

Marine Mammal Research and Conservation

Background: The eastern Aegean is a region rich in marine biodiversity, including cetacean (dolphins and whales), monk seals and sea turtles. Numerous of these species are listed as at risk, vulnerable and/or endangered by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), as their habitats have been significantly impacted by human presence and activities.

Description: The goal of the Archipelagos marine mammal research team is to monitor the regional status of marine mammal populations and their habitats in the eastern Aegean, a region where data relating to these species is largely lacking. By gathering knowledge on species populations and their respective threats, the research team identifies critical habitats that are especially susceptible to human and environmental impacts. Projects have a wide range of focus, including:

- Collecting and analysing data on cetacean presence, abundance, distribution and behavioural studies through boat, ferry and land surveys
- Collecting and analysing data on species movement, residency pattern and social structure using mark recapture photo-ID techniques
- Monitoring and recording cetacean bioacoustics
- Collecting and analysing data on the presence, abundance, distribution and behavioural tendencies of Mediterranean monk seals and various sea turtle species
- Analysing microplastic content in marine animal digestive system
- Monitoring and assessing marine litter on shore and at sea
- Aegean Marine Life Sanctuary: the creation of an in-sea rehabilitation facility for marine mammals and turtles, but also for dolphins rescued from captivity.
- Cetacean and sea turtle basic first aid and stranding response

These projects provide field-work and hands-on research opportunities for graduate and post-graduate students who have achieved a bachelor's or master's degree, and who are looking to gain experience outside of the classroom. The skills and expertise acquired through this internship are useful towards a professional career in marine biology and environmental management.

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of marine, ecological, environmental sciences and/or veterinary science
- Capacity for accurate and consistent data collection and analysis
- Comfortable working under low supervision as well as leading a project independently
- Ability to write scientific reports and papers
- Ability to work both individually and as part of a dynamic, multi-cultural, multidisciplinary team
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills
- High standard of work
- Fluency in English
- Sincere desire to work towards Archipelagos' conservation efforts
- Motivation to live in a small island community

Duration:

A minimum duration of 3 months is highly recommended for all participants, although shorter placements can be tailored to the needs of groups and individuals. Placements can last as long as 12 months.

Starting dates: October 1st, 2018 and onwards

Location:

Archipelagos' research bases and stations in the eastern Aegean Sea, on the islands of Samos and Lipsi.

Placement fee:

Monthly fees of 650 euro include:
Living expenses (shared accommodation, all meals, wi-fi)
Use of equipment & research boats
Transport for working purposes
Greek language lessons

Students and recent graduates are advised to explore possible funding through their universities, by getting in touch with the Finance / International Relations / Placement/ Erasmus+ Offices at their Universities or other relevant grant providing organizations in their region.

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Application details:

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TERRESTRIAL CONSERVATION

Mediterranean Chameleon Research and Conservation

Background: Samos is the only part of Greece which still supports an established population of the Mediterranean chameleon (*Chamaeleo chamaeleon*). However, threats to this fragile population are increasing drastically due to anthropogenic factors.

Description: In order to monitor the status and the habitat of the chameleon population, the Archipelagos terrestrial conservation team carries out surveys throughout the year. Furthermore, the data gathered on chameleon and other herpetological species populations is used towards Archipelagos' conservation initiatives and efforts. Project activities include:

- Determining the chameleon population size and distribution using mark-recapture techniques and morphometrical analysis
- Carrying out observational surveys of various lizard, snake, tortoise and amphibian species
- Carrying out research on the extent of anthropogenic impacts and their influence on chameleon and other reptile populations
- Assessing seasonal variation of habitats and vegetation type preferences
- Developing population and habitat conservation measures
- Participating in awareness-raising projects aiming to develop community engagement

These projects provide field-work and hands-on research opportunities for graduate and post-graduate students who have achieved a bachelor's or master's degree, and who are looking to gain experience outside of the classroom. The skills and expertise acquired through this internship are useful towards a professional career in environmental and/or zoological research and conservation fields.

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of environmental, ecological, zoological and/or related sciences
- Experience in identification of amphibians and/or lizards preferred
- Ability to write scientific reports and papers
- Capacity for accurate and consistent data collection and analysis
- Comfortable working under low supervision as well as leading a project independently
- Ability to write scientific reports
- Ability to work both individually and as part of a dynamic, multi-cultural, multidisciplinary team
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills
- Fluency in English
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Golden Jackal Research and Conservation

Background: Samos is the only Mediterranean island that still supports an established population of the golden jackal (*Canis aureus*). However, their presence in and around the Samos International Airport (SMI) has given way to an increased risk of jackal / aircraft collision.

