APPLY FOR A POSITION WITHIN THE MALDIVIAN MANTA RAY PROJECT

HINTS AND TIPS

As marine biologists we have chosen a career path in a very competitive field. We all share a true passion for the marine environment and are eagerly driven to do anything in our power to protect it, but it can still be hard to secure the job we want. Working with manta rays in the Maldives is a dream job for many people and we always receive a large number of applicants. Today, I would like to share some points of guidance on how to stick out from the crowd and make an impression when applying for a job in our field.

Best wishes,

Tam Sawers
Maldives Project Leader

1. Read the recruitment advertisement properly.
2. Follow all instructions outlined in the advertisement.
3. Tailor your Cover Letter - Identify where you meet the requirements and where you fall short.
4. Structure your CV and Cover Letter in a professional manner.
5. In your Cover Letter provide details on your experience and explain where you meet the requirements of the position. It is also important to make us aware of the essential skills which you do not fulfill (don't leave this up to us to guess) and how you intend on advancing your skills in these areas.
6. The Cover Letter should not be a copy of your CV. It should act as an appendix to this; giving us insight into you as an individual, your experience, highlighting your dedication to the field, and why you think you would be a good fit for this position. Why should we hire you - sell yourself here.
7. Tell us why you want to work for us and how you think your skills and expertise/experience will add value to our team.
8. Provide links to any content which demonstrates your skills/experience in the field - journal articles/interviews/videos/photography/blogs.
9. Do your research about the project!
10. Review your application - Check for spelling and grammar!!
If you do not meet the following requirements, please do not submit your application for this recruitment round as we are unable to hire you due to work permit and liability reasons:

A. For work permit purposes we require you to have a minimum of BSc in marine biology/conservation or related fields (graduation certificates required for permit approval).

B. For safety and liability reasons we require all staff to have at minimum a PADI Divemaster certification (active status) or equivalent and can provide certification card upon application.

If you are selected as one of the top listed candidates and are invited for an interview:

1. Dress appropriately for the occasion.
2. Consider your interview setting and make sure you are on time for the interview.
3. Do your research about the project and come to the interview prepared.
4. Prepare for the standard interview questions.
5. Make your selling points clear - think about your skills/assets and what would make you the best candidate for the position.
6. Anticipate what the interviewer may have questions/reservations about and how you will answer these questions and ease them of any concerns.
7. Think positive and be open and honest.
8. Ask the interviewer questions about the project and the position you are interviewing for.
9. Enjoy meeting the team and learn from the interview process.

The Manta Trust is committed to building local capacity and increasing opportunities for people of all backgrounds to work in marine conservation. We will therefore always prioritize hiring Maldivians with the required experience and qualifications over foreigners.