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 Marine Mammal and Bird department, individuals are expected to work alongside staff members to maintain and care for the marine mammals and penguins housed at the facility. The internship will be instrumental in gaining increased experience with California sea lions, Harbor seals, Grey seals and potential experience with Humboldt penguins. Marine Mammal Interns may be asked to assist with the duties in the penguin area. 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 of students can successfully complete training needed to get experiences with our animals, we cannot guarantee animal contact or interaction.

Responsibilities:

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

- Food Preparation: Students 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 staff with enrichment and training sessions.
- Training: Learning different training aspects including operant conditioning, classical conditioning, & positive reinforcement techniques. Students may be asked to assist with training sessions after a considerable amount of dedicated time.
- Public Programming: Assisting staff during public encounters and presentations. This includes but is not limited to taking photos, interacting with the public, monitoring guests/open nets.
- Understanding of AZA animal protocols and standards.
- Performing animal observations
- Assisting with special projects as needed.
- Complete and present a final PowerPoint presentation and 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.
- Must be able to lift at least 50lbs; 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 15th
- Winter (J-Term): October 15th
- Spring: December 15th
- Summer: April 1st

Interested candidates should apply online at aquariumofniagara.org including 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.