



Dear prospective intern

We would like to thank you for inquiring about our internship program here in Mossel Bay, South Africa. Adventure's Edge has been operating in the Garden Route for more than 5 years, and our leadership team has cumulative diving experience of over 20 years. Being primarily a diver training centre, we educate divers from snorkelling to elite free diving and from entry level to professional scuba – with a little tech on the side. Our love for the outdoors is not limited to the outdoors, and we also facilitate other adventure sports like rock climbing and abseiling. We pride ourselves in being a catalyst for self-rejuvenation and self-discovery through social outdoor activities.

To bring you this internship program we have partnered with one of the most successful white shark research organisations, Oceans Research and sister ecotourism company Oceans Discovery. We are currently also piloting a Ragged tooth shark research program with Oceans Research, as well as assisting them in their benthic shark project.

Our internship program is a once in a lifetime opportunity for divers and enthusiasts to work, live and dive your way to a professional diving career in one of the world's most challenging, beautiful and remote environments. As part of this program interns can expect to learn to not only be good divers, but good dive leaders that are trusted and respected by their peers and the divers in their care. Our local dive conditions enable us to produce above average scuba divers and even better dive professionals by their exposure to our ever changing and unpredictable ocean conditions. We will teach you how to be a responsible diver, while also offering you the opportunity to actively partake in marine research and environmental education projects.

Operation times and number of interns accepted:

1 Dec 2011 – 1 Mar 2012	1 March – 1 June 2012	1 Sept – 1 Dec 2012
8	8	8

We encourage future interns to complete and submit the below application form together with a CV and photo in order to apply to this program. We are looking forward to your application and the opportunity to welcome you to Adventure's Edge.

The Adventure's Edge team

Frequently asked questions

Eligibility

This program is intended for those of you with little or no diving experience that would like to go professional. The program is limited to a maximum of 8 candidates at a time to enable us to give each candidate enough personal attention to produce a high level dive professional. All candidates will be assessed and screened before acceptance into the program.

Duration

This is a three month program to ensure us enough time to comfortably achieve the goals and requirements of the program for both the theoretical and practical aspects while allowing us breathing space to work on any short comings that may be experienced and still have time to enjoy ourselves.

Diving conditions in Mossel Bay

Mossel Bay is a warm, temperate marine biome that attracts numerous temperate water fish species. Our water averages +/-16 degrees Celsius in winter but can go as low as 11 and in summer it averages between 21 and 23 degrees but has been recorded as high as 27 inside the bay. The visibility can also be as bad as 0 meters and we have had it as good as 35meters but our average over winter is about 4 meters and during the summer months the average is 6-10 meters. We also have a fantastic variety of training reefs from our very safe and shallow entry level shore dives to our much deeper and more advanced shore and boat dives. Their conditions can change from as good as any tropical destination to a true "cape of storms" and back over night. So you are guaranteed to get a taste of everything and become comfortable and proficient in a wide variety of conditions by the time you graduate.

Equipment and training provided by Adventure's Edge

This program is the complete package, and you will be provided with everything you require to operate as an independent professional once your training is concluded. This includes all required training, materials, know-how, and all equipment except weights and cylinders (you cannot travel with these).

Adventure's Edge will kit you out from head to toe in top of the range gear worthy of a dive professional – gear that is more than capable of easily enduring and performing at the high intensity at which it will be used. One example is the regulator you will be provided with: Scubapro regulators have been proven to be the most reliable and high performing regulators in the world. Best of all: all equipment is yours to keep and includes:

- Scubapro Equator(boys) BCD or Bella(girls) BCD
- Scubapro MK11/C300 Regulator
- Scubapro R295 Octo second stage
- Scubapro compact combo 2 gauges
- Scubapro 5mm Profile Steamer Full wetsuit
- Scubapro 5mm Hooded Jacket pullover
- REEF DELUXE Booties
- Scubapro Jet Sport Fins
- Scubapro Escape snorkel
- Scubapro Scout Mask (mask will be changed according to your personal needs if the standard issue does not fit properly! excl. prescription lenses)
- SUB GEAR XP10 Dive Computer
- H2O Underwater compass
- H2O BC Knife

You will be instructed on how to operate a dive centre as a dive centre owner, manager, or employee by learning the following:

- Dive centre management and the business of diving
- Diver training
- Compressor operation
- Gas blending (nitrox)
- Equipment maintenance and repair
- Boat handling (you will be a qualified skipper)
- Sales and service to customers
- Much more...

