

Internship

Bioacoustic experiments and analyses

Sensory Physiology and Sensory Ecology Lab
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Start date: Feb 20th, 2013

Application due date: Application review will begin Jan 25th, 2013.

Duration: 4 months

The Sensory Physiology and Sensory Ecology (SPASE) Lab, in the Biology Department of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution is now accepting internship applications for this year. The positions are in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and will involve a commitment of at least 20 hours per week extending over a 3-4 months period from February 20th, 2013 to June 15th, 2013. An earlier start is preferable, if possible. There is some flexibility in these start and end dates.

The SPASE Lab's research is focused on how animals detect their environment, what they hear, how they use sound, and how these adaptations relate to their ecological role in the environment (e.g., predator detection, prey localization, habitat identification, and communication). Research has involved investigations on diverse species including: odontocetes, cephalopods, and coral reef fish. More details of our work can be found at the Lab's website:

<http://www.whoi.edu/page.do?pid=52855> and our blog: <http://sensoryecology.blogspot.com/>

Interns can expect to participate in and be exposed to a variety of research projects but work will focus on:

- Passive acoustic monitoring and data analyses of a developing wind farm site. We are establishing the baseline acoustic variability of a coastal environment before wind farm installation. Assessments include soundscape monitoring for cetaceans, fish, invertebrates and vessels.
- Experiments and husbandry related to cephalopod (*Sepia officinalis*) behavioral responses to sound. Our lab has established that cephalopods can detect sound. These studies are addressing the functional use and processing of sound through detailed ethological measures of behavioral responses to various acoustic stimuli.

More background for this work can be found on the websites above.

An internship provides exposure to bioacoustic studies and analyses, intensive training and mentoring in marine biology, and experience in ethology and animal care. Work is mostly lab based but field opportunities for short surveys and to change out gear occur. Undergraduate and postgraduate students could present the research project as their Thesis if requested with the application. Internships will be under direct supervision of the SPASE Lab's PI, Dr. Aran Mooney. The internship can be used for academic or vocational purposes, but students are solely responsible for making all arrangements for receiving relevant credit(s) as a result of completing the internship.

There is no compensation for these internship positions. Interns will be responsible for their own living expenses and transportation to and from the laboratory. Transportation expenses to Woods Hole, MA, USA may be available to successful applicants. Start and end dates noted are preferred, but are somewhat flexible. Positions are open until filled. Successful candidates should be self-motivated, hard working and flexible. Ideal applicants will be advanced undergraduates or recent graduates of a scientifically-oriented university program in marine science, biology or a related field. Preference will be given to applicants with well-developed computer skills and boat-based field experience. Prior bioacoustic experience is preferred.

To apply, please submit an application, cover letter stating your research interests and background, copy of a university transcript, CV, and two letters of recommendation from professors or research supervisors who are familiar with applicant's scholarship, research skills and work habits relevant to the internship.

Please download the application form and find general laboratory at:

<http://www.whoi.edu/page.do?pid=52855>

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To foreign students: a J1-visa will be required to come as an intern. Because the application for a visa can take a few weeks, we recommend you contact us as soon as possible if you are interested so we can review your application ahead of time. If you have questions about obtaining a J1-visa or about the experience as an intern in the SPASE lab, feel free to contact Julia Samson at juliaesamson@gmail.com