

## Full-Time Fish and Invertebrates

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### Description

This full-time Fish and Invertebrate Internship with the Fish and Invertebrate department is designed for college students and recent graduates. We are looking for a hardworking and dedicated team player with a passion to make a difference for aquatic life. The internship will be instrumental in gaining increased experience with maintaining aquarium exhibits, preparing diets, completing water quality tests, and keeping records, as well as be introduced to aquatic animal health assessments, quarantine procedures, and aquatic system design. Selected interns will work closely with the Fish & Invertebrate staff and will be trained in animal husbandry, nutrition, 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.

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
- Cephalopods
- Corals
- Local freshwater species

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

### Responsibilities:

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

- Food preparations: Food pull, weighing and preparing food for animal diets.
- Husbandry: Maintaining commissary up to USDA standards, cleaning filter socks, assist in maintaining aquatic systems (water changes, algae scrubbing, filter maintenance, etc.), cleaning and organizing back-up areas, and assisting with the overall appearance of all exhibits.
- Water Quality: Testing exhibit water parameters such as temperature, salinity, pH, etc.
- Enrichment: Completing an overview of enrichment and understanding the importance of enrichment as well as assisting aquarists with enrichment.
- Training Techniques: Understanding operant conditioning by observing and participating in training sessions.
- Record Keeping: Recording water quality, food and supplement intake, system maintenance, and enrichment observations.

- Public Programming: Assisting aquarists with public encounters and presentations. This includes but is not limited to taking photos, interacting with the public, learning presentations, and speaking on a microphone.
- Performing animal observations.
- Assisting with special projects as needed.
- Complete and present a final PowerPoint presentation at the end of the internship.
- 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 an aquarist/biologist
- Able to work on a team, as well as function independently, with little supervision
- Able to lift and carry 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
- Demonstrate proficiency in public speaking and guest interaction
- 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
- Housing and transportation not provided

**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: October 15<sup>th</sup>
- Spring: December 15<sup>th</sup>
- Summer: April 15<sup>th</sup>

Interested candidates should apply online at [www.aquariumofniagara.org](http://www.aquariumofniagara.org). Please include 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 Beth Horner at [bhorner@aquariumofniagara.org](mailto:bhorner@aquariumofniagara.org).