



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Aquarium of Niagara and our internship program.

An application form is enclosed for your use. Please fill out the form and return it to the Education Department at the Aquarium of Niagara.

Once your application is returned and reviewed, we will check with your faculty advisor and possibly call for an interview. If you do not hear from us in three weeks and you still wish to pursue the internship further, please feel free to contact us.

If you are not selected for this particular internship, we would like to keep your application on file. If the need arises in the future we would like to be able to call to check if you are interested.

Once again, thank you for your interest in our non-profit educational facility.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Brunner  
Coordinator of Education

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Aquarium of Niagara is a non-profit organization dedicated to education and research. We offer internships that include working in the Exhibits and Marine Mammal Care departments as well as an Education Department internship. Internships are intensive work-study periods, which give students practical experience in their chosen fields.

Working in conjunction with the intern's school, the Education department organized a program that will meet the requirements of all parties involved. Length of internship (usually 8-10 weeks or a semester), weekly schedules, progress checks, supervision and other details of the internship are generally worked out with the placement service of the school offering the internship. The Aquarium requires college interns to put in at least 120 hours during their internship. This program is offered throughout the year.

Each department has its own specific requirements, which must be met. A prospective intern should have a general idea of fish and marine mammals. An intern will have their required hours split between the Marine Mammal Care and Exhibits Departments.

The Education department is in charge of all educational programming and publications. Those with an education background or teaching aspirations would probably do well to intern in the Education department to enhance their teaching background and gain valuable "in-class" experience.

It is generally beneficial to apply for an internship position at least one semester in advance. Please be aware that our interns do not receive any financial remunerations for their work. Due to our non-profit status we are unable to provide financial rewards, but can provide a valuable in-depth learning experience and research opportunities.

If the prospective intern is coming from an area outside our locality, he/she is responsible for his or her own housing arrangements for the duration of the internship program. We will try to offer some assistance, but will not assume full responsibility.

Students interested in our internship program, or those who have additional questions should contact:

Jeanette Brunner, Coordinator of Education  
Aquarium of Niagara  
701 Whirlpool Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14301-1094  
1-800-500-4609 ext. 209  
(716) 285-3575 ext. 209  
e-mail: [AquaNFEduc@aol.com](mailto:AquaNFEduc@aol.com)

# **Aquarium of Niagara Exhibits Department Outline**

## **Exhibits Department Outline**

While interning with the Exhibits department you are expected to work alongside Aquarium staff members to maintain and care for all fish, invertebrates, reptiles and penguins housed at the facility. Interns will assist in the preparation of new exhibits, and any on-going research and other departmental projects.

*Duties may include, but are not limited to:*

### **Water Quality testing**

- Chlorine monitoring
- pH Analysis

### **Health Maintenance**

- Specimen checks, visual inspection
- Vitamins
- Temperature control

### **Feeding Routine**

- Food preparation
- Raising live food
- Assisting with small and large feedings

### **Tank Maintenance**

- Filtration systems
- Setting up systems and partial water changes
- Cleaning and general upkeep

In order to properly feed and maintain proper health of specimens, the student must learn about behavior, feeding patterns and natural cycles of the fish, invertebrates, reptiles and penguins under their care.

*Interns are fully instructed before being asked to perform duties and procedures.*

# AQUARIUM OF NIAGARA MARINE MAMMAL CARE DEPARTMENT OUTLINE

## **Marine Mammal Care Department (MMC)**

The Marine Mammal Care department is responsible for the care, operant conditioning and maintenance of all marine mammals housed at the Aquarium. The department is responsible for the care of the Pinniped collection. When with the Marine Mammal Care department, interns are expected to work alongside the staff to maintain the health and well being of these animals. They currently care for California Sea Lions and Pacific and Atlantic Harbor Seals.

*Duties include but are not limited to:*

### **Health Maintenance**

- Visual inspection
- Behavior observations
- Vitamin distribution

### **Feeding Routine**

- Food preparations
- Weighing and cleaning of food fish

### **Veterinary Procedures**

- Assisting in the weighing and measuring of the animals

### **Training Techniques**

- Understanding Operant Conditioning
- Observing Training demonstrations

### **Record Keeping**

- Recording food and vitamin intake
- Keeping up health records
- Keeping training progress sheets

### **Husbandry and Maintenance**

- Equipment maintenance
- Cleaning cage and living area
- Cleaning food preparation room
- Filtration procedures

### **Water Quality Testing**

- Chlorine monitoring
- pH analysis

*Interns are fully instructed before being asked to perform duties and procedures.*

### **Individual Projects**

Each college intern will be encouraged to do an individual project. The staff will assist in the completion of the project if needed. These projects will be beneficial to both the student and the Aquarium. Some past projects include: Fish Pathology, Fish Anesthetics, Testing varying rates of Activated Charcoal on Ammonia Levels, Penguin Identification, Food Preferences and Future Exhibit Research.

