

Archipelagos Institute of Marine Conservation

Committed to Researching and Defending the Biodiversity of the Greek Seas

Archipelagos Institute of Marine Conservation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to researching and defending the biodiversity of the Greek seas and islands, as well as the NE Mediterranean overall. Graduates and students are welcome to apply for placements through an internship or traineeship, with the aim to enrich their knowledge with the practical experience of working in hands-on field research and conservation projects. These take place within the beautiful landscape of the islands in the eastern Aegean Sea, Greece. The goal of Archipelagos' placement program is to provide participants with research experience in the field, contributing directly towards the future of this unique ecosystem.

What makes your school the best choice for students interested in studying environmental issues abroad?

Archipelagos brings together the expertise and knowledge of international scientific conservation community, aiming to protect the unique biodiversity of the Greek Seas and Islands. We provide opportunities for students, recent graduates and scientists from all over the world, to acquire multi-disciplinary, practical experience through work placements and field courses. Working for Archipelagos Institute of Marine Conservation gives you the freedom to choose your own field of research or join an existing project that interests you. Current projects are incredibly diverse and include everything from mapping the sea floor to examining the stomach contents of stranded dolphins - there is no shortage of opportunities! All projects are run by small teams which allows team members to control the direction of their own research and gain hands-on experience. Supervisors for each area of research are always happy to help, give advice and guide you along the way. The

Archipelagos base is also conveniently located directly on the sea front, just a short drive in a staff minivan from the marina, where the Archipelagos boats take the Marine teams out into the Aegean for regular surveys.

What are the advantages of studying in Samos and/or other islets of the northern Dodecanese as opposed to elsewhere in Greece?

Samos Island is one of the final havens of biodiversity in the Mediterranean and hundreds of species of birds, mammals and reptiles, including rare or endangered species, can be found on this rich island. Samos hosts the only populations of golden jackals and elusive Mediterranean chameleons in Greece. The aquatic life is equally impressive: dolphins, whales, sea turtles and monk seals all swim in the surrounding Aegean Sea. Archipelagos' second research base is on Lipsi Island where one of the ma-



major aims is to create a marine life sanctuary for injured and/or previously captive dolphins. You will have the opportunity to be part of a group of scientific professionals from around the world working in the first natural rehabilitation centre in the world to offer a veterinary clinic in the NE Mediterranean and provide medical treatment to marine species. Pressure from the media and the public is causing dolphinaria across Europe to shut down, leading to a large increase

in the number of captive dolphins expected to be released. The Aegean Marine Life Sanctuary aims to provide the necessary medical treatment for marine mammals, while under semi-natural conditions, with the help of its many scientists, veterinarians, and students.

What can students look forward to when they attend Archipelago Institute?

At Archipelagos, it doesn't matter which team you are a part of as all team members can have the opportunity to explore all areas of fieldwork that interest them. In addition to their primary project, all team members are welcome on board boat surveys to monitor marine mammals, snorkel along the sea bed on seagrass transects or assist in late night chameleon surveys. One of the greatest aspects of the Archipelagos experience is meeting like-minded people from across the globe. Talking to people from different backgrounds who are interested in different fields and collaborating together on various projects is an invaluable experience for future work.

What are some of the most popular programs for students who wish to study abroad at Archipelago Institute?

Research at Archipelagos Institute is divided into four major areas:

1) Marine Conservation:

Several marine conservation projects are focused on mapping the protected seagrass meadows, whose abundance is reducing at an alarming rate. Each project uses a different technique, including kayak and boat based mapping using various methods and equipment, drone imaging, underwater transects and satellite mapping, in an effort to combine results and create comprehensive maps of seagrass along the sea floor.

"... we are mapping all the seagrass in order to protect it - this is important because it is key for fisheries productivity and the stabilization of the sea floor to

protect beaches from erosion."
- Baptiste Villemagne (St Etienne, France)

2) Marine Mammals:

The marine mammal team is one of the largest at Archipelagos and accordingly has many popular ongoing projects:

■ Boat-based surveys are conducted with the aim to monitor dolphin and whale distributions, behaviour, and abundance. This data is then used to analyze the impact of anthropogenic factors on these charismatic species over time.

"... the waters of the Eastern Aegean Sea are one of the few areas in the world where we can monitor dolphin behaviour without the stress of human and boat disruption. It is truly amazing to have the chance observe these species in their natural environment."

