



TROPICAL MARINE ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION IN MOZAMBIQUE

WINTER SESSION 2018 (DEC 27 - JAN 13)

Gain on-the-ground research experience through exploration of natural marine environments and human communities in Southeast Africa's largest country.

Known for its palm-fringed coastline and blue waters filled with diverse wildlife, Mozambique is considered a world class destination for diving and boat based safari activities.

Information sessions:

- Wednesday, September 13 from 10AM-4PM at the Global Education Fall Fair, Drillfield
- Tuesday, September 19 from 10AM-11AM, Newman Library - Multipurpose Room

**Apply online at <http://sa.globaleducation.vt.edu/?go=mozambique> by
Wednesday, September 27, 2017.**

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all majors. Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

This program includes PADI open water dive course or an advanced dive course. A medical statement and clearance by a physician is required to engage in scuba (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus) diving.

Shore activities are available for those seeking a non-dive option. See contact for eligibility-related questions.

COSTS

- VT Winter Session [tuition and fees](#) for 4 credit hours*
- Program fee: approximately \$4,500**. The fee includes room and board, and group transportation in Mozambique. The fee does not include international airfare, Passport fees (if needed), immunizations, and personal expenses.
- Round-trip airfare: approximately \$2,000.

*Tuition and university fees are billed separately from the program fee according to University Bursar policy.

** Program fees could be reduced depending on the number of program participants.

Participants are encouraged to apply for scholarships, even prior to being accepted to the program. The upcoming Global Education Scholarship application has a Sept 15, 2017 deadline.

CONTACT

For more information, contact Rachel Fitzgerald (rfitz@vt.edu).

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program provides a unique opportunity for Virginia Tech students to immerse themselves in marine research. Students will scuba dive along tropical reefs to collect and later analyze data on system health.

Program participants conduct research at the Marine Research Centre (MRC) located in Tofo, Mozambique. The MRC overlooks the beach and is located next to the dive centre, allowing access to stunning megafauna and microfauna including whale sharks, humpback whales, manta rays, dolphins, turtles and sea horses.

Dr. Kathy Alexander, who was previously a marine mammal behaviorist at Sea World and now professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, will lead the program. Alexander holds a Ph.D. in disease ecology and has worked across Africa. She is recognized by many international agencies for her global contributions in disease ecology, wildlife conservation, and rural development.

Dr. Claire Sanderson also a professor in Fish and Wildlife Conservation, and Dr. Mark Vandewalle, CEO of CARACAL, a conservation and community outreach group in Botswana, will also contribute their expertise and knowledge to the program.

ACADEMICS

The program offers 4 credit hours at the undergraduate level.

Course	Credits	Pathways/CLE
FIW	4	4948

Having successfully completed this course, the student will be able to:

- Evaluate socio-ecological and environmental processes influencing tropical reefs;
- Understand the basic ecology and behavior of marine mega fauna, reef fishes, and coral reef organisms;
- Collect underwater marine field data collection and undertake basic analyses.
- Discuss global conservation impacts and intervention opportunities.

Informal meetings will be held in the fall semester. Students will have an opportunity to continue research in Spring 2018. Students are also encouraged to participate in the University's Experiential Learning Conference in April 2018.

