

Penguin Internship (Full Time)

Description

This full-time Penguin Internship with the Marine Mammal & Bird department is designed for college students and recent graduates. The internship will be instrumental in gaining increased experience with Humboldt Penguins and potential experience with Harbor seals, Grey seals, and California sea lions. Selected interns will work closely with the marine mammal and bird staff and will be schooled in day-to-day Penguin keeper tasks including animal husbandry and overall care. Penguin Interns may be asked to assist with duties of Marine Mammal trainers. Interns will also be expected to complete a project to complete during their time here. Working with our animals is considered a privilege, which comes with intensive training and a considerable amount of dedicated time. While most of our interns successfully complete training needed to work with our animals, we cannot guarantee animal contact or interaction.

Responsibilities:

Duties may include, but are not limited to assisting with the following:

- Feeding: Food preparations, weighing and cleaning of thawed fish, cleaning the animal commissary.
- Husbandry and Maintenance: Cleaning exhibit, nest boxes, and quarantine areas. Distributing enrichment and completing animal observations.
- Record Keeping: Recording food and vitamin intake, maintaining health records and training progress sheets.
- Veterinary: Assisting in the weighing and measuring of the animals.
- Training Techniques: Understanding operant conditioning by observing training demonstrations.
- Understanding of AZA animal protocols and standards.
- Assisting with public encounters and giving public presentations.

Requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Minimum of a college junior and must currently be enrolled in college or recently graduated with a major in animal science, biology, zoology, psychology or another related field
- Serious interest in a career working with animals
- Able to work on a team, as well as function independently, with little supervision
- Must be able to afford housing and transportation
- Able to lift and carry fifty (50) pounds; work on uneven and slippery surfaces; withstand extreme hot and cold temperatures; be able to sit/stand for long periods of time when necessary
- Demonstrate proficiency in public speaking and guest interaction
- Must be able to work a 40-hour work week unpaid for a 12-week period

Availability:

- Summer only

Deadline for application:

Summer-March 15th

Interested candidates should apply online at aquariumofniagara.org including a resume, cover letter, and 2 letters of recommendation. Interns must also attend an orientation session before the start of the internship.

For more information or questions, please email Krystin Wroblewski at kwroblewski@aquariumofniagara.org.