Description: Archipelagos Institute collaborates with Samos Airport and the University of the West of England (UK) to establish the population and distribution of the golden jackal at Samos Airport. Data on the population, home range, activity patterns and use of the airport habitat will inform an exclusion process that aims to decrease the threat of jackal / aircraft collision. This study aids in the development of animal exclusion processes in airports around the world, in an ecologically sustainable manner. Other research focuses on regular surveys on a number of sites in order to determine the extent of anthropogenic disturbance on the habits and ecology of the jackals. Research activities include:

- Capturing and analysing jackal audio and visual data through camera traps and acoustic devices
- Mapping jackal presence through tracking
- Carrying out nocturnal visual and acoustic surveys
- Analysing jackal diet through scat sampling and camera traps
- Collaborating with Samos Airport, Fraport Greece and the University of West England to help design aircraft-jackal collision mitigation measures

These projects provide field-work and hands-on research opportunities for graduate and post-graduate students who have achieved a bachelor's or master's degree, and who are looking to gain experience outside of the classroom. The skills and expertise acquired through this internship are useful towards a professional career in environmental and/or zoological research and conservation fields.

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of environmental, ecological, zoological and/or related sciences
- Knowledge of terrestrial mammal behaviour preferred
- Ability to write scientific reports and papers
- Capacity for accurate and consistent data collection and analysis
- Comfortable working under low supervision as well as leading a project independently
- Ability to write scientific reports
- Ability to work both individually and as part of a dynamic, multi-cultural, multidisciplinary team
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills
- Fluency in English
- Sincere desire to work towards Archipelagos' conservation efforts
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Duration:

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Location:

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Placement fee:

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Bird Research and Conservation

Background: The small islands of the eastern Aegean are crucial feeding, breeding and wintering grounds for a large number of rare and protected bird species. More than 200 species have been reported on Samos up to this point, constituting up to 50% of all bird species found in Greece.

Description: The Archipelagos bird research team collects avian data related to marine habitats and threatened wetland habitats in and around Samos island, as well as other eastern Aegean islands. This information is gathered with the purpose of improving site protection and ecological status of these areas, as well as for contributing to educational and public awareness projects. Project activities include:

- Collecting data on bird population through standardised point count methods and transect surveys on the islands as well as through boat-based surveys
- Analysing migratory and non-migratory bird populations throughout the year
- Studying nesting behaviour with the use of camera traps
- Caring for injured birds before releasing them back into the wild
- Providing the education and the media teams with information on local and regional birds and their habitats

These projects provide field-work and hands-on research opportunities for graduate and post-graduate students who have achieved a bachelor's or master's degree, and who are looking to gain experience outside of the classroom. The skills and expertise acquired through this internship are useful towards a professional career in environmental and/or zoological research and conservation fields.

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of environmental, ecological, zoological and/or related sciences
- Knowledge of European bird species
- Experience in bird identification preferred
- Ability to write scientific reports
- Capacity for accurate and consistent data collection and analysis
- Comfortable working under low supervision as well as leading a project independently
- Ability to work both individually and as part of a dynamic, multi-cultural, multidisciplinary team
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills
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Island Flora Research and Conservation

Background: The islands of the eastern Aegean are home to a rich flora biodiversity, yet our knowledge of these species is still limited. The unique environment of Samos allows for a great assortment of over 1500 plants. Unfortunately, this extraordinary flora biodiversity is threatened by numerous factors such as overgrazing, wildfires, logging and diseases.

Description: The island flora team gathers and analyses data on eastern Aegean vegetation, including rare plant species. By collecting and analysing data on plant diversity throughout the year as well as threats to Aegean island plant life, Archipelagos will be able to design and implement effective flora conservation strategies. Project activities include:

- Monitoring vegetation species on Samos and Lipsi by gathering habitat information using transect surveys
- Completing database indicating distinct habitats as well as common vegetation species at specific transects
- Collecting data on rare flora using transect surveys
- Completing database indicating abundance and locations of alpine and coastal rare flora species

These projects provide field-work and hands-on research opportunities for graduate and post-graduate students who have achieved a bachelor's or master's degree, and who are looking to gain experience outside of the classroom. The skills and expertise acquired through this internship are useful towards a professional career in environmental and/or zoological research and conservation fields.

