

## New Heaven Reef Conservation Internship Program- 2024



[The Organisation](#)

New Heaven is a dive school situated on a small island on the east coast of Thailand called Koh Tao, the Reef Conservation Program operates within this dive school and dedicates itself to monitoring and restoring the reef ecosystems in the local waters. As a Zoology student studying at Queen Mary, I saw this as the perfect opportunity to gain experience in the field working with animals and get closer to my goal of having an environmentally-orientated career after university.



### [My Role as an Intern](#)

As an intern at RCP I was occupied with a number of responsibilities to help keep track of the reef health as well as restoring it where we could. This involved at least 5 dives a week where the team would survey areas of interest for species that were indicative of reef health, creating and maintaining artificial reefs and coral nurseries, removal of harmful invasive species, and much more. In addition, the three rescued sea turtles who were kept and nurtured at new heaven were close to being released back into the ocean during my stay. I was tasked with feeding, cleaning and checking them for infection on a weekly basis.



### [Education at New Heaven](#)

During the Internship, we also took part in a learning program in which students had to partake in lectures in the morning before diving. These lectures were really engaging and Kirsty, head of the RCP as well as other members of the program taught us lots about the local wildlife, techniques we would later use in reef conservation and engaged us in workshops such as designing our own artificial reef and learning mariner's knots.



### My Experience

Overall, my time at New Heaven was life changing, it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to see the most beautiful wildlife I could ever imagine, as well as getting involved with an amazing organisation who is fighting everyday to restore the amazing ecosystems around the island and ensure a healthier environment for our future. I am thankful for the bursary given to me by Queen Mary which helped fund this trip as well as all the great instructors, fellow interns and inspiring conservationists at New Heaven for such an amazing time. If the experience alone wasn't rewarding enough I also gained certification from the Conservation Diver organization which is a huge step closer to achieving my dreams as an environmental worker.