- Marcia Filgiano (Montreal, Canada)

■ The stranding team responds to reported live or dead strandings around the Eastern Aegean to provide first aid to injured animals or collect stranded animals for further necropsy analysis.

"... when the animals are alive we perform first aid and, if the conditions are right, attempt to re-adapt the animal to its environment. If the stranded animal is dead we perform a necropsy in order to determine the cause of death."

- Teresa Hipolito (Cascais, Portugal)

■ Eco-navigation team members visit the nearby ports on a daily basis to involve recreational sailors and tourists on the monitoring of the biodiversity around the Aegean and encourage them to report dolphin and other marine mammal sightings during their time here.

"... (eco-navigation is) a citizen science initiative that relies on the help of the public to get data that otherwise would be missed."

- Stacey Moutafis (Warnambool, Australia)

3) Terrestrial Conservation:

■ Popular terrestrial conservation projects include studying



each species present solely on Samos Island, for instance the Mediterranean Chameleon and the Golden Jackal.

"... we are comparing different island habitats using previously determined transects in order to find out which environments chameleons prefer and to try to estimate the density of the populations."

- Cecile Fournet (Ile de la Reunion, France)

"... we are using acoustic surveys and camera traps in Samos International Airport area to observe jackal behaviour, population numbers and to examine how they are using the area. We are doing this so that we can try to relocate them to avoid collision with incoming flights."

- Sanne Welin (Stockholm, Sweden)

■ The Eastern Aegean islands are key migratory routes for a large number of protected and rare bird species. As such, research at Archipelagos focuses on monitoring bird populations in wetlands and other important habitats.

"... our goal is to send overall biodiversity and abundance data to governmental organisations to improve the conservation status of the fragile wetland areas."

- Bastiaan De Ketelaere (Gent, Belgium)

4) Lab Research:

The major projects in the labs are focused on microplastics - microscopic plastic debris often inadvertently, or unavoidably, in-

gested by marine and terrestrial species.

We analyze gastrointestinal tracts of stranded dolphins, sea turtles and fish to test for microplastic content. Additional research looks at the plastic content in surface waters and sediment samples.

"... we are figuring out the connection between microplastic content at different trophic levels. In essence we want to know how well plastics travel up the food chain here in the Aegean."

- Kerstin Klingler (Stuttgart, Germany)

5) Media & Awareness:

All the results from Archipelagos' research efforts are used to raise awareness on the biodiversity of the Aegean and its urgent need for conservation efforts. This is achieved through social media campaigns, design and production of posters, animations, videos, and much more.

What is the application procedure? When is the deadline to apply?

There is no deadline, placements are available year-round. Contact the admissions team at admissions@archipelago.gr and they will send you an application form to fill out. Should your application be successful, you will have a Skype interview to discuss your role while you are here.

Good luck, and we hope to see you soon at Archipelagos Institute!

Zachary Datson
Archipelagos Intern

Paideia Studies in Greece

2018



Eligibility: GPA 2.5

- Semester/Year: Students can study at the Aristotle and Macedonia Universities in Thessaloniki, University of Aegean and Hellenic Center of Marine Research in Rhodes.
- Summer/Winter Intersession students can study in Rhodes, Dion/Aiani, Thessaloniki
- Five study tours per year around Greece.
- Dates: Fall/Spring semesters with an optional late class in Rhodes, Dion, Aiani or other region of Greece with a PAIDEIA partial scholarship.
- Many classes are available with the less expensive program a student can find in Greece.
- Paideia scholarships are available to all!

Contact: Center for Hellenic Studies Paideia, Storrs, CT

Email: Paideia@snest.net

Tel/fax (860)429-8518; (860) 9068458 cell

<http://hellenicstudiespaideia.org>

WE BRING GREECE'S PAST TO LIFE

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS
America's First Overseas Research Center, Founded in 1881

SUMMER SESSION
SUMMER SEMINARS
ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAM
WIENER LABORATORY FIELD SCHOOL

FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
609-454-6811 · APPLICATION@ASCSA.ORG
WWW.ASCSA.EDU.GR/APPLY

Re-creation of the pediment from the Temple of Aphaia on Aegina. Photos: Lana Radloff (top), ArtResource (bottom)