

Full-Time Marine Mammal and Penguin Internship

Description

This full-time Marine Mammal & Penguin Internship with the Marine Mammal & Bird department is designed for college students and recent graduates. We are looking for a hardworking and dedicated team player with a passion to learn more about marine mammals and a career as a marine mammal trainer/penguin keeper. The internship will be instrumental in gaining increased experience with California sea lions, Harbor seals, Grey seals, and Humboldt penguins. Selected interns will work closely with the marine mammal and bird staff and will be schooled in animal husbandry, training techniques, and overall care. Interns will also be expected to complete a project 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:

- Food Preparation: Interns will be responsible for sorting, weighing, and preparing food for animal diets.
- Husbandry: Maintaining food preparation areas up to USDA standards, assisting in maintaining animal habitats, cleaning and organizing back-up areas, assisting with the overall appearance of all exhibits.
- Water Quality: Testing exhibit water parameters such as temperature, salinity, pH, and more.
- Enrichment: Assisting trainers/keepers with enrichment and training sessions.
- Training: Learning different training aspects including operant conditioning, classical conditioning, & positive reinforcement techniques. Interns may be asked to assist with training sessions after a considerable amount of dedicated time.
- Public Programming: Assisting trainers/keepers during public encounters and presentations. This includes but is not limited to taking photos, interacting with the public, monitoring guests/open nets, learning presentations and speaking on a microphone.
- Understanding of AZA animal protocols.
- Performing animal observations.
- Assist with special projects as needed.
- Complete an internship project.

Requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- 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 as a marine animal trainer/keeper
- 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
- Competent swimmer and comfortable in cold, deep water
- Must be comfortable handling fish and squid.
- Hours range from 7:00AM-5:30PM during fall and spring, summer hours can go until 7:00PM.
- Must be able to work a 32-40-hour work week unpaid for a 12–15-week period.

Availability:

- Fall (late August- December)
- Winter (late November- January)
- Spring (late January-May)
- Summer (late May-August)

*Start/end dates may be flexible based on school schedules

Application Deadlines:

- Fall: July 15th
- Winter: October 15th
- Spring: December 15th
- Summer: March 1st

Interested candidates should apply online at aquariumofniagara.org including a resume and cover letter. Applicants may be requested to submit a letter of recommendation. All interns must also attend an orientation session before the start of the program.

For more information or questions, please email Ally Joy at ajoy@aquariumofniagara.org.