

Mrs Nicole Malan

+27 71 233 2290 • nicoleblignaut23@gmail.com

Personal statement

I am a recent nature conservation graduate with a Btech degree from Nelson Mandela University, graduating with an MSc in Nature Conservation in April 2022. I am looking to secure a position in a relevant field to utilise and further the rich knowledge and skill base that I have acquired during multi-faceted courses and degrees. Since I am a young academic entering the work field, I have an open view of my career ahead. Meaning that I have no defined career goals or skills that I would like to refine or reach, but rather that I want to learn which field I fit into. For myself, conservation is a belief system and a way of life, not a defined career endpoint. Additionally, it is a step-by-step process, and I would love to walk that process with your business. I do however have interests in managing invasive alien species, organising and project management, and environmental compliance and research.

Personal details

Date of birth:

23 October 1996

ID number:

961023 0122 084

Passport:

A09110884

Issue: 08/02/2020

Expiry: 07/02/2030

Postal address:

64 Union Street

Strand

7140

Western Cape, South Africa

Residential address:

Glenn Cullen Estate

PG Bison (NECF)

Ugie

5470

Eastern Cape, South Africa

Social media platforms:

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nicole-malan-1a301a153/>

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3865-8978>

Facebook:

<https://web.facebook.com/nicole.blignaut1>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/nicoleblignaut2310/>

Language proficiency:

Read, write, speak Afrikaans and English. Currently studying French.

Computer proficiency:

Understand and use MS PowerPoint, MS Word, MS Excel, Pivot tables, MS Publisher, MS OneNote, MS Teams, Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Outlook, Gmail, Statistica, RStudio, Google Earth, BaseCamp, QGIS, Skype, Zoom, Mendeley, Grammarly, Adobe PDF reader.

Drivers license:

Code A (motorcycle with engine capacity > 125 cc) and B (vehicles with a tare weight of < 3500 kg; a trailer < 750 kg may be attached).

Can operate:

Light microscope, seed viability experiments with tetrazolium stain solution, drying oven, growth chamber, infrared thermometer gun, device testing plant flammability, infiltrometer, soil corer, disc pasture meter, camera traps, standard camera, GPS, chipper machine, bakkie sakkie, knapsack,

power drill, electrical sander, nail gun, reciprocating saw and various other hand tools.

Post Graduate Student Member.
Membership number: 6709

Memberships:

International Association for Impact Assessment South Africa

Education

Nelson Mandela University (2015 to 2020)

- National Diploma in Nature Conservation: Awarded Cum laude (2018).
- Bachelor of Technology in Nature Conservation: Awarded Cum laude (2019).
- Currently enrolled for Master of Science in Nature Conservation with a focus on *Metrosideros excelsa*: Its ecology, distribution, and invasive potential in South Africa (To be awarded April 2022).

Key Skills gained:

- Read a document quickly and gain important information from it.
- Devoted to quality; will prevent and repair errors.
- Accuracy takes ownership of tasks.
- Driven to deliver a good performance.
- Energetic, enjoys being busy and active.
- Results-oriented.
- Analyse and interpret data for presentations.
- Conscientious approach to managing workloads.
- Communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Facilitation skills.
- Can perform risk analysis with regards to alien invasive species.
- Organisation, financial and administrative skills: how to set up and manage timelines and budgets; inventory management etc.
- Project and people management.
- Scientific research and report writing skills.
- Work in field, remotely or supervised, collecting data under various weather conditions.
- Work under a mentor successfully, as well as alone or in a team.
- Adaptable, but sometimes reluctant to change. Enjoys a degree of predictability.

Notable Modules – Animal studies, plant studies, conservation communication, ecology, natural resource management, coastal and marine management, freshwater management, and a whole practical year working at a conservation agency.

Achievements:

- NMMU Merit Award for academic excellence: 2015
- Fairfield award for top first year National Diploma Nature Conservation Student: 2015
- NMMU Merit Award for academic excellence: 2016
- NMU Merit Award for academic excellence: 2017

- NMU Special Award for academic excellence: Dux Award 2017
- NMU Merit Award for academic excellence: 2018
- NMU Special Award for academic excellence: Dux Award 2018
- Rupert Family Trust Award: Best Bachelor of Technology Graduate for 2018: Science, Engineering and Technology.
- Golden Key International Honour Society: Membership from 2019 into perpetuity.

Funding:

- NMMU Scholar Merit Award (2015)
- NMMU Financial Aid for outstanding results (2016)
- National Research Foundation Freestanding Bursary (2018)
- South African National Biodiversity Institute: BIDS Bursary (2019 to 2021)

Leadership:

- House Committee Member (2016).
- Secretary of Chess Society (2016).
- Student Ranger (2017).
- Led and co-led various academic group projects (2018).
- Principal researcher MSc (2019-2020).

Strand High School (2010 to 2014)

Graduated five subjects at level 7 (> 80%)

Graduated two subjects at level 5 (> 60%)

Achievements:

- Rhapsody Dance Centre: Hardest Working Senior (2012)
- Rhapsody Dance Centre Trophy for Dedication and Determination (2013)
- Boland Athletics Colours for cross country running (2014).
- Strand High School Best Performance in Cross country running (2014).
- Strand High School Best Senior girls' athlete in cross country running (2014).