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of environmental, ecological, and/or related sciences
- Knowledge of common European plant species
- Experience in plant identification preferred
- Ability to write scientific reports
- Capacity for accurate and consistent data collection and analysis
- Comfortable working under low supervision as well as leading a project independently
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Location:

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Placement fee:

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Transport for working purposes

Greek language lessons

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MARINE CONSERVATION

Research in Coastal Biodiversity and Invasive Species

Description: For almost 20 years, Archipelagos has been monitoring the biodiversity of shallow, littoral zone ecosystems of the eastern Aegean Sea. The data collected enables us to get an understanding of local conditions, ecosystem changes, processes and threats. Projects have a wide range of focus, including:

- Conducting biodiversity assessments of fish, invertebrates and algae, according to international protocols
- Collecting data on invasive species via underwater visual census surveys and questionnaires in order to understand the factors influencing the species distribution as well as the impacts on the ecosystem
- Creating GIS maps which provide an overview of species distribution
- Determining impacts of the factors threatening protected species and ecosystems using bio-indicator species
- Experimental installation of artificial reefs and sustainable mooring systems

These projects provide field-work and hands-on research opportunities for graduate and post-graduate students who have achieved a bachelor's or master's degree, and who are looking to gain experience outside of the classroom. The skills and expertise acquired through this internship are useful towards a professional career in marine biology and environmental management.

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of marine, environmental, geographical and/or related sciences
- Experience in identification of fish, invertebrates and/or marine flora preferred
- Experience in snorkeling, free-diving and/or kayaking
- Capacity for accurate and consistent data collection and analysis
- Comfortable working under low supervision as well as leading a project independently
- Ability to write scientific reports and papers
- Ability to work both individually and as part of a dynamic, multi-cultural, multidisciplinary team
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Geo-information Specialisation for Environmental Conservation (GIS and Remote-Sensing) Internship Opportunity in Greece

Background: Geo-information is a key tool in providing answers to complex issues concerning the conservation of our environment, as spatial analysis provides a better understanding of habitats and species.

Description: In order to achieve effective environmental preservation in the Eastern Aegean Islands, habitats (e.g. seagrass, coralligenous reefs, wetlands), species (e.g. dolphins, whales, fish, seals, jackals, chameleons, flora) and threats need to be mapped and analysed in more detail. Through marine and terrestrial surveys, Archipelagos GIS interns collect various spatial data which is then assessed with the purpose of presenting distribution models (e.g. vulnerability, species, habitats). Current and future GIS projects include:

- Mapping of *Posidonia* seagrass meadows through satellite images
- Mapping of *Posidonia* seagrass meadows through kayak-based and boat-based surveys, using sonar or multibeam
- Mapping of Coralligenous reefs through boat surveys using multibeam
- Creating various species and habitat distribution models with presence/absence and environmental data (marine and terrestrial)
- Vulnerability assessments of terrestrial and/or marine habitats and species
- Exploring and developing new technologies in the Copernicus program with Sentinel-2 and 3 satellites for terrestrial and marine observation (e.g. detecting marine litter gyres in the ocean, monitoring daily environmental conditions on species presence, detecting land change etc.)

These projects provide field-work and hands-on research opportunities for graduate and post-graduate students who have achieved a bachelor's or master's degree, and who are looking to gain experience outside of the classroom. The skills and expertise acquired through this internship are useful towards a professional career in marine biology, spatial data analysis and remote-sensing.

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of marine, environmental, geographical and/or related sciences
- Proven experience in ESRI ArcGIS software package or other geospatial software (QGIS, SAGA, GRASS)
- Proven experience with remote sensing software packages (e.g. SNAP, ErdAS, ENVI, BEAM, eCognition), in case of interest for satellite image analysis
- Ability to write scientific reports and papers
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills
- High standard of work
- Fluency in English
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- Sincere desire to work towards Archipelagos' conservation efforts
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Duration:

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Starting dates: September 3rd, 2018 and onwards

Location:

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Research in (*Posidonia oceanica*) Seagrass Meadows

Background: *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass meadows play an important role in the ecosystem and provide important services for humans. They ensure the maintenance of physical, chemical and biological conditions and provide a habitat for many different species, while acting as nursery, hunting and predator areas. Furthermore, the meadows mediate flow and prevent coastal erosion by stabilizing the seabeds and decreasing the water power and current. *P. oceanica* meadows are identified as a priority habitat type for conservation in the Habitats Directive (Dir. 92/43/CEE) by European and national legislation.

Description: Surveys have a wide range of focus, including:

- Mapping *Posidonia* seagrass meadows through a combination of boat and kayak surveys
- Assessing the impact caused by mooring, illegal trawling activity, invasive species and aquaculture through sonar and visual data collection, as well as by using loggers
- Experimental replantation of *Posidonia* seagrass
- Experimental installation of sustainable mooring systems over seagrass meadows
- Evaluation of the health of *Posidonia* meadows via under-water surveys

These projects provide field-work and hands-on research opportunities for graduate and post-graduate students who have achieved a bachelor's or master's degree, and who are looking to gain experience outside of the classroom. The skills and expertise acquired through this internship are useful towards a professional career in marine biology and environmental management.

