

## MSc internship:

### ***Building coastal landscapes with spatially organizing plants***

This project focuses on the key landscape-forming plant species of the three coastal ecosystems found along the Western European coast (i.e., coastal dunes, salt marshes and seagrass meadows). Within this project we aim to: (i) investigate how clonally expanding coastal plants spatially organize their shoots depending on the ecosystem type and local environmental conditions, (ii) investigate how shoot organization determines feedback strength in these contrasting environments and (iii) test whether we can manipulate shoot organization in natural conditions to amplify feedback strength and overcome establishment thresholds.

For this project we are looking for enthusiastic MSc students that are interested in a combination of empirical and theoretical ecological work. Do you like coastal systems? Does your heart beat faster when you're strolling along the beach or crawling through the mud? Possible research activities include: (i) helping with developing numerical models or empirical studies to explore the feedback strength of the various shoot-placing strategies or (ii) setting up experiments (field or lab) to test whether we can manipulate shoot placement or (ii) perform mesocosm experiments to test the expansion strategy and competitive ability of different species.



**Time frame:** From February 2020 onwards, later starting date possible

**Type of data gathering:** field surveys, lab measurements, field experiments, numerical modeling.

**Supervision:** Valérie Reijers | [valerie.reijers@nioz.nl](mailto:valerie.reijers@nioz.nl)  
Carlijn Lammer | [carlijn.lammers@nioz.nl](mailto:carlijn.lammers@nioz.nl)  
Clea van de Ven | [clea.van.de.ven@nioz.nl](mailto:clea.van.de.ven@nioz.nl)  
Tjisse van der Heide | [tjisse.van.der.heide@nioz.nl](mailto:tjisse.van.der.heide@nioz.nl)

**Note:** This project is based at NIOZ Texel! (NIOZ provides housing for students).