

Country: Vietnam	Placement Code: CTU-2	Project type: Striped catfish seed production
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Internship Placement

Organization: College of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Can Tho University
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1. Project work description

Striped catfish (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*) is one of the main culture species in the Mekong river Delta, Vietnam. This species is also farming in the some Asian countries such as India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, China, etc.. The striped catfish fillet has been exported to over 125 markets worldwide and recognized as one of best seafood commodities. The College of Aquaculture and Fisheries of Can Tho University (CAF-CTU) is the first institution developed spawning technique (or seed production) and scaled-up sine 2000s. The College has also improved spawning technology in recent years. The internship students who want to learn seed production technique can apply for. The students will work on the following topics:

- Learn techniques in brood stock maturation culture and induced spawning (theory);
- Practice selection of brood stock and hormone injection;
- Practice stripping eggs, sperm collection and fertilization;
- Practice egg incubation
- Practice larval rearing (stocking, feeding, growth monitoring, etc.)
- Visit striped catfish hatcheries and nursery farms

Internship period ranges from 8 to 10 weeks. The student can choose one topic (physiology or nutrition and feed) (8 weeks) or both (10 weeks). Working hours are flexible.

2. Placement description

The hatchery and experimental facilities (wet labs) of the course will be at the Department of Freshwater Aquaculture, College of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Can Tho University. It is based in the Campus 2, Xuan Khanh ward, Ninh Kieu district, Can Tho city, Vietnam. Can Tho city is well known as the center of the Mekong River Delta. The hatchery and wet lab. are equipped with ponds, many composite tanks with various sizes, water quality measurement instruments (DO meter, pH meter, thermometer, etc.) . Other supported equipment/tools are also available.

3. How to get there?

There are several ways to get to Can Tho city. If the international students, they can arrive in Tan Son Nhat international airport (Ho Chi Minh city) or Can Tho International airport (Can Tho city). In case of Tan Son Nhat int'l airport, students can take a taxi to Mien Tay bus station (30-45 minutes; US\$ 10) and then a bus from Mien Tay bus station to Can Tho (about 3,5 hours; US\$ 7-8). If Can Tho Int'l airport is by taxi (about 20 minutes, US\$ 7-8).

4. Living conditions

There are available cheap hotel for rent surrounding the university with the cost of IS\$ 20-30 USD/day. Rooms of the int'l dormitory of the University is also available if booked in advance with the cost of 100-200 \$/month without or with air condition. Meal costs US\$ 1.5-2.0 on average.

5. Climate

Can Tho city locates in tropical region. Therefore, the weather is warm all year round, but there are two seasons a year, dry season from December to April and wet/rain season from May to November to October. The average temperature is about 27oC (often occur in April or May) and lowest is about 20oC (occur in December or January). The average rainfall is 1,850mm.

6. Culture

It is important to respect local culture and traditions. Cover-up dresses are required. Shoes or sandal does not matter but most of the time you will need to walk; therefore, light sport shoes/trainers will be suitable. Dress conservatively; casual clothing is suitable while working at the wet lab; T-shirts, shorts and sandals are appropriate.

7. Host arranges:

- Dormitory type accommodation nearby
- Subsidized rate for food wherever possible
- Work space and computer and internet facilities
- Materials, chemical and animal for the study

8. Interns are responsible for the followings:

- International airfare
- Transportation from and to the airport
- Fees for visa/passport
- Food and drinks (approx. about US\$ 1.5-2 per meal)
- Any costs of trips, trainings, and others arranged personally
- Insurance and costs of damages due to personal negligence
- Tuition fees to be discussed

9. Miscellaneous

Travel medical kit, flash light, umbrella or rain coat, few books, a towel and toiletries. In fact, these are available locally at cheap prices.



Broodstock culture tanks



Stripping eggs from female