

Tanzania Marine Course Credit Internship

Embarking on an internship abroad is a fantastic opportunity to gain valuable practical skills and course credit in one's field of study while experiencing full immersion in a novel culture.

A multitude of Frontier volunteers and interns are university or college students undertaking academic study. Why not make the most of your time abroad by adding volunteer experience to your resume as well as gaining academic course credit in your field of study? This internship will give you the opportunity to gain relevant work experience that will not only enable you to stand out to prospective employers but will also save you time and money; after all, a minimum of 4 weeks spent volunteering during your summer vacation works out a lot cheaper than another semester at college!

So how does it work? Volunteers can arrange with their academic institution to gain transferable course credit by participating in our field programmes. Our research team both in our London Headquarters and overseas field staff will liaise with your academic course supervisors on your behalf to ensure that your participation contributes to your academic performance and confers course credits. Further to this, we are able to sign supporting documentation, verify your participation and provide mentoring and in country support. To sum up Frontier will be there for you every step of the way!

Tanzania's coast is home to some of the most spectacular diving in the world. The crystal clear waters host a wealth of marine habitats and wildlife making this a perfect location to scuba dive and explore this pristine and magical underwater world.

The vivid, multi-hued coral reefs support a dazzling array of tropical reef fish and provide rich feeding grounds for turtles, rays and other marine creatures, whilst the deep blue offshore waters support sharks, dolphins and whale sharks, as well as vast shoals of cruising pelagics.

Dive and snorkel to explore this pristine seascape and you'll discover and chart extensive areas of undamaged coral, find healthy populations of multicoloured fish, see turtles and marine mammals, and learn to recognise a huge diversity of inter-tidal animals from tiny hermit crabs to pastel-hued anemones.

On shore apart from relaxing on the island's perfect, undeveloped beaches, you may have the chance to work in the lush mangrove forests, unique ecosystems which straddle water and land. You'll learn about the activities of the traditional fishermen as well as discovering and reporting which marine organisms are being sustainably harvested and which are being dangerously depleted.

The work you carry out will be rewarding and exciting, and hugely beneficial to Marine Park's conservation efforts, as well as being amazing fun! At the end of the day you will gain immense satisfaction from knowing that you have helped to save this precious marine wilderness, protecting it for future generations.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- We will tailor your internship to fulfill university/college requirements for independent study or course credit for your field of study
- 24/7 supervision and mentoring
- Direct liaison between with your mentor and university or college tutor
- Your mentor can also provide a College reference at the end of your internship
- Help to monitor & conserve coral reefs and observe rare African marine wildlife
- Work on data from some of the world's best dive sites
- Extend your experience of tropical marine and coastal zone conservation field work
- There is also the opportunity to gain a qualification in habitat conservation

It is possible to gain Course Credits in the following fields of study:

- Biological Sciences
- Coaching
- Coral Reef Conservation
- Community Health
- Conservation Biology
- Construction
- Ecology
- Ecosystem Management
- Healthcare
- Health Education
- Journalism
- Languages
- Marine Biology
- Marine Mammal Conservation
- Medical Placements
- Teaching
- Tropical Forest Conservation
- Tropical Wildlife Conservation
- Wildlife Management

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Intermediate level of English
- Introduction to your Course Supervisor

FAST FACTS

Location	Mafia Island, Tanzania
Activities	Dive and snorkel to locate & map coral reefs Dive and snorkel to study the various coral reef communities Discover & record living organisms Dive and snorkel to do underwater visual census of reef & commercial fish Assess algal & coral reef cover to determine the extent of coral bleaching & damage

	Line intercept transects for benthic life & indicator invertebrate species Record observations of the feeding habits & behaviour patterns of a range of marine life Study the impact of dynamite fishing on the coral reefs Report the effects of global warming on marine communities Observe the impact of the marine curio trade on endangered marine invertebrates
Transport	Airport pickup on Mafia Island Light aircraft flight to project site on the island (extra cost applies) Alternative start dates possible, please speak to an adviser
Accommodation	Communal camp near to the beach

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?

Migrating Humpback Whales & Whale Sharks

Mafia Island is about as close as you can get to the quintessential Indian Ocean tropical paradise. The tiny island of about 40,000 is a friendly, laid-back place that has long been praised as a diver and sea angler's paradise.

Mafia's luxuriant mangroves, luminous seagrass beds and dazzling coral reefs play host to a multitude of tropical reef fish, thorny and spotted seahorses and four species of graceful and gentle sea turtles. Offshore there are dolphins and manta rays and the deeper waters are a regular stop off point for migrating humpback whales and giant whale sharks. You can experience all this when you start your internship and join the Frontier beach camp on Mafia Island learning to dive in the crystal clear, immaculate waters of Tanzania's exclusive Marine Park.

Dynamite Fishing Damaging Coral

Threats to the coastal environment on and around Mafia Island are on the up as unregulated tourism is on the increase and the level of the local population is rising. Increasing competition for food means that artisanal fishing techniques such as seine-netting become inadequate and inefficient, encouraging use of less discriminate catch practices such as dynamite fishing. Other threats include the over harvesting of shark fins, octopus and sea cucumbers and the over collecting of shells and corals for the expanding marine curio trade.

Swim with Dolphins, Rays & Turtles

Your underwater exploration will involve you in mapping the incredible biodiversity of the coastal area and marine habitats. While diving you will locate and record spectacular coral reefs and survey dazzling reef fish, observe marine mammals and turtles and examine the effects of dynamite fishing and global warming on the coral reefs.

Discover Swahili Culture

Through participating in environmental awareness raising in local schools and community activities, you will experience the cultures and lifestyles of local peoples.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

The marine research and conservation internship is run in association with the Mafia Island Marine Park. The programme provides the local communities and government bodies with the information they need sustainably to manage this priceless marine ecosystem and preserve it for future generations. To gather the data needed you will dive and locate and map the extensive coral reefs and study the various communities existing on them.

