Internship Program

Kevin Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary
The “Kevin Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary” in South Africa offers internships for groups of Animal Science & Agriculture students. These internship can be tailor made to the requirements of the University which makes them unique and stand out from other internship programs!

**HOW IT ALL BEGAN**

In 2011, a private game farm owner approached Kevin Richardson after seeing his documentaries and the need for expansion in order to make the sanctuary a sustainable entity. It was proposed that he moved his sanctuary to their family game farm that fell within the Dinokeng Big Five Game Reserve known as Welgedacht Game Reserve. The two entities fit hand in glove, as they have the unique ability to attract people via Kevin’s remarkable work with lions, as well as the opportunity to be involved in maintaining and restoring a newly established big five game reserve. With their shared vision of educating the public on the need to conserve lions in particular as their numbers dwindle in the wild we have expanded on Kevin’s existing volunteer program into the neighbouring communities and continue to make educational documentaries to share the plight of lions in the wild and terrible practices like canned lion hunting something Kevin stands strongly against.

**WHAT THEY DO**

The Dinokeng Game Reserve (DGR) is an initiative of the Gauteng Department of Economic Development which aims to expand the economy of the north-eastern region of Gauteng by encouraging the development of tourism, and attracting private sector investment in the area. It is hoped that tourism will become the key sector for economic growth in the area.

After many years of preparation and development, the Dinokeng Game Reserve is the first free-roaming big five game reserve in Gauteng.

As most of the reserve was previous farm land, there are many challenges in returning the land to its ideal condition. Interns will help to play an integral part in restoring the area to its former glory. The project is exploring expanding its social responsibility program as well into the neighbouring
communities as they feel there is an integral link between educating and uplifting the surrounding communities so that they will work together with the game reserve for long term success of both the community and the animal’s survival within the game reserve.

Not only will the interns be involved in the restoration and maintenance of the Dinokeng Big Five Game Reserve, but they will also assist in maintaining the sanctuary which was set up by Kevin Richardson for the animals in his care. The Welgedacht Game Reserve at 1200 ha and the many animals that call it home, all require maintenance, care and management.

One of the things Kevin prides himself on is providing the animals with the best living conditions while in captive circumstances, and he is always looking for ways of ensuring that the animals’ lives are enriched as he aspire for them to receive the best care and love possible.

An abundance of wildlife can be seen while working in the greater area of the big five reserve.

**PROJECT DETAILS**

The project is situated on a 1200 ha game farm known as ‘Welgedacht,’ which lies within the perimeters of Dinokeng Game Reserve (18000 ha) situated in the Gauteng Province in South Africa.

**DUTIES**

The internship program contains numerous activities that can be adjusted or added with activities that are relevant to the field of study.

**Greater farm in the big five area**

- Monitoring and protection of wildlife from poachers
- The creation of walking trails and look out points for on-going game counting and monitoring.
- Fence checks and where necessary erecting of new fences or repairs to existing fences.
- New roads and continuing road maintenance to get into previously in-accessible areas.
- Removal of cattle and game fences to create open plains for game traversing, as well as constant picking up of old wire and fencing from previously removed cattle fences.
- Removal of invader plant species.
– River crossings and crossings through wetlands to create access for management purposes.
– Routine patrolling in the bush for snares.
– The creation and maintenance of fire breaks.
– The patrolling of fences.

**Predator Enclosures**

– Animal enrichment including walking of adult lions and building toys for stimulation.
– Interns occasionally have the opportunity of working with younger animals during their enrichment walks.
– Food preparation including cutting of meat and feeding for adult animals and pellets and milk for young animals if they are at the nursery at the time of the internship. Kindly note that the meat which is being fed to the lions comes in from donations in the form of whole carcasses which saves a lot of money. Food preparation will require the skinning and cutting of meat which can be difficult for sensitive people. This is not a compulsory task however it is encouraged to try and do it as it provides insight on what it takes to keep these predators healthy.
– Bone and Faeces removal from enclosures (while the animals are locked away of cours).
– For the handy men/ladies occasional building, painting or repair work for the animal night enclosures.
– Weeding along fence lines.
– Assistance on filming jobs for commercial or documentary work if they are taking place during the internship.
– Bush cutting.
– Cleaning and filing of water holes.
– Cleaning of fly traps.