### **Journal**

Each intern is required to keep a daily journal or logbook. The Aquarium supplies this book. This book is for you to write down the jobs you are taught and how to do them. Please write in this book, in your words, something that you will understand down the road. This acts as a manual for you and when asked to perform duties on your own.

### **Hours of Service**

College interns may put in hours Monday – Friday, from 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Hours must be scheduled in blocks of at least four hours. College interns are required to put in a minimum of 120 hours.

## **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT INTERNSHIP OUTLINE**

An intern in the Education department is expected to work alongside the Aquarium teachers as they instruct students and visitors on a variety of freshwater and marine topics.

Education interns will learn about curriculum planning, program development, publication production, classroom instruction and all aspects of experiential education. Depending on the intern's background and interest, more emphasis can be given to special aspects of our alternative program. For example, a student with an interest in environmental studies may wish to spend much of their time assisting with field programs or programs dealing with local ecology. Those with an interest in curriculum may wish to work with our staff as we develop new programs or classes.

### **Individual Project**

Each intern is encouraged to work on an individual project, which meets approval of the intern's faculty advisor and our Education department. The department is flexible and will offer guidance and suggestions. Some past projects include: a workbook on invertebrates from our Touch Tank for use with primary students. Also done in the past, the establishment of hands-on teaching materials for in-school presentations.

### **Instructional Experience**

Those interns planning teaching careers will be provided with a great deal of instructional experiences. They will assist Aquarium teachers and then personally instruct a variety of student age levels. This exposure to a diversity of ages and abilities will help prepare these new instructors for future teaching experiences.

### **Journal**

Each intern is expected to keep a journal. The intern submits this daily recording weekly for reading by their supervisor here and a final copy is given to the intern's advisor.

**INTERNSHIP APPLICATION**

Aquarium of Niagara  
701 Whirlpool Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14301  
1-800-500-4609

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CAMPUS ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CAMPUS TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERNSHIP APPLYING FOR: SPRING \_\_\_\_\_ SUMMER \_\_\_\_\_ FALL \_\_\_\_\_ WINTER \_\_\_\_\_

AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_

PROFESSOR OR ADVISOR: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF INTERNSHIP HOURS REQUIRED BY YOUR SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

*Aquarium requires college interns to put in a minimum of 120 hours.*

CLASS OF: \_\_\_\_\_ MAJOR: \_\_\_\_\_ PRESENT YEAR OF STUDY: \_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION: PLEASE LIST PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS, COLLEGES OR HIGH SCHOOL:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS OR HONORS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PERSONAL PROFILE: Please include a short description of your interest, educational background, work experience or career goals which might relate to your internship. (Use reverse side if needed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST SPECIFIC COURSE WORK, PAPERS, FIELD RESEARCH OR OTHER EXPERIENCES THAT MIGHT RELATE TO YOUR INTERNSHIP: (Use reverse side if needed.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST TWO REFERENCES:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Address	Occupation	Years Known
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- 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Address	Occupation	Years Known
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## INTERN RELEASE FORM

PLEASE READ AND SIGN:

By signing this application you (and your parents and/or legal guardians) are indicating your understanding that the Aquarium of Niagara assumes no responsibility for any injury suffered by you as a result of your intern work either on or off the Aquarium's premises, and if you are appointed to the Aquarium's internship program, neither you, nor your parents or legal guardians, nor heirs, administrators, executors or assigns of either shall ever institute, nor in the institution of any action at law or otherwise against the Aquarium of Niagara, on account of any injury to you or your property resulting from your intern-volunteer services; and you and your parents or legal guardians, or their heirs, administrators, executors and assigns: **HEREBY RELEASE THE AQUARIUM OF NIAGARA**, its Board of Directors, Niagara Aquarium Foundation, owners, officers, employees and agents from and against any and all claims for personal injuries to you or loss or damage of your personal property arising out of your activities undertaken as an intern.

Executed as a sealed instrument this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents or guardian signature if applicant is under 18 years of age:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_