Food , accommodation and transport

Mossel Bay, South Africa is a coastal town located approximately 400 kilometres from Cape Town. You will live in and share the intern house with other like-minded candidates. The house is beautifully situated in the hills above a river with the ocean in sight, and is within walking distance from shops and nightlife.

We aim to create a healthy environment for both body and mind with nutritional and exercise specialists on hand, as well as having an instructor nearby virtually 24/7. Your basic meals are taken care of and will be mindfully planned by our fitness nutritionist so that we can get the best out of you while also teaching you to keep getting the best out of yourself.

We provide all required transport for diving and other activities in and around Mossel Bay. There will also be dive trips up and down the South African coast for those who wish to participate (at own cost).

Flights

Travel arrangements must be made from your home town to George Airport, South Africa.

Arrival dates and arrangements:

Pick-ups and drop offs from George Airport will be organised for the 1st of the month. Interns arriving or leaving outside this time will be required to arrange transport from the airport to the intern house at their own cost. Domestic flights (to get from Johannesburg or Cape Town to George Airport) within South Africa can be easily arranged one of the following companies (www.kulula.com, www.1time.aero, www.flysaa.com, www.flyairlink.com, www.flysax.com).

Cost

The equivalent of 75400 Rand is requested from all the applicants for the entire program, which will cover the following:

- Your transfer from the airport to the dive station when you arrive, and again back to the airport when you depart
- Cleaner, food and nutritionist for your entire stay
- Laundry
- Lodging (rooms will be shared with other students)
- Water and electricity for the student house
- All practical and theoretical dive training from a PADI Open Water to PADI Divemaster qualification, including ALL material and equipment and dive and dive industry related qualifications and training. After the three months you will walk away with the following certification qualifications(cq) and practical experience programs(pep):
 - o PADI Open water(cq)

- PADI Advanced Open Water(cq)
- PADI EFR For Adults and CPR and Care for Children(cq)
- PADI Rescue Diver(cq)
- PADI EANx Diver (nitrox)Speciality(cq)
- PADI Deep Diver Speciality(cq)
- PADI Navigation Diver Speciality(cq)
- PADI Naturalist Diver Speciality(cq)
- PADI A.W.A.R.E. Fish Identification Speciality(cq)
- PADI Wreck Diver Speciality(cq)
- PADI MASTER SCUBA DIVER(cq)
- PADI DIVE MASTER (cq)
- Dive Skipper Certificate(cq)
- Compressor Operation (pep)
- IANTD Open Water Free Diver(cq)
- IANTD Gas Blender (nitrox) (cq)
- DAN O2 Provider(cq)
- Gear Maintenance and Repair(pep)
- Everyday transport from the intern house to the dive sites and back
- Wireless internet
- DAN insurance coverage

Depending on the applicant habits and lifestyle, we usually suggest adding to their monthly budget about 2000 to 3000 South African Rand for their souvenirs, excursions, entertainment and other personal daily needs

Can I cancel or change the dates of the internship?

Due to the number of applications received, limited available places, and equipment we buy for each intern we unfortunately do not accept all applying interns. Therefore, we do not welcome cancellations or date changes after the final confirmation has been sent to us. Please, **make sure** that the dates you indicate in your application form suit your own schedule/budget before applying.

We request that a 50% deposit (the equivalent of 37700 Rand) is paid within one month of being accepted into the program as confirmation (**foreign and local bank fees are at the applicant's cost**). Should the entire 50% deposit be difficult to pay at once please do not hesitate to contact us so we can work on a payment plan for you.

The remaining fee must be paid in full before arrival in South Africa. Cancellations prior to 6 months before internship begins are accepted without cancellation fee (deposit will be refunded in full minus bank charges). Cancellations between 6 and 3 months before the start of the internship will be charged a penalty of 50% (50% refund of deposit minus bank charges). Cancellations that are done between 3 months and 1 month **before** the start of the internship will be charged a penalty of 75% (25% refund of deposit minus bank charges) and 1 month or less 0 refund. We would, however, appreciate it if you could let us know of any changes or cancellations as soon as you are aware of these, so that we are able to welcome another applicant.

Do I need a VISA?

Tourist visiting visas are usually issued for three months/90 days upon entry in South Africa. However, we do recommend that you **contact the South African Embassy or Consulate in your country and confirm this fact**. If your stay in South Africa is for a period longer than three months you will have to apply for a Tourist / Visitor VISA application through your home embassy.