Leadership:

- Terrain prefect member (2013; 2014).
- Captain of first cross-country running team (2014).

Additional courses (2012 to present)

- Young Biologist Course at Two Oceans Aquarium (2012).
- Field Guide Association of South Africa Level 1: (2016).
- Flight for Birders course: (2016).
- Snake removal and release course (2017).
- Risk analysis assessment training (2020).
- Foundation for Professional Development: Management and Leadership Short Course (Managing others; Managing the Organisation; Managing self; Managing stakeholders). (2021).

Work Experience

Two Oceans Aquarium: Volunteer (2012 to 2014)

Duties and results:

- Customer service (environmental education) at the microscope and touch pool exhibits. Maintained these exhibits: changed water and fed basic creatures.
- I was awarded with the satisfaction that comes from educating people of different ages and nationalities. Additionally, I gained insight into volunteer programmes, working with others, and communicating a message effectively.

NMMU Student Housing (2016)

Duties and results:

- *House Committee member:* Organised monthly events for students, which included meetings with other members and duties allocated to ensure the success of events.
- *Head of Tierkop Residence:* Ensured that the needs of the students living there were taken care of, maintenance issues were reported and reported student issues to managers. Arranged and held meetings with residents to discuss matters of interest.
- This experience taught me to follow chain of command, the value of communication with others, working together with different and sometimes difficult people, self-sacrifice, and patience.

Fransmanshoek Conservancy: Student Ranger (2017)

Duties and results:

- Internship position below the mentorship of the senior Ranger. Included numerous duties for completion of National Diploma in Nature Conservation, such as administration, finance, human resource management, maintenance, research, natural resource management, and environmental education duties.
- This opportunity provided me with key insights into the working environment of a Conservancy and the conservation sector. I learnt the importance of networking and that conservation never occurs alone; many people are always involved.

SAPREC: Volunteer (2017)

Duties and results:

- Animal husbandry: Fed and cleaned penguins.
- Maintenance of the avian quarters.
- This taught me the valuable lesson of working together as a community to reach a single goal: the conservation of a species.

SFM Radio Station (2017; 2019)

This was not a job opportunity, but I have been invited numerous times to talk on the SFM radio station on the "Kus tot Kruin" programme with Fred Orban. Topics included educating listeners about numerous environmental days in 2017, while in 2019 I talked about my master's study. This taught me the value of reaching a broader audience with your conservation message, tailoring your presentation, and reduced public speaking anxiety.

Dreamy Pies (2021 – Part-time)

Duties and results:

- Production worker: Part of the pie making production line.

- Operations manager assistant: Assisting management with financial, administration and marketing duties.
- I learned the value of setting up an efficient production line and learned how to work quickly and effectively on repetitive tasks. I also increased my practical knowledge of running a business with regards to duties mentioned.

Moira Cloete Environmental Consultancy (2021 – Part-time)

Duties and results:

- Sampling at the Indwe Asphalt Dust Monitoring Site: I collect dust monitoring samples and re-set the bucket system for the next month. (Ongoing)
- Phase 1 Assessment for the Engcobo Sasol Fuel Station: I am completing the Phase 1 Assessment draft to be reviewed by Moira Cloete. (Ongoing)
- ECO work at the Herschell Pipeline project: I conduct the ECO work at the site on a monthly basis, write up the report and attend the required meetings. The reports are reviewed by Moira Cloete for accuracy. (Ongoing)
- BAR for 7 new internal forestry access roads for PG Bison: I have the role of compiling and creating all the required information throughout all stages of the BAR process. The work is then reviewed by Moira Cloete for accuracy. (Ongoing)

Hobbies & Interests

I try to volunteer when I can, if this is not possible then I support charity shops, which agrees with my values of living sustainability. I love to categorise and organise things for myself and others as I believe that neatness leads to peace, but the process of finding interesting things and helping charity shops is also fulfilling. I like taking walks with my dog, especially when I can pick up litter along the way. I like to keep myself mentally and physically healthy, therefore I am constantly learning new things, i.e., trying new courses, playing chess and sudoku, learning new languages, reading informative books on numerous subjects, building puzzles and so forth. I am not very keen on plastering myself to technology. Therefore, I am outdoors, experiencing nature, hiking, canoeing, swimming, anything for an adventure and some peace and quiet (also ensuring that I am physically fit and strong for my age and gender).

References

Dr Tineke Kraaij

Lecturer: Department of Natural Resource Management, NMU George Campus.

Supervisor: MSc

Telephone: +385 95 366 7263

e-mail: Tineke.Kraaij@mandela.ac.za

Dr Anton Schmidt

Director of Schools, School of Natural Resource Management, NMU George Campus.

Lecturer: Department of Natural Resource Management, NMU George Campus.

Telephone: (044) 801 5043

e-mail: anton.schmidt@mandela.ac.za

Mr Kei Heyns

Senior Ranger: Fransmanshoek Conservancy.

Telephone: +27 83 663 3306

Ms Moira Cloete

EIA consultant and CEO of Moira Cloete Environmental Consultants

Telephone: +27 73 500 1235

e-mail: info@mcec.co.za

Other references are available on request.