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of marine, environmental, geographical and/or related sciences
- Experience in identification of marine flora
- Experience in snorkeling, free-diving and/or kayaking
- Capacity for accurate and consistent data collection and analysis
- Comfortable working under low supervision as well as leading a project independently
- Ability to write scientific reports and papers
- Ability to work both individually and as part of a dynamic, multi-cultural, multidisciplinary team
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Research in Microplastics

Background: Plastic debris in the form of microplastics endangers the unique biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea, which hosts around 10% of world's marine species. Given the natural and socioeconomic importance of the area, plastic pollution poses a serious threat to both marine and human life.

Description: Archipelagos' goal is to identify the main source of influx of microplastics into the Aegean Sea, as well as assessing the amount of microplastics present in the environment. Microplastic fiber content is collected, filtered and quantified through microscope analysis from samples of:

- Digestive systems of commercialized fish and invertebrates
- Digestive systems of stranded marine animals (e.g. dolphins, sea turtles)
- Surface seawater and water column samples collected through kayak and boat surveys
- Sediment samples of various habitats (e.g. wetlands, seabeds)

These projects provide field-work and hands-on research opportunities for graduate and post-graduate students who have achieved a bachelor's or master's degree, and who are looking to gain experience outside of the classroom. The skills and expertise acquired through this internship are useful towards a professional career in marine biology and environmental management.

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of marine, environmental, chemical and/or related sciences
- Experience in the use of laboratory equipment (e.g. filtrations systems, microscopes, etc)
- Experience in snorkeling and/or kayaking
- Capacity for accurate and consistent data collection and analysis
- Comfortable working under low supervision as well as leading a project independently
- Ability to write scientific reports and papers
- Ability to work both individually and as part of a dynamic, multi-cultural, multidisciplinary team
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Environmental Education

Description: For almost two decades, Archipelagos has been offering environmental education lessons to schools and communities of the eastern Aegean islands. It is a non-profit contribution from the researchers working at Archipelagos, but also the biggest investment that can be done to ensure the development of critical thinking and environmental awareness of the younger generation. Project activities include:

- Preparing lesson plans, presentations, educational games and interactive activities, as well as other teaching aids for children of different ages and for teachers.
- Cooperating with different Archipelagos research teams to create and develop teaching material tailored to different projects
- Visiting local schools to present teaching material and implement lesson plans

Environmental education and awareness raising activities are tailored to address various target groups, in the numerous islands where Archipelagos is active. The aim of these activities is the engagement of the local communities in several aspects of marine and terrestrial conservation and sustainability, including wildlife conservation, awareness of microplastics in the environment, and protection of the natural environment.

These projects provide field-work and hands-on research opportunities for graduate and post-graduate students who have achieved a bachelor's or master's degree, and who are looking to gain experience outside of the classroom. The skills and expertise acquired through this internship are useful towards a professional career in education and teaching.

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of education, social sciences, environmental sciences and/or related fields
- Experience interacting with children in an educational context
- Comfortable working under low supervision as well as leading a project independently
- Ability to work both individually and as part of a dynamic, multi-cultural, multidisciplinary team
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills
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MEDIA

Scientific Illustration of Flora and Fauna

Description: Focusing on illustrations of marine and terrestrial biodiversity in the Eastern Aegean Islands, interns have the opportunity to partake in different conservation-based projects. By sketching from marine and terrestrial wildlife observations and pre-collected objects, they are merging photographic images with the knowledge of scientists. In addition, the interns create illustrations that are used in projects and campaigns that aim to raise public awareness of environmental issues. As a result, they contribute to the environmental conservation efforts of Archipelagos while developing dynamic personal portfolios. Activities include:

- Creating scientific illustrations of bird, reptilian, amphibian, and terrestrial mammal species
- Creating scientific illustrations of terrestrial plant, shrub and tree species
- Creating scientific illustrations of marine mammals, fish, invertebrates, as well as marine flora
- Creating scientific illustrations for informational material used in public awareness activities

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of art or science
- Experience in illustrating high-detail subjects, preferably scientific organisms
- Personal portfolio showcasing proficiency in pencil, pen, and/or stylus illustrations
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills
- High standard of work
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Wildlife and Landscape Photography