You will also explore and record the living organisms that inhabit the luxuriant mangrove forests, dense seagrass beds and productive inter tidals in the area. To do this you will use a wide range of newly learned research skills and scientific techniques including: underwater visual census of reef and commercial fish such as trigger fish and parrot fish, assessment of algal and coral cover to determine the extent of coral bleaching and damage and line intercept transects for benthic life and indicator invertebrate species such as nudibranchs. You will observe the feeding habits and behaviour patterns of a range of marine life and may get to study the impact of dynamite fishing on the corals reefs, report on the effects of global warming on marine communities or observe the impact of the marine curio trade on endangered marine invertebrates.

Whilst diving you'll see an extraordinary array of animals from turtles to sea cucumbers to feathery starfish and spiny urchins to octopus. When you sail out each day on Frontier's boat to distant dive sites you may even be accompanied by dolphins or encounter gigantic whale sharks. By the end of your project you will be expert at identifying hundreds of coloured and patterned reef fish as well as being an experienced and competent diver. Although the work is intense and challenging you'll get immense satisfaction from having live through the experience and from having made a valuable contribution to the conservation of this untarnished marine wilderness. You will return home with the new friends you've made and a wealth of incredible memories.

You'll find your team to be a fun, dynamic mix of ages and experiences, with members who all share a passion about travelling in developing countries and saving endangered marine life. Your staff will be young, friendly individuals who are highly experienced in their field many of whom have also volunteered on a Frontier project earlier in their career.

For further information about Frontier marine conservation work see the publications section of this website.

DIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Check out our video on [Frontier Gap Year TV](#) from Frontier-Tanzania, showing you our volunteers diving.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?

We can arrange an airport pick up for you at Dar es Salaam Airport and a local private driver will escort you to a local hostel where you can spend your first night relaxing and recovering from your journey, these costs are extra and you can pay our representative US\$68/\$60 directly. The following day he will return you to the airport in time for your internal flight on the eight seater light aircraft to Mafia Island and please ensure that you book your flight well in advance. Once on Mafia Island you

will be met by Frontier staff at the airport on Mafia and transferred by vehicle to the marine conservation project camp site at Utende. We can provide you with detailed instructions on how to reach the Mafia Island camp if travelling independently.

WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?

You will be living on our marine camp at Utende on the east coast of Mafia Island where you will have an authentic and memorable living experience. The Frontier marine camp was constructed by local craftsmen using traditional building techniques and local materials.

Camp life is very simple, unsophisticated and fun. You will be staying in communal bandas, being huts made from makuti (woven palm leaves), poles and mud, and sleeping on beds constructed from wooden poles, your "shower" will be a jug or a bucket of water and you cook over an open campfire, so prepare for the basic, unencumbered lifestyle! On occasions you may stay in a "satellite camp", usually a mosquito net pitched on a beach.

As well as the diving and marine conservation work you may help with the community outreach and environmental awareness work in the local villages, scientific data entry and daily camp maintenance, taking turns to cook, tidy and clean the camp, rinse dive kit, collect water and help with a wide variety of other essential camp duties.

WHAT WILL I BE EATING?

Camp food is simple and nutritious and consists largely of rice, vegetables and beans, all of which are purchased locally in order to help support the local economy. Luxuries such as chocolate, biscuits, peanut butter and drinking chocolate can be bought in nearby Kilindoni, so make sure you stock up before heading to camp! Part of your role on camp will be to help with the cooking, so get your cook books out now and start practising! Also, with luck you'll be invited to local parties and festivals – a great way to integrate with the local communities in the nearby villages and absorb the local culture.

COSTS

4 weeks	US\$ 2,745
5 weeks	US\$ 3,245
6 weeks	US\$ 3,645
7 weeks	US\$ 3,795
8 weeks	US\$ 4,095
9 weeks	US\$ 4,245
10 weeks	US\$ 4,495
20 weeks	US\$ 6,945
Extra week	US\$ 395

DEPARTURE DATES

First and Third Monday of every month.

DURATION

You can join this project for a minimum of 4 weeks

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Before you go

- Liaising directly with your academic supervisors
- Pre-departure support, mentoring & documentation
- Travel & medical advice & documentation
- Advice on visas & equipment
- Discounted medical kit
- Free Frontier t-shirt
- UK residential briefing weekend including food, accommodation and training (extra cost applies)

- Camp accommodation near the beach
- 3 meals per day provided on project sites, 6 days per week. 2 meals provided on Sunday
- Airport pickup in Dar es Salaam and transfer to hostel (extra cost US\$22/\$20)
- First night hostel accommodation in Dar es Salaam (extra cost US\$22/\$20)
- Transfer to airport for connecting flight to the island (extra cost US\$22/\$20)
- Airport pickup from Mafia Island Airport and transfer to camp (extra cost US\$7/\$6)
- Local orientation
- Project training
- Project equipment & materials
- 24/7 supervision and mentoring from the field staff in-country
- Support from the research team at London HQ
- 24-hour in-country & international HQ emergency support & back-up
- Free marine park & reserve entrance fees & research permits if applicable
- CoPE qualification available
- Accommodation upgrade available in local lodge (extra cost applies)

AIRPORT INFORMATION

Nearest airport(s): Dar es Salaam (DAR), Mafia Island (MFA)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Call us on 020 7613 2422 (UK) / 1 949 336 8178 (US)

Mail us on info@frontier.ac.uk

Check out our social media here:

Project details were correct at the time this document was generated. Price, dates and other details are subject to change. Please see our website for current details for this project.