

Volume 1 | Issue
2

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The **b-TAF** Project

botanicals **T**rusted and **A**uthenticated **F**ingerprinting

b-TAF seeks to fill the gap of baseline data to standardise the commercial use of marula and baobab oil respectively.

The b-TAF project is offering up to two positions for student interns over the period August 1, 2023 to July 30, 2024. If you feel you are just that person to work in the natural oil industry, please read further.

Vacancy: Student Intern(s)

The b-TAF project is driven by Precision Oil Laboratories (Pty) Ltd, and funded by the ABIOSA programme. The b-TAF project cooperates with African Baobab Alliance, Namibia Network of the Cosmetics industry (NANCI), the Southern African Essential Oil Producer's Association (SAEOPA) and, the University of Pretoria (UP) and Tshwane University of Technology (TUT).



As part of the project, we are specifically offering one, alternatively two positions for students duly enrolled at UP and/or TUT to directly work with b-TAF under Precision Oils (POL).

About the job

The successful applicant(s) will investigate the natural (indigenous) oil markets and approaches to safeguard these oils' authenticity internationally, with focus on marula and baobab seed oil. The aim is to test some 100 samples from across Southern Africa, document results, set up a database and present the pertinent, standardised ingredient markers that proof authenticity. Subsequently, producers and off-takers of natural oils will have documented proof on whether oils marketed as 'marula' and/or 'baobab' are indeed such.

Under b-TAF, some 100 samples will be tested, from across southern

Key responsibilities during the internship include:

- Literature review on natural (indigenous) oils, with focus on marula and baobab, regardless if crude/ raw, filtered, processes
- Testing of oils, in cooperation with POL staff
- Documentation of results, and contributing to setting up the publicly accessible database
- Reporting in both, scientific as well as journalistic language.

Inherent requirements

- Being able to work remotely (from eg, university premises) and/or at POL in Tzaneen, and in a small team, with scientific professionals.
- Being duly enrolled at UP or TUT, at B.Sc (Hons) or M.Sc. level. The relevant fields of study include, but are not limited to, agriculture, chemistry, bio-chemistry, bio-technology, or similar.
- Superior writing and communication skills (with fluency in English), and the ability to interact with diverse audiences to help drive awareness about natural oils and their uniqueness in the market.
- Skilful use of MS Office suite.

Remuneration

For the duration of the internship, the project will provide a stipend at the agreed POL/ABIOSA terms. POL will assist with accommodation and transport when the successful applicant spends time in Tzaneen. The successful applicant is responsible for any other expense.

Application Procedure

Applicants are to submit:

- A detailed curriculum vitae with 2 contactable referees (recent)
- Copies of completed B.Sc degree, and valid enrolment at UP or TUT
- A list of the applicant's publications and other achievements (if applicable)
- A copy of the applicant's identity document and driver's license.
- A cover letter, explaining your motivation to join the project.

Please note:

- Communication will be limited to shortlisted candidates only.
- Should you not be contacted within four weeks of the closing date for applications, you may assume that your application was unsuccessful.
- B-TAF and POL reserve the right not to make an appointment.
- POL subscribes to and applies the principles prescribed by the Employment Equity Act.
- POL subscribes to and applies the principles of the Protection of Personal Information Act, and all personal information provided as part of the recruitment and selection process will be treated as confidential.

Closing date for applications: 30 June 2023

Interview

Successful applicants will be required to attend interviews in person or via Zoom.

Assumption of internship: 1 August 2023

With UP and TUT being b-TAF's cooperation partners, internships are limited to their enrolled students only.

To apply, please e-mail your application documents to POL, attention Dr Mathilda Mostert, at admin@precisionoils.co.za.

Further information

For any further details on project, work or other relevant information, please contact Ms Dagmar Honsbein, Project Manager on dagmar@ixiss.org or +264 (0)81 149 1086 also on WhatsApp, Telegram or WeChat.

POL can be reached at admin@precisionoils.co.za or +27 (0)15 004 0010.

Applications close Friday, June 30th 2023.

Assumption of duty on August 1st, 2023.

Hurry, apply today.

We stand ready to authenticate your natural oils.

