The Benioff Ocean Initiative is seeking a UCSB graduate student intern with interest in marine science, data analytics, and endangered species conservation

About Benioff Ocean Initiative
Based at the Marine Science Institute at UCSB, the Benioff Ocean Initiative applies marine science and technology to create scalable solutions to pressing ocean health challenges. The research group manages projects that address a variety of marine issues, including ocean pollution, species protection, and sustainable management of marine resources.

Internship Description
Whale Safe is one of Benioff Ocean Initiative's flagship projects that uses state-of-the-art technology to collect, analyze, and disseminate near real-time whale and vessel data in the Santa Barbara Channel with the goal of preventing fatal whale-vessel collisions.

The intern will work with Benioff Ocean Initiative scientists to help support the ongoing effort to reduce the risk of vessel collisions with endangered whales. The intern will assist with the opportunities for project expansion including vessel and whale data analysis, curating communication materials, and stakeholder engagement.

Responsibilities
➢ Prepare, analyze, and visualize spatial ocean data, including vessel (Automatic Identification System) data and whale data from technologies such as near real-time acoustic monitoring instruments, visual sightings, and dynamic habitat models
➢ Create public-facing communication and media materials about project updates and accomplishments, which may include, but are not limited to, press releases, social media content, newsletter updates, blog posts, and media packets
➢ Research and write briefings on marine issues and policies to inform Benioff Ocean Initiative projects and strategic partnerships
➢ Google BigQuery database management which may include, but not limited to using SQL and RStudio to create, update, and run queries
➢ Assist with stakeholder engagement and organizing virtual and in-person events
➢ Assist in administrative tasks and project support as needed

Basic qualifications
➢ Currently pursuing a master's degree at UCSB
➢ Interest in marine science and environmental problem-solving
➢ Proactive and team-oriented
➢ Strong organizational skills, attention to detail, and ability to meet deadlines
Additional preferred qualifications
➢ Professional, academic, or volunteer experience in one or more of the following areas:
  ○ Data management, analysis, and visualization, including proficiency with one or more computational analytical tools, including but not limited to R Studio, ArcGIS, QGIS, and/or SQL
  ○ Cloud computing, including experience with services such as Google Cloud Platform
  ○ Science communication

This is a part-time internship (10-12 hrs/wk) for UCSB graduate students during the 2021 - 2022 academic year. Work will be conducted in-person or remotely depending on the student's preference. Compensation is $20/hr.

We encourage all applicants to submit an optional Statement of Contributions to Diversity with their application materials. Please describe and give specific examples of how you have worked to enhance or develop your awareness on issues of diversity and inclusion in the workplace or other professional or academic environments.

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, and the optional Statement of Contributions to Diversity to boi-contact@ucsb.edu with the subject line “Whale Safe Internship” by September 5, 2021.

The University is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community through research, teaching and service.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.