



## MSc Scholarship in Molecular Ecology

Gobabeb – Namib Desert Institute (Gobabeb) is offering a scholarship in molecular ecology related to the Namib Desert in Namibia. The candidate should be familiar with molecular techniques to examine ecological and evolutionary processes, population genetics, or using genetic techniques to investigate relationships between closely related species or adaptation in local populations. The candidate will be based at Gobabeb in Namibia's Namib-Naukluft National Park for most of the time. The scholarship will be for two years, during which the successful candidate will register for an MSc degree at an appropriate southern African university to carry out original research on genome sequencing, population genomics, or landscape genomics on an appropriate organism or group of organisms indigenous to the Namib Desert. Gobabeb currently has ongoing projects in whole genome, phylogeographic and molecular phylogenetics of endemic plants and is interested to initiate molecular studies of *inter alia* *Oryx gazella* (Bovidae), *Gerbilliscus* (*Gerbillurus*) and *Parotomys* (Muridae), *Meroles* (Lacertidae), *Comicus* (Schizodactylidae), Lathiceridae and other faunal taxa.

The scholarship will cover university registration and study fees, accommodation at Gobabeb, project operational costs, essential travel and a monthly stipend for 24 months. Stipends and fees are not negotiable.

Whilst at Gobabeb, the candidate will be responsible for maintaining and managing an operational molecular extraction laboratory, carrying out extractions, familiarising visitors with operational procedures in the laboratory, interacting with a wide variety of international specialists and scientists visiting Gobabeb to carry out work on microbial, plant, animal and environmental genomic research and molecular ecology, and carrying out targeted collecting, accessioning and storage of genetic material for own research and future research programmes. Familiarity with and demonstrable competence in operating procedures for molecular extraction and the resources required for such work is therefore essential.

**Eligibility Criteria:** The successful candidate will be expected, or required, to:

- have completed a B.Sc. Hons. degree or equivalent within the past three years in genetics/molecular ecology or a strong molecular component in Environmental Sciences, Plant Studies or Zoology;
- be a citizen or permanent resident of Namibia or South Africa (preference will be given to Namibian applicants);
- be based at Gobabeb, Namibia, for most of a 24-month period;

- meet the admission requirements and registration procedures for an MSc degree by research at a southern African university, approved prior to registration by Gobabeb;
- register during 2025 for an MSc degree by research at the approved university;
- a Driving Licence, at least Class B, will be advantageous.

**Application Process:** To apply, please send:

- a letter of application;
- a full CV, including names and contact details of two academic supervisors;
- copies of academic transcripts
- an abstract/summary of the honours project;
- a description of the candidate's relevant laboratory experience if it is not evident from the academic transcripts and project summary/abstract;
- copies of driving licence (including date of issue), passport and residence visa (if applicable).

Send applications by email to **research@gobabeb.org** BY NO LATER THAN **15 December 2024**. Gobabeb reserves the right to allocate the scholarship to an appropriate applicant sooner, or to call for new applications if no suitable applications are received.