NRF National Research Foundation | SAIAB South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

National Research Foundation – South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity

ABOUT US

The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (NRF-SAIAB) is a national research facility supported by the National Research Foundation (NRF). We study the full range of aquatic environments, from deep ocean waters to inland freshwater systems.

Our research focuses on ecology and conservation, exploring how biodiversity at the genetic and species levels connects with the environment. The NRF-SAIAB also contributes to South Africa's *Operation Phakisa* programs, which aim to grow the country's Biodiversity Economy and Blue Economy.

Strong support from the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation and the NRF has enabled NRF-SAIAB to develop advanced research platforms that allow us to work in a wide range of environments and made us a leader in aquatic biodiversity research.

'All our work supports High Education in training and development of the next generation of aquatic scientists and environmental managers

Photo credit: Ryan Daly

Seascape Ecology Research

WHAT WE DO AND WHY IT MATTERS

Our research focuses on how climate change affects South Africa's coastal marine environment and fish populations. We also study how shallow coastal areas—like estuaries and tidal pools—act as nursery grounds where juvenile marine fish grow. Many fish rely on these habitats when they are young, so it is important to find and protect these areas to keep adult fish populations healthy for the people who depend on them.

Researchers and scientists in our group do a variety of work, including:

- Writing grant proposals and coming up with new research ideas
- Supervising university students (Honours, Master's, and PhDs)
- Serving on committees and working groups that help manage and protect marine life

When supervising students, we help them:

- Develop their research projects
- Write proposals for their projects and apply for funding
- Carry out fieldwork and laboratory work
- Analyse their data and write up their results as theses and research papers

UNIVERSITY QUALIFICATIONS TO ENTER THIS FIELD

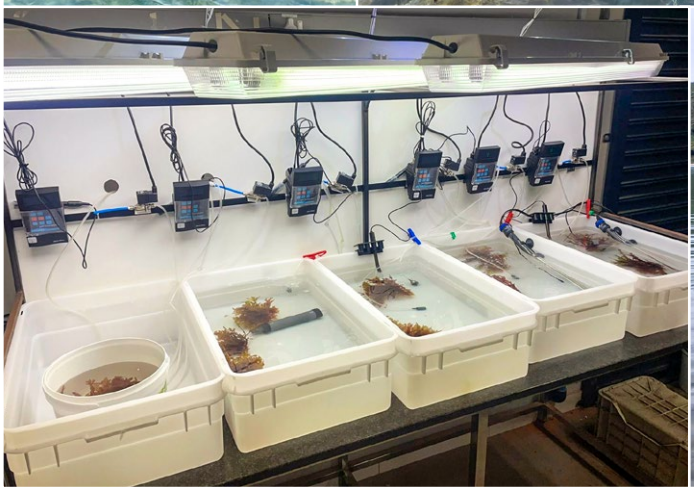
- BSc in Marine Biology, Fisheries Science, or Environmental Science
- BSc (Honours) in any of the above fields
- Master's degree in Marine Biology, Fisheries Science, or Environmental Science
- PhD in Marine Biology, Fisheries Science, or Environmental Science

CAREER PATHS IN THIS FIELD

Students trained in our research group go on to become:

- Researchers or scientists
- Environmental consultants
- Field technicians
- Employees in government departments (like Fisheries, or Water and Sanitation)
- Workers in NGOs focused on marine conservation

Our students do both field and laboratory work, contributing to larger projects on climate change and coastal nursery habitats. They work on a variety of species, including fish, invertebrates, and plants.



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