



## DAN RESEARCH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

### What is the DAN Research Internship Program?

The DAN Research Internship Program is designed to expand *Project Dive Exploration* data collection and to provide experiences that may motivate young people towards careers in diving or diving-related fields. The Internship Program will run primarily from June through August, and interns are recruited largely from undergraduate students at colleges and universities across the United States, Canada and Europe. (Non-student candidates, post-graduate students, and periods other than summer will be considered, if appropriate.) Interns are trained at DAN and placed with supportive DAN sponsors who will be the Host Facility.

### What is Project Dive Exploration?

Project Dive Exploration (PDE) is a prospective, observational study of safety in recreational diving. The objectives of PDE are to establish the risk of injury in recreational diving; study the effects of age, sex, and dive style on the risk of decompression illness; and investigate the relationship between pre-existing health conditions. PDE has collected over 70,000 dive profiles and publishes this information in DAN's Annual Review of Recreational Scuba Diving Injuries and Fatalities, [Report on Decompression Illness \(DCI\), Diving Fatalities, and Project Dive Exploration](#). To understand risk, one must know about safe dives as well, and as DCI risk is determined by depth-time exposure, knowledge of the dive profiles is also necessary. Cooperation with the dive computer manufacturers Cochran, Suunto, Dive Rite, Uwatec and Sensus has made this possible. DAN developed Data Acquisition Software (DAS) to collect dive profiles and information about the divers, dives and medical outcome following injuries.

DAN is committed to training and mentoring the interns to make them competent in data collection and to give them an experience in diving medical research that will help to guide their future careers. They will receive training in diving physiology and research methodology and will have access at DAN to people who are actively conducting diving safety research. Because of their training and interactions with the diving public for *PDE* data collection, they will be able to communicate the importance of diving research for improving the safety of recreational diving.

### Objectives

The goals of the internship are to: (a) collect dive profile data for Project Dive Exploration; (b) provide the Interns with an experience in diving safety research; (c) educate the diving public about DAN; and (d) educate the diving public about *PDE*. DAN will work the intern's educational institution to ensure that guidelines for academic credit are met through the internship program.

### Recruiting Process

Candidates need to submit an application (attached) providing personal, academic and diving information and a one-page essay outlining reasons for the applicant's interest and why he or she would be a good intern. The application deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>. Candidates may be interviewed by telephone by the Internship Review Committee if further information is needed. The DAN Research department will review applications, qualifications and phone interviews and make final decisions in mid-February. Interns will be notified by March 15<sup>th</sup> for the summer diving season.

Qualities for good interns include enthusiasm, people skills, initiative, integrity, energy, intelligence, persuasiveness, computer literacy, and interest in science and research. The ability to work independently without direct supervision is a must. Minimum age for an intern is 20 with an educational track in a science major preferred. Diving is not a requirement of this internship but most interns will be expected to be involved in diving and thus should have a diving background as a certified scuba diver.

## **Training and Schedule**

The three-month Internship will be organized into three sections:

- (1) Academic and Professional Training Course at DAN Headquarters and the Center for Hyperbaric Medicine and Environmental Physiology at Duke University Medical Center (late May)  
This one-week course will include lectures on diving physiology, research methodology, and diving injury management. In addition, the interns may receive training and certification in CPR and first aid, and oxygen provision. Interns will be trained as *PDE* Field Research Coordinators (FRCs) to collect dive data using dive computers and DAS.
- (2) Field Data Collection (June – August)  
After initial training, Interns will be placed with DAN Business member dive organizations that have volunteered as host facilities. Interns may remain in residence for 2 to 2.5 months, depending on the specific location, to collect *PDE* data. Daily activities will include briefing divers about *PDE*, completing daily interviews with divers, entering dive profile and diver history data into the computer, downloading dive computers, spending time on the dive boats, diving, and interacting with divers. Interns will submit dive profile data to DAN weekly. Interns would be expected to work five out of seven days per week collecting *PDE* data. Interns may also be asked to assist DAN in other ways: training local divers in *PDE*, and promoting DAN and DAN Research to local divers through presentations and newstories.
- (3) Debriefing with DAN (August)  
Upon completion of the data collection period, Interns are required to conduct a debriefing session with DAN Research. This can be done in person at DAN or as a phone interview. Interns are required to finish data entry, turn in equipment and debrief with DAN staff. Interns will also be expected to complete a written review of their experience (1-2 pages). The intention of the debrief is to improve the internship program for the future and learn more about the interns' experiences at specific locations. The written review may be used in full or part in any DAN publications including *Alert Diver*, *On Board*, the DAN website, research newsletters and press releases. In some cases, Interns may participate in data analysis projects with DAN through a school project at their university.

## **Budget**

Interns will be given a monthly stipend to cover these incurred costs. DAN will cover room, board and related expenses. All expenses must be approved expenses or have the written approval of the Internship Coordinator.

## **To submit an application or for further information, please contact:**

**Donna Uguccioni, MS – Internship Coordinator**

Telephone: (800) 446-2671 ext. 627

E-mail: [Duguccioni@dan.duke.edu](mailto:Duguccioni@dan.duke.edu)

Mail: Divers Alert Network  
The Peter B. Bennett Center  
6 West Colony Place  
Durham, NC 27705



## **TRAINING SEMINAR**

### **Five day program**

**These are some of the topics covered during the training week at DAN Headquarters and at the Center for Hyperbaric Medicine and Environmental Physiology at Duke University Medical Center.**

#### **RESEARCH:**

- Introduction to Internship Program
- DAN tour
- FG Hall Tour
- Seminar: History of Decompression
- Seminar: Haldane and Dive Computers
- Seminar: Bubbles and DCS Probability
- Seminar: DCS Mechanisms and Factors Affecting Risk
- Seminar: Decompression Injuries and Fatalities
- Seminar: Project Dive Exploration
- Seminar: DAN Research Projects
- *PDE* Data Collection - I
- *PDE* Data Collection – II
- *PDE Practice Session*

#### **DIVERS ALERT NETWORK**

- Overview of DAN Mission / Volunteering
- Business Membership Brief
- Medical Services Department Brief
- Training Department Brief
- Membership/Insurance Department Brief
- Partners in Dive Safety Program
- Fundraising Efforts of DAN
- Professionalism in the Field
- O2 Provider Course
- CPR and First Aid