, qualification level, and individual experience.

RESEARCH METHODS



UNDERWATER TRANSECTS & SURVEYS

- Conduct visual fish counts and invertebrate belt transects to measure diversity and abundance.
- Survey nudibranchs, shark egg cases, and other marine organisms using standardized methods.



KELP & HABITAT MONITORING

- Use line-point intercepts and photoquadrats to measure algae, invertebrate, and substrate cover.
- Monitor kelp density, distribution, and changes in rocky reef communities.



UNDERWATER VIDEO & PHOTO-ID

- Use BRUV systems to monitor fish and shark diversity, abundance, and behavior.
- Identify individual sharks with photographs and AI-assisted methods through Cape RADD's FinSpotter project.



DATA ANALYSIS & RESEARCH DESIGN

- Organize, visualize, and analyze data using tools such as R and GIS.
- Design a small-group research project, from developing research questions to presenting findings.

TAKE YOUR RESEARCH FURTHER



The Cape RADD internship is designed to be more than an underwater field experience. Interns will develop practical marine research skills, learn from experienced marine scientists, and gain experience that can support future coursework, graduate study, and careers in marine science and conservation.

UNIVERSITY CREDIT

Depending on approval by their home universities, interns may be able to receive internship or independent-study credit for their research experience and scientific training at Cape RADD.

SMALL-GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT

Working in small groups, interns will design and conduct a short-term marine research project, applying skills gained throughout the internship. Students will experience the full research process, from developing questions and methods to collecting and analyzing data, culminating in a final presentation of their findings.

PROFESSIONAL MENTORSHIP

Interns will work alongside Cape RADD's marine biologists, researchers, and dive instructors, receiving guidance in scientific diving, research design, field methods, and data analysis. Through practical training and collaboration, students will develop transferable skills and gain insight into careers in marine science and conservation.

A GOOD FIT FOR

Students studying or interested in:

Marine Biology • Biology • Ecology • Conservation Biology • Environmental Science • Oceanography • Zoology • Related STEM Fields

LIFE AT CAPE RADD

LIVE BY THE OCEAN, STUDY MARINE LIFE, AND CONNECT WITH FELLOW RESEARCHERS

Interns will stay at Cape RADD's *RADD PAD*, a shared student house in Glencairn, a coastal neighborhood just outside Simon's Town. Located approximately 10 minutes from Cape RADD's research headquarters, the accommodation offers shared bedrooms and communal living spaces where interns can relax and spend time together after days in the field.

Daily activities revolve around marine research, scientific diving, and hands-on learning alongside Cape RADD's marine biologists. Transportation between the accommodation and research facilities is provided during course hours, with free time in the evenings and on weekends to enjoy the surrounding coast.





LIFE IN CAPE TOWN

EXPLORE ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST SPECTACULAR COASTAL CITIES

Located along the beautiful Cape Peninsula, Cape RADD offers interns the opportunity to explore Cape Town and its surroundings outside of research hours. From breathtaking mountain hikes and pristine beaches to vibrant markets, restaurants, and nightlife, there's no shortage of adventures to enjoy during evenings and weekends.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

TABLE MOUNTAIN & LION'S HEAD
Hike for spectacular views over Cape Town

BOULDERS BEACH
Visit the famous African penguin colony

CAPE POINT
Explore rugged cliffs, coastal trails, and the Cape of Good Hope

MUIZENBERG & CAMPS BAY
Enjoy surfing, swimming, and beautiful beaches

V&A WATERFRONT & BO-KAAP
Discover Cape Town's restaurants, markets, history, and culture

CAPE WINELANDS
Take a day trip through scenic vineyards and mountain landscapes

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We'd love to hear from you! Get in touch or join a virtual information session to learn more about the Marine Research Internship.



REACH OUT
alex@savannascholars.com

FOLLOW US
@savanna.scholars

Come to a virtual information session:

SCAN TO SIGN UP FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION

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