

# The Impact of Extreme Temperatures on Coral Reef Fauna in the Arabian Gulf

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**POSITION TITLE:** MARINE BIOLOGY RESEARCH ASSISTANT

**RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE:** THE IMPACT OF EXTREME TEMPERATURES ON CORAL REEF FAUNA IN THE ARABIAN GULF

**FACULTY NAME & TITLE:**

JOHN BURT, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, BIOLOGY

**RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Arabian Gulf is the hottest sea on earth, and coral reefs here experience temperatures not expected to occur in most of the tropics for at least the next century. As such, these reefs can provide useful information on how climate change is likely to affect the ecology of reef communities in other regions in future, as well as allow us to understand what molecular and physiological mechanisms permit coral reef fauna to survive in temperatures that would be lethal corals and reef fish in other regions.

The Marine Biology Research Assistant will work alongside members of the NYU Abu Dhabi Marine Biology team to explore these questions by conducting surveys and collections on reefs and participating in laboratory studies and experiments to assess the role that thermal stress plays in structuring reef fauna in the region. The Research Assistant will rotate through several projects over the course of the year in order to develop a wide breadth of experience in marine ecology and molecular biology techniques, with guidance and mentorship provided throughout. The Research Assistant will also play a central role in planning and delivery of an Arabian-focused coral reefs conference in spring 2016 at NYU Abu Dhabi.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSITION**

- Conduct field work by SCUBA to perform underwater surveys and collect samples
- Work alongside marine biology team members to perform guided laboratory analyses
- Provide regular updates to the team on ongoing research experiences/results

**ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:**

- A Bachelor of Science in Biology, Environmental Science, or related
- SCUBA diving certification and at least 20 open water dives
- Must be able to swim

**PREFERRED EXPERIENCE / SKILLS:**

- Experience in marine biology
- Experience in laboratory and/or field work

**APPLICANTS TO PROVIDE:**

1. Statement of interest in the position
2. Transcript of degree(s)
3. CV
4. Two letters of recommendation