

Post-graduate Programme
with the University of the Western Cape
in collaboration with the EAF-Nansen Programme

Collaborative research and training opportunities in
African marine science for African students
“Scholarship announcement”

The EAF-Nansen Programme started its activities in 2017, aiming at strengthening the knowledge base for the sustainable management of fisheries, to support improved fisheries policy and management in line with the ecosystem approach to fisheries, and to develop human and institutional research capacity in ocean science and fisheries management.

The Programme represents a new phase of a longstanding initiative by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Norway that have supported marine fisheries management and research since 1975.

The EAF-Nansen Programme is implemented by FAO in close collaboration with the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) and funded by the Norwegian agency for development cooperation (Norad). The Programme runs, with the support of IMR, a brand new, state-of-the-art research vessel, named “*Dr Fridtjof Nansen*” that is intended to generate important scientific information in support of management.

Since 2017, the research vessel has carried out several surveys along the west and east coasts of Africa, the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. Large amounts of data and samples have been collected that need to be processed and analysed to produce scientific results that can contribute to improved management. At the same time, the processing and analysis represents a unique opportunity to further develop the capacity of the national fisheries research institutions involved in the Programme.

The EAF-Nansen Programme is developing partnerships with academic and training institutions to strengthen capacity in fisheries research in partner countries.

The National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa has made available 15 scholarships at MSc or PhD level for researchers from South Africa and from the fisheries research institutions partner to the EAF-Nansen Programme, through a grant to Prof Mark J Gibbons at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). These opportunities are in the areas

of multifrequency hydroacoustics; jellyfish genetics, taxonomy and biology; the trophic ecology of mesopelagic organisms; and nekton community ecology and population genetics.

The themes proposed, as well as the prospective supervisors, are listed in the table below.

Project Topic	Sub-project title	Supervisory team	Degree level	Dates
Multifrequency hydroacoustics	Jellyfish biomass	BEA, JC, MJG	MSc	2019-2020
	Mesopelagic target strength	BEA, JC	PhD	2019-2021
	Mesopelagic biomass and environment	BEA, JC, DA	MSc	2019-2020
Species identity	Semaeostome jellyfish	MJG, MF, NC	PhD	2019-2021
	Rhizostome jellyfish	MJG, MF, NC	PhD	2019-2021
	Population genetics: <i>Chrysaora africana</i>	AE, MJG, MF, NC	MSc	2019-2020
	Population genetics: <i>Rhizostoma luteum</i> and <i>R. pulmo</i>	AE, MJG, MF, NC	Postdoc	
	Population genetics: mesopelagic species	AE, SvdH, RW	PhD	2019-2021
Ecology	Diet of mesopelagic fish - I	CvdL, MJG	MSc	2019-2020
	Diet of mesopelagic fish - II	CvdL, MJG	MSc	2019-2020
	Jellyfish reproduction	HS, MJG	MSc	2019-2020
Nekton	West Africa	MJG, RBC, DT	PhD	2019-2021
	East Africa	MJG, RBC, DT	PhD	2019-2021
	Population genetics - epineuston	SvdH, MJG, RBC	PhD	2019-2021
	Trophic relationships	CvdL, MJG, RBC	Postdoc	

Supervisor/s: BEA – Bjoern Erik Axelsen (IMR, Norway), JC - Janet Coetzee (DAFF, RSA), DA – Dag Aksnes (UiB, Norway), MJG – Mark J Gibbons (UWC, RSA), RW – Rupert Wienerroither (IMR, Norway), MF – Massal Fall (CRODT, Senega), NC – N Charouki (INRH, Morocco), AE – Adriaan Engelbrecht (UWC, RSA), SvdH – Sophie von der Heydon (US, RSA), CvdL – Carl van der Lingen (DAFF, RSA), HS – Heidi Skrypzeck (NatMIRC, Namibia), RBC – Riaan B Cedras (UWC, RSA), DT – Delphine Thibault (IRD, France).

The EAF-Nansen Programme invites researchers working in fisheries research institutions with an interest in the scientific areas mentioned above to submit their application to the training programme. The request should include a letter of interest, accompanied by a letter of support from the appropriate line manager, who should release the candidates from other responsibilities during the entire duration of the training programme. The full contact details of two academic referees should be provided. Candidates need to include an updated copy of their Curriculum Vitae, proof of identity, as well as certified copies of their academic record and degree certificates. The “home” research institution will scrutinise the request against a series of criteria and endorse the applications. Applicants from outside South Africa must ensure their previous degrees are accredited by

the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) - (<http://www.sqa.org.za/>) and must be proficient in the English language.

The issuance of study visas for South Africa may be a lengthy process, so prospective applicants are encouraged to submit their application whenever is convenient.

Further details on the academic and research programme can be obtained directly from Prof Mark Gibbons (e-mail contact: mgibbons@uwc.ac.za). Please mention as the subject of your message: "information query on the Post-graduate programme".

Thank you.