



Announcement

Volunteer position for the Marine Vertebrates and Invertebrates Collection (MCCDRS)

Application deadline: Until filling the vacancy

Starting time: after April 30 2021

Duration: Initially for a period of 3 months with the possibility of extending the placement for an additional 3 months upon review.

The Marine Invertebrates Collection Charles Darwin Research Station (MCCDRS) forms part of the 4 Natural History Collections at the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF). The main role of the collections is to preserve type specimens (those used on the description of a new species). The specimens and the information preserved at the collections are pivotal for research projects contributing to the knowledge of the baseline of biodiversity, working with priority species for conservation in Galapagos and, generating information on ecological interactions, primarily on introduced species.

The MCCDRS houses close to 9,000 specimens and is the greatest repository of marine invertebrates from Galapagos in the world. The MCCDRS data make possible taxonomical studies that lead to the discovery of new species and new records for Galapagos. The specimens at the didactical section are a powerful tool in terms of outreach and environmental education. The historical records of the MCCDRS are basic to know the spatial distribution of species across the time, as a result we can better understand the natural history of the endemic species of marine invertebrates in Galapagos.

Thanks to support of collaborating scientists and local, national and international institutions, we are currently developing several activities focused on the inventory and taxonomic organization of MCCDRS specimens, in addition to the recovery, editing and entry of information in our databases. The main objective of these activities is to strengthen and update the information that we make available to the whole world through our portal <https://www.darwinfoundation.org/es/datazone>.

Opportunity

The marine collection is offering the possibility to work with some of the most scientifically valued and unique species in the world. For this, the collection is looking for individuals with knowledge in marine species taxonomy and an interest in the research and conservation of the islands.

This is an incredible experience to experience first-hand the important scientific work is carried out in the Charles Darwin Foundation for the benefit of the conservation of the Galapagos Islands.



Required profile

- Applicants should have a strong interest in any group of Marine Invertebrates. Bachelor degree or postgraduate degree in Marine Biology, Environmental Sciences (or closely related fields).
- Previous experience working with marine invertebrates and/or natural history collections is desirable.
- Knowledge in database management. Experience in photography.
- Highly motivated person with excellent interpersonal skills and proficiency in English and Spanish are preferable.
- Ability to work in a multicultural and multilingual team is an advantage.
- Confidence in presentational skills to local or visiting audiences.
- Independently developing research within the framework of the project is encouraged.

Responsibilities

- Contribute to the strengthening of the MCCDRS database.
- Support in the organization of MCCDRS samples.
- Support in the digitization of the MCCDRS reference catalogs.
- Assist on the preparation of scientific publications and outreach material for local community and visitors.
- Technical support on the curation activities at the MCCDRS and, if required, assistance in field trips to collect specimens.
- Maintenance and monitoring of the specific climatic conditions required of the collections.
- Maintenance and update of the MCCDRS database.
- Support in the composition and presentation of information to local or visiting audiences.
- Supporting any other activities of the Natural History Collections, in case of being required.

Terms

The volunteer reports directly to the project coordinator and the project scientist. The successful candidate will be based at the Charles Darwin Foundation Research Station (CDRS) on Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos, Ecuador. A volunteer assignment with CDF does not imply a continuing relationship with the volunteer beyond the expected duration of the assignment.

The volunteer is expected to work a minimum of 40 hours per week, from 7:45 - 12:15 and 14:30 – 17:15. Due to project activities, such as fieldtrips, this schedule may change. Vacation and/or additional time away from the MCCDRS may be requested in advance by the volunteer but will be subject to the approval of the Principal Curator.

The CDF will negotiate the entry permits to Ecuador, but will require the cooperation of the volunteer in their country of residence for coordination with the appropriate Ecuadorian embassy that grants the visa. CDF will not process a visa in excess of the expected duration



fundación
Charles Darwin
foundation
of the assignment.

How to apply?

For additional information and those interested in this position should send their application form and attachments by e-mail to the following address vol@fcdarwin.org.ec and patricia.jaramillo@fcdarwin.org.ec.

Please refer to this page for information about other requirements and application instructions: www.darwinfoundation.org.ec