

Call for Applications
Summer Field Course: “Field Studies of Marine Mammals”
Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada
Course Dates: July 26-August 13, 2018

Supported by the Schulich Ocean Studies Initiative



The Schulich Ocean Studies Initiative

This course is offered as part of the Schulich Ocean Studies Initiative and is supported by The Schulich Foundation. The Initiative brings together marine scientists and researchers from Israel and Dalhousie University in Canada to undertake joint marine research projects, student internships, and field courses in both countries. For more information please visit: <http://www.iui-eilat.ac.il/SchulichInitiative/Default.aspx>).

The differing ocean environments of the Red Sea and the North Atlantic, together with similar phenomena (strong vertical mixing, spring blooms, animal migration and dispersal among rich benthic communities, etc.), as well as shared interests and expertise between Dalhousie and Israeli researchers in both basic marine science and aquaculture, indicate a high potential for innovative science.

Course description (see Syllabus for more information)

This course is intended for upper level undergraduate students and will provide a hands-on introduction to research on marine mammals in the North Atlantic. Lectures will provide an overview of marine mammal adaptations, evolution, population biology, social organization, conservation, and management. Labs will include a necropsy and techniques of photographic identification of individuals.

This is an intensive course and class will be all day, six days a week for three weeks. The course includes a multi-day camping trip to Brier Island, Nova Scotia where students will observe marine mammals from whale-watching boats and conduct research projects.

Prerequisites for the course are a course in Introductory Biology or Zoology, Introductory Ecology or Ecological Concepts, and Introductory Statistics. Students should have successfully completed these courses prior to applying to the program.

It is also strongly suggested that applicants have completed a course in Behavioural Ecology or Animal Behaviour. Students who have not already completed such a course, may be able to complete an online module developed by the course instructors.

Funding

The course is hosted by Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada. Course funding will cover airfare, transport to/from the airport, accommodations, food, extra course fees, and health insurance for the duration of the course. Please note, students who wish to extend their travel beyond the course dates will be responsible for any and all costs and arrangements during this additional period.

Important dates

Course dates: 26 July – 13 August 2018. An orientation day will be held on 25 July.

Expected Travel Dates: Tuesday, 24 July – depart Tel Aviv to arrive in Halifax; Wednesday, 14 August – depart Halifax.

Eligibility

The course is open to Israeli upper year undergraduate students currently registered at any Israeli university or Ruppin Academic Center with a background in biology or marine biology. High-level proficiency in English (speaking, reading, and writing) is mandatory. Preference will be given to students who plan to continue studying for a higher degree in any field of marine sciences.

Application Process

Interested eligible students are asked to complete the on-line application form (<http://www.iui-eilat.ac.il/SchulichInitiative/Default.aspx>) and upload their CV and a transcript of university courses and grades. The transcript should show that the course pre-requisites have been completed.

Selection Process

Eight Israeli undergraduate students will be selected for the 2018 course. Applications will be evaluated largely on academic success and the applicant's suitability for the program. The selection panel will consist of professors and administrators participating in the Schulich Initiative.

Application Timeline

New deadline for applications: Friday February 16, 2018 at 17:00.

Decision: before or on Feb 28, 2018.

Contact information for Israeli applicants:

Simon Berkowicz

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