

Karen Keegan

PROFILE:

I am a highly motivated zoology postgraduate with a keen interest in genetics, conservation and animal behaviour. I have experience in both field and laboratory studies, and I am interested in a future research based career in a conservation setting.

EDUCATION:

University of Exeter, UK: MSc Evolutionary and Behavioural Ecology (Distinction) 2016-2017

MSc Dissertation Title: The evolution of virulence in an infectious emerging disease, *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*

Mark received: 79%

Achievements: Received best overall mark in class and the school's commendation for outstanding contribution to student experience. Completed an outdoor first aid course with Adventure First Aid.

University College Cork (UCC), Ireland. BSc Zoology (1.1 Honours) 2012-2016

Research Dissertation Title – A view from above: The use of a novel aerial photogrammetry technique to measure body condition and growth patterns in wild bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*)

Mark received: 76%

Achievements: I received the award 'college scholar' from UCC due to my high academic achievements.

PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE:

RESEARCH TECHNICIAN: Human altruism project (University of Exeter) January 2018-present

- Responsible for the handling and processing of human DNA samples
- Genotyping samples using PCR, qPCR, capillary and gel electrophoresis
- Maintaining lab stocks
- Preparing research paper for publication

RESEARCH ASSISTANT: *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* in an avian host (University of Exeter) August 2017 – December 2017

- Setting up *in vitro* assays to measure replication rates of bacteria during infection with avian host
- DNA extractions of bacteria
- Running qPCR assays

FIELD ASSISTANT: Seabird ringing (Little Saltee Island, Ireland) May 20th - 23rd 2016

- Assisted with catching and ringing fulmars and cormorant pulli
- Took avian biometrics in the field including head/bill length, wing length, egg weight and adult weight

INTERNSHIP: Lighthouse field station (University of Aberdeen) June 6th-August 31st 2015

- Assisted with island field work on fulmars – held individuals for ringing and attachment of geolocators
- Completed a first aid course, learned boat safety and equipment protocols
- Carried out weekly bottlenose dolphin survey trips and note taking
- Collected novel aerial photogrammetric data of bottlenose dolphins for undergraduate thesis

ANALYTICAL/COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS:

- Proficient user of R and SPSS for statistical analysis

COMMUNICATION SKILLS:

- *Written and verbal skills:* I am very familiar with researching, disseminating and citing scientific literature, having written several scientific literature reviews and essays across both degrees. I have conducted several presentations/tour guides to children, the general public, and scientific researchers. I have taken part in scientific outreach fairs, most recently ‘Science in the Square 2017’ (Falmouth, Cornwall)
- *Liaising with colleagues:* During my master’s degree, I was student representative of my class, and sat on the student-staff liaison committee. Through communication and feedback with fellow classmates, I also established a weekly scientific journal club. Furthermore, I worked on the podcast ‘The Natural Selection’, which involved contacting academic researchers and co-interviewing them about their most recent publication
- *Professional development:* I received the UCC Works award 2014/2015 for volunteering over 40 hours in a college society, developing interpersonal and problem solving skills. I have attended many ecology talks/conferences to improve my knowledge in conservation ecology and develop professional contacts

INTERESTS AND HOBBIES:

- Volunteer for the Irish Countryside Bird Survey (Birdwatch Ireland), Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme (Biodiversity Ireland) and Butterfly Conservation (Cornwall branch)
- Chosen to participate in a young birders training course, Isle of May, Scotland 2016:
 - Carried out various ecological monitoring including puffin netting and grovelling, colour ring counts of shags, kittiwake nest watching, moth trapping
 - Ringed over 12 species of seabirds including puffins, shag chicks and artic tern chicks
 - Wrote a diary piece for the journal *Scottish Birds*
- Member of Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Birdwatch Ireland, BTO and BES
- Former choir member of UCC Choral Society

REFEREES:

Dr Camille Bonneaud, Daphne du Maurier Building, University of Exeter, Penryn Campus, Cornwall, UK TR10 9FE. **Tel:** +44 (0) 1326 255063. **Email:** C.Bonneaud@exeter.ac.uk

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