

# Weddell Seal Project Technicians

## Project Description:

The Erebus Bay Weddell seal population study in eastern McMurdo Sound, Antarctica was initiated in 1968 and represents one of the longest intensive field investigations of a long-lived mammal in existence. This long-term study is a valuable resource for understanding population dynamics of not only Weddell seals but also other species of both terrestrial and marine mammals with similar life-history characteristics. Knowledge of the mechanisms that limit and/or regulate Weddell seal populations and the specific bio-physical linkages between climate, oceans, ice, and Antarctic food webs can provide important contributions to our understanding of pinniped population dynamics, as well as contribute more generally to theoretical understanding of population, community, and ecosystem patterns and processes. Such knowledge can be readily applied elsewhere to enhance the ability of natural resource managers to effectively maintain assemblages of other large-mammal species and the ecological processes that they facilitate. Continuation of this long-term study may also contribute to an understanding of the potential detrimental impacts of human activities such as climate change and the commercial exploitation of Antarctic marine resources.

## Job Description:

We are looking to hire up to 5 technicians for the 2020 field season. Technicians will participate in all aspects of the project including tagging animals, conducting population surveys, and physically weighing animals. Heavy lifting is required. Work is conducted on sea-ice, and travel is primarily by snowmobile. Weather conditions are commonly cold and windy. Our crew lives in a small field camp on the sea ice approximately a 1-hour snowmobile drive from McMurdo station, the main base for the U.S. Antarctic Program.

## Qualifications:

Recently graduated students with a B.S. or M.S. are welcome to apply. Current students who wish to apply must have Junior or Senior standing. Applicants must be able to work both independently and as part of a research team, be in good physical condition, and be willing and able to thrive in a small, remote field camp. Demonstrated field experience is preferred, and experience working in cold weather is especially relevant. ***Applicants that do not have a demonstrated ability to work in challenging conditions with a positive attitude are very unlikely to be hired.***

## Terms of Employment:

The field season will begin at the end of September and will end mid-December. Salary is ~\$1,000-\$1,500/month dependent upon experience. Transportation, room and board are covered during employment.

## How to apply:

If you are interested, please send a cover letter, resume or CV, and at least three references to Kaitlin Macdonald via email ([kaitlin.r.macdonald@gmail.com](mailto:kaitlin.r.macdonald@gmail.com)).

**All applications must be received by March 25, 2020. Hiring decisions will be made within 2-4 weeks after the application date.**