



## VACANCY

### INTERN: ARCHAEOLOGY / FLORISBAD QUATERNARY RESEARCH STATION

**Period:** 12 months **Closing Date:** 25 February 2021

This internship represents a training collaboration initiative between the **Archaeology Department** and the **Florisbad Quaternary Research Station** at the National Museum, Bloemfontein.

#### **SUMMARY:**

The *Archaeology Department* and *Florisbad Quaternary Research Station* offer a 12-month internship for a motivated post-graduate student, preferably in a Masters level, are about to embark on a Masters level or equivalent program at a South African University in the field of *African Pleistocene Archaeology* with a focus on hominin behaviour.

The internship comprises a combination of laboratory work focused on curation of excavated archaeological materials, data collection on important Stone Age collections and experimental research, and will involve working with scientists in the Archaeology Department and at the Florisbad Quaternary Research Station on research projects.

**SALARY:** *Stipend depending on qualification level.*

**CONTRACT LENGTH:** 12 Months

#### **Key Performance Areas**

- Research projects, collect data on stone artefact collections.
- Assist with management and curation tasks of artefact and fossil collections
- Provision of support for educational and outreach activities in order to popularise African Archaeology/Quaternary research amongst local communities as a field of expertise.

#### **Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

##### **Qualification:**

- A knowledge and interest in African Archaeology/ African Prehistory/ African Quaternary Science.

- University BSc or BA degree (Archaeology or Geology) or Honours level qualification and an interest in pursuing/current involvement in a post-graduate studies.
- Computer literacy.
- A knowledge of statistical analyses will be an advantage.
- A valid (unendorsed) Code 8 driving license.

**Personal Attitudes:** Self-motivation and determination; The ability to work under pressure; Good interpersonal relations skills; Good written and verbal skills.

**DETAILED EXPECTATIONS OF INTERN:**

- Motivation to learn basics of stone fracture mechanics, stone artefact recognition and description (under supervision of museum scientists).
- Critical reading of stipulated list of scientific papers relevant to the program (provided upfront by museum scientists).
- Quantitative data collection on some key Stone Age collections from the central interior of southern Africa, using cutting-edge methodologies recently developed in the field of lithic analysis.
- Eagerness to learn archaeological laboratory work including curation (sorting, weighing, and measuring) of freshly excavated Stone Age collections.
- Willingness to engage in scientific experimentation involving physical exertion, such as stone artefact manufacture and experimental design to explore the behaviours of past hominins.
- Interest in learning basic quantitative methods and basics of artefact digitization.
- Documentation of training experience in a series of weekly social media posts.
- Popular article production and willingness to play a role in a peer-reviewed publication.

**WE OFFER TRAINING IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF CURATION AND RESEARCH**

The following aspects are important with regard to curation of, and research on archaeological collections:

- Methods of sorting excavated archaeological materials in a controlled laboratory setting.
- Stone artefact recognition and analysis (if needed).
- Basic introduction to faunal identification focusing on the Cornelian & Florisian LMAs.
- Advanced methods of stone artefact analysis developed by the supervising scientists.
- Basics of 2D digitization and protocols of collecting useful archaeological data in this context.
- Basic statistics and basic graphical visualization of archaeological data.
- Hands on experience with world-renowned archaeological collections implicating human origins.
- Exposure to working environments in two separate NMB research departments, and opportunities to engage with scientists in diverse settings.

<b>Task Group</b>	<b>Weighting %</b>
KPA 1 – Research Projects, collecting and interrogating archaeological data.	60
KPA 2 – Assist with management and curation tasks of collections	30

KPA 3 – Provision of support for educational and outreach activities in order to popularise African archaeology as a field of expertise	10
TOTAL	100%

**KPA 1 – Research Projects and collecting archaeological data.**

PROCESS	TASK
Research Projects	Assist Scientists with research projects and fieldwork.

**KPA 2 – Assist with management and curation tasks of archaeological collections.**

PROCESS	TASK
Curation of collections	Archaeological laboratory work including curation (sorting, weighing, and measuring) of freshly excavated Stone Age collections.  Assisting with general laboratory processes and maintenance.

**KPA 3 – Provision of expert support for educational and outreach activities in order to popularise African Archaeology/Quaternary Science as a field of expertise**

PROCESS	TASK
Education and outreach activities	Popularization of African Archaeology/ Quaternary Science fields to public, assist with practicals at schools.
Social media and articles	Do social media posts (preferably weekly) about African Archaeology. Write one popular article (under supervision).

**Recruitment Details**

- Communication will be limited to the short-listed candidates only.
- Short-listed candidates will be subjected to a comprehensive selection process
- The National Museum is committed to Employment Equity and aims to attract and retain talented individuals to achieve its equity objectives. In this regard, the Museum is operationalising its program to develop black scientists. Therefore people from designated groups, including those with disabilities, are urged to apply.
- The National Museum reserves the right not to fill an advertised position.
- If you meet ALL the stated requirements, kindly e-mail your application to [hr@nasmus.co.za](mailto:hr@nasmus.co.za), including a covering letter, a copy of your identification document, copies of qualifications and a comprehensive CV (including three referees with their contact details). In addition please supply a list of research publications in peer reviewed journals for last 5 years.
- Applications not meeting the criteria will be disqualified.
- Should you not hear from us within 21 days after the closing date, consider your application unsuccessful.
- 

**Enquiries: For further enquiries, contact [hr@nasmus.co.za](mailto:hr@nasmus.co.za)**

**Closing date: 25 February 2021.**