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To whom it may concern

## WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING: THIRD-YEAR NATURE MANAGEMENT STUDENTS

Centurion Academy is a tertiary education institution in Centurion offering a three-year Diploma in Nature Management. The student approaching you with this letter is currently in the second year of this programme.

As we believe in a practical, career-oriented approach to our training, students must complete a 10-month work-integrated learning (WIL) period during the final year of their studies (their "practical year"). During this WIL period the students are exposed to the practical and applied aspects of the nature management industry, in order to prepare them to enter the industry upon completion of their studies. It will therefore be greatly appreciated if your organisation would accommodate a student for their practical year.

The expected outcomes of this work-integrated learning are the following:

- To experience a real working environment in nature management or nature-related fields,
- To experience how theoretical and practical knowledge gained in the class situation fit into a real working environment,
- To be able to apply theoretical knowledge and practical management techniques in real situations,
- To experience how the seemingly disparate subjects that comprise the Diploma in Nature Management are relevant to and integrated in real management situations,
- To be able to identify projects that are relevant to management of the property and plan and carry out the projects according to specified guidelines,
- To be able to analyse a situation and plan accordingly,
- To be able to make decisions and choose between different options depending on particular situations,
- To be able to adapt different options for new situations,
- To be able to continually analyse situations to identify shortcomings, areas for improvement and new opportunities and plan accordingly,
- To be able to apply the principles of adaptive management in real management situations,
- To be able to collect, analyse, synthesise, interpret and present data for various purposes,
- To be able to effectively present and communicate information in appropriate ways, including written reports and oral presentations,
- To learn how to work effectively and professionally with colleagues, staff, clients and service providers,
- To gain the necessary experience to be prepared for a professional career in nature management and nature-related fields.

Students have five subjects in their third year, namely Animal Studies (DST306), Veld Management (VBS306), Game Ranch Management (WPB306), Human Dimension (MEN306) and Workplace-based Learning (ERV306). The first four subjects require a **minimum of 250 hours of practical work per subject** (i.e. a minimum of **1000 hours** for the third year) and the

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completion of **three projects per subject**, while ERV306 comprises the work-integrated learning experience. The student can provide you with a summary of the third-year syllabus and outcomes, as well as their Third-year Study Guide which discusses the third year in considerable detail.

Should you be willing to take on a student, while you are free to utilise the student in any position in your organisation, we request that they be given sufficient opportunity to complete the academic requirements of their third year. In order to facilitate this, you are requested to examine and discuss with the student the *WIL Placement Agreement*; this agreement will provide the necessary information about what employing a third-year student entails and what will be required of you.

Even though they are students, they will be working for your organisation in some capacity, and we require adherence to the basic conditions of employment prescribed by labour legislation. We kindly request that they are paid a reasonable remuneration or subsistence, commensurate with the work they are required to do.

Students can commence their workplace-based learning as soon as they are officially registered for their third year, and their final portfolios must be submitted and presented during the last week of November.

You will be requested to complete a short evaluation form every three months, which the student will provide. You will also be requested to sign off timesheets of the hours worked on a weekly basis. This evaluation by the employer / work supervisor forms an important part of the student's assessment for the year.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Department of Nature Management at Centurion Academy should you need further information or more background on the programme or the Academy.

We sincerely thank you for the opportunity your organisation is offering our student.  
Kind regards.

**Jonathan Bloomer**

THIRD YEAR COORDINATOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURE MANAGEMENT, CENTURION ACADEMY

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