



## The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands

**We are hiring!**

### ***Marine Genomics Technician – Deep Ocean Program***

#### **Background**

The **Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands (CDF)** is an international non-profit organization, founded in 1959, with its operational headquarters in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. The CDF conducts applied scientific research and conservation actions aimed at generating robust knowledge and supporting decision-making processes for the management and protection of one of the most emblematic ecosystems on the planet.

The **Deep Ocean Program** promotes strategic research on deep-sea marine ecosystems of the Galapagos Marine Reserve and the Eastern Tropical Pacific, integrating frontier science, technological innovation, and technical inputs to support marine governance.

#### **Position Summary**

The Charles Darwin Foundation seeks to recruit a **Marine Genomics Technician** (Junior Researcher level) to support the strengthening and operation of the genetic subprogram to the Deep Ocean Program.

The position will play a key technical–operational role in molecular laboratory management, the implementation of genetic methodologies applied to marine conservation (including metabarcoding and environmental DNA – eDNA), sample collection and handling, and ensuring quality assurance, traceability, and management of genetic data.

The Marine Genomics Technician will work in close coordination with researchers from the Deep Ocean Program and with other institutional areas, contributing technical inputs to scientific research, institutional reports, and processes related to access to and governance of marine genetic resources.

#### **Responsibilities**

- Support the strengthening of the genetic subprogram of the Deep Ocean Program through the implementation of technical activities in marine genetics applied to conservation.
- Manage and support the daily operation of the molecular laboratory associated with the Deep Ocean Program, including proper use, basic maintenance, and care of equipment and materials.

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- Implement and support genetic and molecular methodologies, including but not limited to: – Metabarcoding – Environmental DNA (eDNA) – Population genetic connectivity analyses – Phylogenetics and phylogeography – Development and application of genetic markers
- Participate in field campaigns for the collection of biological samples, ensuring their proper handling, preservation, labeling, and traceability from collection to analysis.
- Support the organization, systematization, and quality control of genetic data and associated metadata, ensuring good practices in data management, storage, and backup.
- Contribute to the preparation of genetic datasets for eventual publication in national and international repositories, in accordance with applicable institutional and scientific standards.
- Collaborate in the preparation of technical inputs for scientific, institutional, and donor reports related to the use of genetic tools and program results.
- Support processes related to access to marine genetic resources, including preparation of technical documentation, monitoring of permits, and compliance with obligations before competent authorities.
- Coordinate technically with researchers, technicians, and other institutional areas to ensure the proper integration of genetic components into marine research and conservation projects.
- Support internal training activities and knowledge transfer in genetic techniques applied to conservation, aimed at technical staff, students, or collaborators.
- Supervise and provide technical support to volunteers and assistants involved in laboratory activities, when applicable.
- Comply with institutional regulations, biosafety protocols, ethical guidelines, and applicable regulations governing scientific work in the Galapagos.

#### Technical Skills

- Practical knowledge of genetic and molecular biology techniques applied to marine research and conservation.
- Ability to operate and support activities in a molecular laboratory, following established protocols and good biosafety practices.
- Skill in the handling, preservation, labeling, and traceability of biological samples from field collection through laboratory analysis.
- Basic competency in the management, organization, and quality control of genetic data and associated metadata.

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- Ability to follow and apply standardized technical protocols, as well as adapt to new methodologies under supervision.

#### Analytical and Organizational Skills

- Attention to detail and technical rigor to ensure the quality and reproducibility of procedures and results.
- Ability to organize technical tasks, manage time, and meet established operational schedules.
- Ability to document procedures, results, and activities clearly and in an orderly manner.

#### Interpersonal and Teamwork Skills

- Ability to work collaboratively in interdisciplinary and multicultural teams.
- Clear and respectful communication with researchers, technicians, students, and administrative staff.
- Willingness to receive technical feedback and engage in continuous learning.

#### Personal Skills

- Responsibility and commitment to compliance with institutional regulations, biosafety protocols, and regulations applicable in the Galapagos.
- Flexibility and adaptability to work in a dynamic operational environment with logistical limitations typical of insular contexts.
- Professional ethics, integrity, and respect for the scientific and conservation principles of the Foundation.

#### Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Biology, Marine Biology, Genetics, Biotechnology, Environmental Sciences, or related fields.
- Academic training with an emphasis on genetics, molecular biology, and/or molecular techniques, including practical laboratory experience during academic or professional training.

#### Experience

- Minimum of 1 to 3 years of experience in technical activities related to genetics and operational support to molecular laboratories, acquired through: – Previous employment, and/or – Research projects, and/or – Relevant professional internships or traineeships.



- Minimum of 1 to 3 years of experience in operational support to molecular laboratories, including at least some of the following activities: – Preparation and handling of reagents and consumables. – Basic processing of biological samples. – Adherence to laboratory protocols. – Use and care of molecular laboratory equipment.
- Basic experience in field collection and handling of biological samples, preferably in marine or environmental contexts (desirable).
- Experience in organizing and supporting the daily functioning of the laboratory, including: – Organization and control of materials and reagents. – Recording of activities and results. – Support for basic equipment maintenance (according to protocols).
- Theoretical and practical knowledge in at least some of the following areas: – Metabarcoding – Environmental DNA (eDNA) – Population genetic connectivity – Phylogenetics and phylogeography – Development and application of genetic markers
- Basic knowledge of principles related to management, storage, and traceability of genetic samples and data.
- Knowledge and application of biosafety protocols, good laboratory practices, and responsible handling of samples.
- Familiarity with general concepts related to access to genetic resources, regulatory compliance, and associated reporting (desirable).
- Functional proficiency in Spanish (spoken and written).
- Basic knowledge of English, sufficient for reading protocols, scientific literature, and basic technical communication (desirable).

### **Working Conditions**

- Contract type: Employment contract under current Ecuadorian labor regulations and the internal policies of the Charles Darwin Foundation.
- Position type: **Technical staff – Junior Researcher level.**
- Work schedule: Full-time, in accordance with the work schedule established by the Charles Darwin Foundation.
- Duty station: Charles Darwin Research Station, Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos, Ecuador.
- Compensation: Monthly salary of **USD 1,700,00.**

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- Contract duration: Labor contract with the possibility of annual renewal, subject to availability of funds and performance evaluation.
- Reporting line: The Marine Genomics Technician reports to the Deep Ocean Program, under the direct supervision of the designated program lead.
- Mobility and fieldwork: Availability to participate in field campaigns and activities outside the research station, within Galapagos and occasionally in other locations related to the Program, in accordance with institutional planning.
- Regulatory compliance: The selected candidate must comply with the internal regulations of the Charles Darwin Foundation, biosafety protocols, and regulations applicable to scientific work in the Galapagos, including provisions of the Galapagos National Park.
- Benefits: Statutory benefits and those established by the internal policies of the Charles Darwin Foundation.

### **Why Join the Charles Darwin Foundation**

- Be part of a mission-driven and globally respected organization dedicated to preserving one of the most emblematic ecosystems on the planet.
- Contribute to the development of capacity in marine genomics applied to conservation, within a highly rigorous scientific environment.
- Work hands-on in both laboratory and field settings, participating in projects with direct impact on the management and protection of marine ecosystems.
- Gain professional experience in a globally unique context, collaborating with multidisciplinary teams and strategic partners.
- Help advance vital research and conservation efforts in the Galapagos Islands, with regional and global impact.

### **Restrictions**

Please note that the provincial government of the Galapagos Islands prohibits the introduction of domestic pets (companion animals) into the Galapagos Islands.

### **Interested in Applying?**

Interested candidates must follow the link below to submit their application and required documentation: <https://forms.gle/43iWR5ofNJ91KyMg6>

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**Required documents:**

- A cover letter detailing relevant experience (maximum 2 pages).
- Updated CV.
- Contact information for three professional references (names, email addresses, and phone numbers).

Application deadline: [February 15, 2026](#).

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***The Charles Darwin Foundation is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.***