Please note: From the 1st of July 2011 a new law has been enforced in South Africa regarding 90 day visas according to which we need to organize a Volunteer Endorsement for you from the Department of Home Affairs. To do so, we need a copy of your passport, your first port of entry, port of exit and your

return flight details as soon as possible after being accepted. Upon your arrival in South Africa, your visa will be endorsed stating that you are a volunteer at **Adventure's Edge**. We will send you an endorsement letter before your arrival, and you should keep this letter with you when travelling to South Africa in the event that you should be asked to produce it to officials.

Do I need insurance?

Yes. When you are accepted in this program, you will have to sign liability and copyright documents, as well an agreement that you are knowingly partaking in potentially dangerous activities. You will not be covered for non-diving accidents or illnesses by Adventure's Edge, so please do organise your own medical and health insurances. You may apply for a normal travel insurance policy. Chances that you will be injured are very little if you follow the safety guidelines and do not try anything foolish of which we would not approve. Be sure to have an insurance cover for your entire stay in southern Africa.

Your internship fee includes DAN coverage for your entire stay, which we will organise for you at no extra cost.

Do I need any specific vaccination or medication before coming to southern Africa?

No, the dive station is far from malaria areas, and there are no strange African diseases which you could pick up (that is if you respect the same safety rules as anywhere else in the world).

What do I need to bring?

You will be provided with all equipment, but there are still a few things of your own that you will have to bring:

- Toiletries (you can also buy in Mossel Bay)
- Polarised sunglasses
- Factor 30+ sunblock (you can also buy in Mossel Bay or from us)
- Warm clothing for on the boat if you do a non-diving trip
- Towel and costume
- Closed shoes (trainers for running, hiking, etc.)
- Camera (and an under water housing if you have)
- Laptops are handy. (we have wireless internet)

Do we have weekends off?

No, but yes... The weather along the coast of southern Africa is unpredictable, and the sea does not allow diving every day. You will have days off whenever the weather and sea conditions do not allow diving, and no other theoretical work is needed. However, please note that this is not a holiday but we will keep an eye on the medium term weather to make provision for multiple days off.



For more information

Diving and the tourism industry are not for everyone, but if you think this is for you please complete the below application and medical evaluation forms and send back to adventuresedge@oceans-discovery.com. You can also check out our website at www.adventuresedge.co.za, or our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/adventuresedge> to find out where diving can take you...

ADVENTURE'S EDGE INTERNSHIP 2011/2012

APPLICATION FORM

This is a formal application form. Completing it states your willingness to partake in the internship program, but is not legally binding. The submission of this form does not guarantee the acceptance of the applicant into the program.

Please fully complete, even if duplication with your resume exists.

1. Motivation

1a. What is your personal motivation to partake in the internship program

1b. What are your current skills, experience and traits that you feel will contribute most to the internship program

2. Practical experience in conservation

Experience	Duration

3. Communication

Language	Proficiency
1:	
2:	
3:	

4a. Allergies (food, meds, other)

4b. Medical conditions

4c. Eating preferences

4d. Religion beliefs that may affect work and living situation

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5. Availability (mark with a X)

	1 Dec 2011 – 1 Mar 2012	1 Mar – 1 Jun 2012	1 Sep – 1 Dec 2012
1st preference			
2nd preference			
3rd preference			

6. How did you hear about Adventure's Edge internship opportunities?

Recommended by:	
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Today's date:

Your name and surname:

Your contact details:

Date of birth:

BASIC MENTAL AND PHYSICAL EVALUATION:

Health guidelines for this program:

- Drinking *excessively* could compromise your performance and safety as well as that of your fellow divers
- If you smoke...QUIT!
- You should not dive if you are severely claustrophobic
- Physical impediments that preclude you from running, swimming, or carrying heavy gear can possibly be aggravated by the physical nature of diving

To become a dive professional you have to have a certain level of mental and physical health, and above average fitness. Please complete below health questionnaire with your health practitioner and return to us at adventuresedge@oceans-discovery.com.

You need to (at minimum) be able to complete the following exercises with roughly a minutes rest between each event:

Activity	Time	Signature
200 m swim with no aid in less than 6 min	____:____	_____
400 m mask/snorkel/fins swim nonstop without lifting your head in less than 10 min	____:____	_____
Hold your breath for a minimum of 30 sec underwater	____:____	_____
Float calmly on your back for a minimum of 15min	____:____	_____

These are very basic assessments, and as your diving level increases so will the assessment levels. Please be honest about your assessment as we will soon discover if you are wasting our time and yours when you get here.

