

## **Fish and Invertebrates College Credit Program (Part-Time Internship)**

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### **Description**

This program is designed to give individuals still in school hands-on experience in the field. Individuals applying must be enrolled in college and receiving credit for the internship. While completing a part-time internship with the Fish and Invertebrates department, individuals are expected to work alongside staff members to maintain and care for many species of animals housed at the facility. During the internship, individuals will learn how to maintain aquarium exhibits, prepare diets, complete water quality tests, and keep records, as well as be introduced to aquatic animal health assessments, quarantine procedures, and aquarium system design. Students are expected to work both independently and as part of a team. Working with the Aquarium's animals is considered a privilege, which comes with intensive training and a considerable amount of dedicated time. While some students can successfully complete training needed to get experiences with our animals, we cannot guarantee animal contact or interaction.

The Fish and Invertebrate department offer internships that cover the basic and the primary duties of all aquarists. Please let us know if you have an interest in the following areas

- Jellies
- Elasmobranchs

Interns are not guaranteed placement in the above areas; however, interests will be taken into consideration.

### **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.
- Record Keeping: Recording food and vitamin intake, maintaining health records and training progress sheets.
- Maintenance of aquariums (algae scrubbing, water changes, water monitoring, filter maintenance, H<sub>2</sub>O chemical analysis, etc.) under aquarist supervision
- Training Techniques: Understanding operant conditioning by observing training demonstrations.
- Public Programming: Assisting aquarists with public encounters and presentations.
- Performing animal observations.
- Assisting with special projects as needed.
- Complete and present a final PowerPoint presentation at the end of the internship.

### **Requirements:**

- Minimum of a college sophomore and must currently be enrolled in college with a major in animal science, biology, zoology, psychology, or another related field.
- Must be receiving school credit for the internship.
- Must be at least 18 years of age.

- Able to work on a team, as well as function independently, with little supervision.
- 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.
- Must be able to work 8 hours per day, 2-3 days per week unpaid for a 7–11-week period.
- Hours range from 7:00AM-5:30PM during fall and spring, summer hours can go until 7:00PM.
- Must be comfortable handling fish and squid.

**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 15<sup>th</sup>
- Winter (J-Term): October 15<sup>th</sup>
- Spring: December 15<sup>th</sup>
- Summer: April 1<sup>st</sup>

Interested candidates should apply online at [www.aquariumofniagara.org](http://www.aquariumofniagara.org). Please include a resume and cover letter. Students 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 Tammy Weber at [tweber@aquariumofniagara.org](mailto:tweber@aquariumofniagara.org).