**WORK HOURS**

Work hours during the internship program are from 07h30 to 16h30 excluding the travel time to and from work each day. Working on a game reserve and working with animals can result in unexpected events which require longer work hours. At times they vary work hours to work around the very hot summer days.

**ACTIVITIES & FACILITIES**

A wide variety of extra activities and facilities can be used and are available during leisure time.

✔ Bird watching
✔ A variety of interesting books on wildlife and Kevin’s Biography will be provided in the Volunteer Camp for your use during your stay.
Internet Facilities are available to make basic communication before or after work at Welgedacht Game Reserve.
A landline is available and arrangements can be made to receive or make (at own expense using a world call card) calls.

**TRANSPORT**

**To and from project** - A staff member will drive the group to and from work every day.

All other activities outside the park will require own transport. The farm is out in the country and taxi cabs are not easily accessible. Therefore it is recommended that these excursions are planned through tour operators. Intern Africa can assist and will give advice on excellent tour operators if requested.

**ACCOMMODATION**

The Volunteer Camp is situated at “The Old Trading Post” nestled in the heart of the Welgedacht Game Reserve. Welgedacht is situated on the South Eastern boundary of the Dinokeng Big Five Game Reserve. At any time any of the big five can right be seen at the accommodation. The camp is enclosed by a fence to keep unwanted visitors out but still provides a true bush experience. The accommodation is run by owner Gerald Howell whose attention to detail and warm South African hospitality ensures every intern has a comfortable and memorable stay.

Facilities are as follows:
- African contemporary farm style rooms (approximately 40/50m²) with a maximum of four single beds per room sharing en suite showers and toilets. The construction of extra units is underway.
- A central living area with lounge and dining facilities
  - Television and DVD player
  - Library
- Swimming Pool for those hot summer days
- Braai (BBQ) facilities
- Open air boma for evening socialising around the fire
- Staff living on site
- Washing Machine available to do own laundry with the exception of bedding which is washed once a week
- Lock up facilities for your valuables

**MEALS**

Basic meals are included in the internship program and will be served at the intern camp unless working in a remote area of the farm then a packed lunch will be provided.

**Breakfasts**
Tea/Coffee, cereals and rusks

**Lunches**
Sandwiches and fruit

**Dinners**
A variety of simple home style meals (vegetarian meals available on request)

**WHAT TO BRING?**

- Due to the nature of the project it is appreciated if interns can wear beige, green or khaki colored clothing. Clothes should be comfortable and preferably clothes that are allowed to get torn or dirty.
- Comfortable walking shoes are a must due to working in an outdoor environment.
- A raincoat for those wet Highveld thunderstorms in our summer months (September - April).
- Sunscreen and a sun hat as it gets very hot in the summer months.
- Swimming Costume.
- If the internship program falls during the winter months (May-August) warmer clothes are needed as the early mornings and evenings can get chilly.
- International adaptor plug for charging electronic items.
- The facility does have some entertainment for the off days and evenings but it is recommended to bring own books, playing cards or Ipods along.
- Bedding is provided.
- Camera.
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM RATES

The internship program can accommodate a maximum of 16 students at one time. There is enough flexibility when it comes to the dates, however it is required to give notice at least 3 months in advance due to availability, adjustments in the internship program and other arrangements.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Cost per Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 week program</td>
<td>£ 999 per student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 week program</td>
<td>£ 1790 per student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 week program</td>
<td>£ 2700 per student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Longer period?</td>
<td>Contact us for a quote</td>
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</tbody>
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What is included in the rates?

- Pre-departure information and advice
- Pre-departure information and advice on flights, visa, vaccinations, health insurance by Intern Africa
- Airport pick-up on arrival and drop off on departure
- This however must be on the dates provided otherwise an additional cost will be incurred for a private transfer which can we arranged (Rate on request)
- In country assistance and support
- Accommodation for the duration of your stay at the project
- All meals with the exception of meals when out on excursions outside the facility. Tea and Coffee also included

What is not included in the rates

- Flights
- Visa costs (where applicable)
- Insurance costs (medical as well as personal items)
- Vaccination
- Personal toiletries
- Beverages which can be purchased on site at the volunteer camp

INTERESTED?

Should you be interested in participating in this internship program along with your classmates or fellow University students, then please contact us via info@intern-africa.eu for more information!