

Internship Placement:

Organization: National Aquaculture
Research and Development
Centre (NARDC)

Address: Mwekera, Kitwe, Copperbelt
Province at the

Supervisor: Mr. Kefi the Principle
Aquaculture Research Officer
(PARO) & Mrs. Ngupeni,
Aquaculture Research Officer
(ARO)



1. Location:

Mwekera is a rural area within the Copperbelt that is within the reserve of the Forestry Department. It takes about 4 hours by car and around 6 hours by bus. As is the case with Aquaculture Research Stations within the country, it is quite isolated and the surrounding community is rural in nature. So taking part in this type of program requires mental preparation to be away from town and stay in a rural setting. However, within the campus everything is available. Good guest houses concrete as well as African round houses for lodging with good supply of tap water, a kitchen and so on. It is a training center developed by Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Aquaculture related training workshop, conferences, seminars and meetings are held here. There are departmental store nearby (10-15 km) town Kitway and even a bigger city i.e. Ndola. For internet connection, interns have to buy an air card which is available Lusaka or other cities.

2. Project / work description

It is very much suitable for those who want hands-on work and want to conduct research experiments in tanks and ponds. Simple equipment such microscope and others are available in the main office lab. Feed preparation and mixing equipment are also available. It also has fish hatchery facilities for tilapia, catfish and carps. Interns can help staff for day-to-day work, carry out research, produce more fish fry to supply to farmers and promote aquaculture technology through publication and communication. The hatchery helps local communities by supplying fish fry, providing knowledge and technical assistance as well. Internship period can be from 1 to 6 months or even longer if necessary. Official working

hours are between 8 am – 4:30 pm (Monday – Friday) and weekend is Saturday – Sunday. Interns can travel by bus from nearby town to anywhere. Some of the work intern can do are as follows:

- Sampling and stocking of fish including measuring the length and weight of the fish
- Fish feed preparations using Soy meal, protein, vegetable oil etc.
- Data entry for the farm research / farm using MS EXCEL spreadsheets and see the trends in fish growth.
- Calculate the amount of feed to be administered to various ponds according to fish weight as well as using this information to keep track of the condition of the fish.
- Learn aquaculture techniques by practicing, having interactions with the staff and going through the technical reports and other literature available at the center
- Learn to measure biological and chemical parameters such as dissolved oxygen (DO), pH, temperature, ammonia etc of water samples from various ponds
- Learn about breeding of various species such as tilapia, catfish and carps e.g. counting and measuring length and width of fish egg samples.
- Learn about the services provided to prospective fish farmers via proper channels in its command area such as the Copperbelt.

3. **Living conditions:**

All the people can speak English in Zambia as English is an official language. It will be a life-time experience living in a green campus. Normally, cell phones are common SIM card purchased in the local town. Banks, postal service, ATM/cash machines are also available nearby town, Kitwe. It has great open area and some sport facility. Food can be prepared in the room if chosen the guest house which has kitchen. Alternatively, interns can purchase items and can ask staff to prepare by staff in canteen by offering them some wages.

4. **Climate**

As Lusaka is around 15° south latitude, climate is tropical, climate is different from most of the northern countries with warm and dry during summer or rainy season (Nov – April) and cool during winter (May - Oct). Temperature may go up to 35°C in summer is quite hot. It may rain heavy for short time in summer.

5. **Culture:**

It is important to respect local culture and traditions. Cover-up dresses are required. Shoes or sandal does not matter but most of the time you will need to walk; therefore, light sport shoes/trainers will be suitable. Dress conservatively; casual clothing is suitable while working in the field T-shirts, shorts and sandals are appropriate.

6. Host is happy to provide:

- Dormitory type accommodation on campus at discounted rate (i.e. approx. US\$100/month)
- Subsidized rate for food (you will need to pay only about US\$2/meal)
- A well-furnished office space and lab
- Free access to on-campus sports facilities.

7. Your Costs:

- International airfare (please check with your University, may have this provision)
- Transportation from and to the airport
- Fees for visa/passport
- Food and drinks (approx. about US\$2/meal)
- Accommodation (approx. US\$100/m)
- Costs of trips, trainings, and others arranged upon your request
- Insurance and costs of damages due to personal negligence

8. Packing list:

- Medical kit,
- Light mosquito net,
- Insect repellent,
- Sleeping bag,
- Flash light,
- Umbrella or rain coat,
- A towel and toiletries
- Sun glass and a hat
- Sun-screen / lotion
- Camera
- Boot
- Books to read
- etc