

VACANCY: Internship, African Elephant Research Unit

The African Elephant Research Unit (AERU), based at the Knysna Elephant Park (KEP), is looking to fill an internship position. AERU is a non-profit research trust and volunteer programme focusing on behaviour, welfare and management of African elephants in captive environments. AERU's primary mission is to improve the welfare of captive African elephants by conducting non-invasive research (at KEP and beyond) and publishing the findings in peer-reviewed journals. This internship represents a rare opportunity to be part of a research team on a semi-captive population of habituated elephants in a naturalistic environment where 24/7 behavioural observation is possible. You will gain valuable experience in the field of animal behaviour and zoology whilst also developing AERU into a globally respected voice for captive elephant welfare.

The Role

The Intern will participate in all AERU's field and office activities, including:

- Volunteer administration and programme
- Media administration
- Field and lab work associated with the research program
- Data entry and checking
- Inventories

Requirements

Essential:

- Proficiency in MS Office (MS Excel and MS Word, in particular)
- Attention to detail and problem-solving skills
- Strong organizational skills with the ability to multi-task and to prioritize work
- Desire to be proactive and create a positive experience for others
- A collaborative and flexible approach, but able to work fully independently
- Dedication, integrity, reliability, and willingness to go 'above and beyond'
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills (English mandatory)
- Good interpersonal skills

Desirable:

- Experience with animal-related work and/or volunteer projects catering to international volunteers
- A pragmatic attitude to captivity, with a strong commitment to the welfare of captive wild animals
- An undergraduate degree in a related discipline
- Valid driving licence

This is a 6-month full-time position, to start as soon as possible. On-site self-catering accommodation can be provided for a reasonable monthly fee. Please send CV and letter of motivation including the name and contact details of two references research@knysnaelephantpark.co.za . **Deadline for submitting application: 21st May 2021.**

