

PPG Aquarium Internship description

All interns must be 18 years old and are allowed to work up to 480 hours total throughout the duration of the internship. Work hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a break in the morning and an hour for lunch. All internships are unpaid. Year round positions are available (not just summer). We generally ask interns to work at least two or more days perweek.

Prospective interns are required to:

- submit a resume
- set up an interview with the site supervisor/internship coordinator
- complete an application, which can be found on the employment section of the Zoo's website (past seven years of residency is required on application)
- PA criminal background check
- Copies of two forms of ID (Drivers license, Social Security card, birth certificate, etc.)
- Disclosure statements
- have a TB test completed, with your own doctor or local county health department (free); then provide a copy of the results at the interview
- Volunteer waiver
- attend an orientation with the Human Resources department During the internship, interns will be exposed to all areas of the aquarium. The aquarium is divided into nine sections: Life support/water quality; Penguins; Open ocean (sharks) and stingrays; Freshwater native; Freshwater tropical; Cold water marine (octopus, jellyfish); Tropical marine (corals & fish); Quarantine (medical facility); and South American/Amazon

Habitat. We also offer Dive internships. Aquarium interns are responsible for learning and doing most of the work that an aquarist does, on a daily basis, such as:

- Perform morning rounds by cleaning the exterior of exhibit windows, while checking for animal health and proper operation of systems
- Check temperature, salinity, and pH along with other water quality parameters
- Maintain exhibits through cleaning of rockwork, windows, water changes, filter changes, and removing debris
- Learn to prepare and feed daily diets to various saltwater and freshwater fish, as well as sharks and penguins
- Assist aquarists with fish acclimations, transfers, arrivals; as well as medical treatments and observations
- Record keeping
- Observations of animal behavior and training/enrichment programs
- Participate in educational tours and classes The sessions are: SUMMER (May – Aug), FALL/WINTER (Sept – Dec), WINTER/SPRING (Jan – April)

We also offer internships in our Waters Edge department. This area includes Polar Bears, Sea Otters, and Sand tiger sharks. More information is available upon request.

Hopefully this provides a better understanding of what interns will experience and learn here at the PPG Aquarium. Many of our interns have received full-time positions in public aquariums, solely from the knowledge and professional development they gain from this internship.