

# KORT ALEXANDER

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## EDUCATION

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**Master of Environmental Science and Management**, 3.97 GPA (June 2023)

**Coastal Marine Resources Management Specialization**

**Bren School of Environmental Science & Management – University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)**

Highlighted Coursework: Applied Marine Ecology, Coastal Policy & Management, Conservation Planning & Priority Setting (including practicum), Environmental Media Production, Decolonizing Conservation

**Bachelor of Science in Biology**, 4.0 GPA (May 2021)

**Ecology and Environmental Biology Concentration | Chemistry Minor**

**Texas Tech University (TTU)**, Lubbock, TX

Honors/Awards: Highest-ranking graduate, Summa cum laude, Buena Vista Endowed Scholarship recipient

Study Abroad: TTU Center in Sevilla (Spain, 7/19), School for Field Studies (Turks and Caicos, 1/20–5/20)

Teaching: Intro Biology Undergraduate Teaching Assistant (1/21–5/21), Honors College Tutor (8/20–5/21)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Waterfront Assistant – The School for Field Studies**, South Caicos, Turks and Caicos Islands (8/23–Present)

- Lead cohorts of 25-30 undergraduate study abroad students on marine science field experiences and recreational scuba dives and snorkels
- Conduct field research and advise students on data management and analysis and scientific writing
- Collaborate with coalition of stakeholders to implement a coral restoration project using in-situ nurseries and aquaria with 300+ fragments of critically endangered staghorn and elkhorn coral
- Coauthored two magazine articles communicating research findings for TCI tourism magazine
- Create engaging social media content showcasing student experiences and research projects

**Data Manager – Master's Group Project, Client: Conservation International**, Santa Barbara, CA (3/22–6/23)

***Developing an Ecosystem Services Framework for Prioritizing Surf Protected Areas***

- Worked with global conservation non-profit to incorporate blue carbon storage and coastal protection into prioritization framework for surf ecosystem protection in Brazil
- Created novel mangrove carbon map for Brazil by combining published spatial datasets using ArcGIS Pro
- Drafted 80+ page final report detailing project objectives, methodology, key findings, and implications

**Teaching Assistant – UCSB**, Santa Barbara, CA (9/21–12/21, 9/22–6/23)

- Led labs and discussion sections in introductory ecology and evolution, genetics, and earth science
- Taught scientific writing and gave guest lecture on ocean health challenges and solutions

**Surf Conservation Partnership Intern – Conservation International**, remote (6/22–8/22)

- Created new dataset of over 500 surf spots in Brazil by web scraping and combining existing datasets
- Built models in ArcGIS Pro to reproducibly analyze 20 spatial datasets on pressure, state, and response
- Collaborated with local conservation groups to refine prioritization to reflect local concerns

**Research Assistant – Texas Tech University**, Lubbock, TX (8/18–5/19, 8/19–12/19, and 8/20–5/21)

- Worked in three different labs on projects such as analyzing acoustic data from rainforest bats threatened by deforestation in Southeast Asia, collecting and cataloging insects for genetic study, and analyzing plant DNA for pilot study on environmental DNA techniques

## SKILLS, CERTIFICATIONS, & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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**Computer**: R, QGIS, ArcGIS, Python, Java, SQL, Zoom, Slack, Microsoft Office

**Languages**: Spanish (intermediate)

**Certifications**: PADI Divemaster (100+ dives), EFR/CPR

**Volunteer**: Environmental Topics Course Co-mentor (1/21–5/21), Nature Center Intern (6/19–8/19, 6/20–8/20)