Description: The conservation efforts of Archipelagos Institute can only be successful when shared with the local communities and the general public. In this regard, photography is an invaluable tool in depicting the biodiversity of the Aegean Islands, as well as the activities carried out by the Institute. Focusing on various subjects, photography interns take part in a range of projects, collaborating with different scientific teams. Such projects include:

- Photographing bird, reptilian, amphibian, and terrestrial mammal species
- Photographing the various research and conservation activities carried out by Archipelagos teams, by participating in boat-surveys, land surveys and terrestrial biodiversity surveys
- Photographing marine mammals (e.g. dolphins, turtles, whales, seals)
- Photographing the varied landscape of the eastern Aegean Islands
- Assisting members of the research teams with basic photography and editing techniques

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of art or science
- Experience in photographing terrestrial and/or marine wildlife, field research activities and landscapes
- Personal portfolio showcasing excellent photography skills (e.g. attention to detail, careful selection of subject and adherence to rules of composition)
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills
- High standard of work
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*Travelling costs are NOT included and are covered by the participant.

Application details:

Please submit CV and covering letter to admissions@archipelago.gr

Nature Video / Film Production

Description: The conservation efforts of Archipelagos Institute can only be successful when shared with the local communities and the general public. In this regard, documentary videos and films are invaluable tools in depicting the biodiversity of the Aegean, as well as local and global environmental issues. The films are created for various purposes, including awareness videos for children and the general public, as well as for media (TV and social media). Video production interns take part in a range of projects, collaborating with different scientific teams. Such projects include:

- Creating and editing footage of the various research and conservation projects carried out by Archipelagos teams, by participating in boat-surveys, land surveys and terrestrial biodiversity surveys
- Creating and editing footage of marine wildlife (e.g. dolphins, turtles), using both standard and underwater cameras
- Creating and editing footage of terrestrial wildlife (e.g. birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals), combining the use of standard digital cameras with wildlife camera traps
- Showcasing the varied marine and terrestrial landscapes of the Aegean Islands
- Assisting members of the research teams with basic filming and editing techniques

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of art or science
- Experience in using filming and recording equipment
- High proficiency in video editing software
- Personal portfolio and/or showreel featuring excellent video producing skills (e.g. attention to detail and careful selection of subject)
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills
- High standard of work
- Fluency in English
- Ability to work both individually and as part of a dynamic, multi-cultural team
- Sincere desire to work towards Archipelagos' conservation efforts
- Motivation to live in a small island community

Duration:

A minimum duration of 3 months is highly recommended for all participants, although shorter placements can be tailored to the needs of groups and individuals. Placements can last as long as 12 months.

Location:

Archipelagos' research bases and stations in the eastern Aegean Sea, on the islands of Samos and Lipsi.

Placement fee:

Monthly fees of 650 euro include:

Living expenses (shared accommodation, all meals, wi-fi)

Use of equipment & research boats

Transport for working purposes

Greek language lessons

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Graphic and Animation Design for Conservation

Description: Informational graphics and animations are crucial towards the success of environmental conservation efforts carried out by Archipelagos. Innovative visual material designed by the graphic and animation team focuses on a wide range of wildlife and conservation issues and is used in environmental awareness campaigns and educational material through a variety of media. The main fields of activity include:

- Designing posters, infographics, leaflets and booklets depicting the various environmental issues concerning the marine and terrestrial biodiversity of the eastern Aegean
- Designing animations and motion graphics depicting the local marine and terrestrial species as well as their respective threats
- Designing and participating in awareness and educational campaigns at local, Greek and European levels

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of art or science
- High proficiency in computer graphics and animation software
- Personal portfolio featuring creative and engaging graphic and animation designs
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills
- High standard of work
- Fluency in English
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Media and Public Relations

Description: Communication and public engagement are crucial tools towards the success of Archipelagos' conservation efforts. The media and public relations team creates material on biodiversity, environmental conservation and public health issues through various platforms, with the goal of raising awareness and effecting change. Focusing on various subjects, interns take part in a range of projects, collaborating with different scientific teams. The main fields of activity include:

- Creating press releases for newspapers, online media, TV and radio
- Increasing awareness of local and global environmental issues through social media
- Promoting and encouraging environmental conservation on an individual level through social media
- Creating informational material and updates regarding Archipelagos
- Expanding Archipelagos' partnerships through networking
- Designing environmental education material, fundraising campaigns and events

Applicant profile:

- At least one year of college or university studies in the fields of art or science
- Proficiency using and managing social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram)
- Experience in public relations and/or journalistic writing
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills
- High standard of work
- Fluency in English
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