2020 college internship program

Fish and invertebrates animal husbandry

Thanks for your interest in an internship position at the Seattle Aquarium! The Aquarium’s internship program is designed to prepare future zoo and aquarium professionals for employment. The internship is an in-depth, hands-on program requiring a time commitment of at least 400 hours over 10–13 weeks. Interns are expected to be flexible with their schedule and will work weekdays, weekends and holidays. This is an unpaid position and no housing is provided. For those seeking college credit, we will work to accommodate school requirements. Those who successfully complete this internship will demonstrate responsibility, an understanding of basic husbandry requirements, and the ability to work both independently and as part of a team.

Included in this packet you will find information about the Aquarium, a position description, internship schedule and deadlines, and application information. Please review the information carefully before applying.

Applications for internship positions are evaluated based upon interest in working in the field, relevant experience, academic achievement, interview success, and willingness and ability to fulfill internship requirements. Late and incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Due to the number of applications we receive, we contact only those applicants who have been selected for an internship interview. We encourage those who have not been selected for an internship to reapply for future positions.

If you have any questions about the internship or requirements, please contact me at d.glenn@seattleaquarium.org. We look forward to reviewing your application.

Dave Glenn
Volunteer Engagement Manager
About the Seattle Aquarium

The Seattle Aquarium is a respected authority on Puget Sound, the Salish Sea and the world’s one ocean. Our passionate staff, volunteers and interns increase awareness and drive the change needed to preserve and protect our marine environment through a variety of channels, including a compelling exhibit experience, engaging daytime and evening events, conservation education programs for people of all ages and backgrounds, community outreach to underserved populations, research that advances understanding of animals in our care and their counterparts in the wild, advocacy and policy work, an award-winning volunteer program, strong and consistent marketing efforts and more.

We’re noted for our collaborative, communicative and team-oriented working environment. Our values, developed in conjunction with our staff, include commitments to adopting and promoting sustainable practices, creating awe-inspiring experiences, constantly learning and improving, fostering an inclusive community, maintaining scientific credibility through evidence-based practices and honoring our unique place by using our location and history as a lens for larger understanding.

Proudly accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, we’re the eighth-largest aquarium in the U.S. by attendance and we welcome over 850,000 people through our front doors each year. Guided by our mission of Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment, we’ve developed a master plan to substantially increase in size and impact by opening a new exhibit building, the Ocean Pavilion. Our current annual budget is $18 million.
Fish and invertebrate animal husbandry internship position description

Salary and benefits: This is an unpaid, unbenefted internship with no housing provided. The Aquarium does provide transportation subsidies for interns, including free bus, ferry and light rail tickets. We work with interns to accommodate school requirements for those who may earn class credit for an internship.

Reports to: Fish and invertebrate staff member.

Time commitment: 32–40 hours per week for 10–13 weeks. Minimum commitment of 400 hours, maximum commitment of 500 hours. Interns must be flexible with their schedule and will be expected to work weekdays, weekends and holidays.

Responsibilities: This position is a hands-on learning experience working under the direction of aquarists on the Aquarium’s cold- or warm-water fish and invertebrate team. Interns will assist with daily husbandry duties of species in the Aquarium’s care, including exhibit maintenance and cleaning, food preparation and delivery, observing and noting animal behavior, maintaining water quality and life support systems, and enrichment. Each intern will complete a project on a subject related to animal care, to be mutually agreed upon by the intern and supervisor.

Qualifications:

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Must have completed a minimum of two years of college-level coursework relevant to the position.
- Demonstrate a high level of interest in marine science, animal care and a career at a zoo or aquarium.
- Ability to complete the full internship commitment of 400–500 hours within 10–13 weeks.

Training and certification requirements: If offered the position, applicant must successfully complete the Aquarium’s background check process.

Uniform and equipment: Aquarium polo shirts are provided. Intern must provide appropriate bottoms (pants or shorts) and sturdy closed-toed, closed-heeled shoes.

Working conditions:

- Position works in offices, exhibits, service areas (indoor and outdoor) and occasionally field settings.
- Requires handling, working with and exposure to animals, zoonotic diseases, animal feces, and chemicals.
- Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds.
- Frequent bending, moving, lifting, and maneuvering objects in and around exhibits, including six hours or more of walking, standing or other physical activity.
- The position will work outside in all weather conditions.
Internship schedule

We accept interns four times a year. The summer session is the most competitive; we encourage you to consider other times of year. Our schedule is as follows:

Applications accepted until October 11, 2019.

Applications accepted until December 20, 2019.

Applications accepted until March 6, 2020.

Applications accepted until July 1, 2020.

If offered a position, start dates are mutually determined by the intern and the intern's supervisor.
Application instructions

Completed applications must be received by 5pm on the due date to be eligible for review. Late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Interviews are conducted in person at the Seattle Aquarium or via video conference. Due to the number of applications we receive, only those applicants who have been selected for an interview will be contacted.

To apply for the position, please submit the following:

1. Application.
2. Cover letter describing your interest in the position.
3. Résumé.
4. A list of three references.
5. Typed answers to the application questions.
6. College transcripts.
7. One letter of recommendation (optional).

Completed applications may be emailed to d.glenn@seattleaquarium.org or mailed to:

Seattle Aquarium
Attn: Dave Glenn
1483 Alaskan Way
Seattle, WA 98101

Please send application, cover letter, résumé, references and application question materials in one email or envelope. Letter of recommendation and official transcripts may be submitted separately.
Fish and invertebrate internship application

Name ____________________________________________

Gender identity ___________________________ Birthdate ____________________________

Ethnicity (optional) ___________________________ Pronouns __________________________

Mailing address ________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State ___________ Zip code _________________________

Phone (____) - __________________________ circle one: mobile home

Phone (____) - __________________________ circle one: mobile home

Email ____________________________________________

College/university ______________________________________________________________

Expected graduation date ______________________ Major field of study __________________

Courses/experience applicable to internship __________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Would you prefer interning with the cold- or warm-water fish and invertebrate team? __________

_____________________________________________________________________________

How did you become aware of this internship? ____________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Have you applied for the Seattle Aquarium internship before? If so, what session? 

_____________________________________________________________________________
Circle the internship season you are applying for:

Winter       Fall       Spring       Summer

Seattle Aquarium internship questions

Please answer the following questions. Answers should be typed and not exceed two pages total for all answers combined. You may use separate sheets of paper and attach to your application packet.

1) What are your long-term career goals? Please describe your perception of the ideal job and where you see yourself in 10 years.

2) Please tell us what qualities, skills and abilities you will bring to our internship program. Please be specific.

3) The Seattle Aquarium’s mission statement is *Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment*. What does that mean to you?