

## **PPG Aquarium Internship Description:**

All interns must be 18 years old and pursuing a degree in a natural science. Work hours are from 8 am to 5 pm, with a break in the morning and an hour for lunch, for a total of 8 applicable hours per day. All internships are unpaid and we do not offer housing. We require interns work a minimum of 2 days (16 hours) per week, with a maximum of 480 hours total.

**To apply:** submit a resume, cover letter detailing why you chose the PPG Aquarium, and letter of recommendation to [aquaintern@pittsburghzoo.org](mailto:aquaintern@pittsburghzoo.org)

Once accepted, interns are required to submit/complete the following:

- **Interview (in-person or phone)**
- **Zoo Application**
- **PA Criminal Background Check**
- **Copy of 2 forms of ID** (Drivers license, SS card, birth certificate, etc...)
- **Disclosure Statements**
- **TB Test** completed, with your own doctor or local county health department (free)
- **Volunteer waiver**

During the internship, interns will be exposed to all areas of the aquarium. The aquarium is divided into the following sections:

- **Penguins**
- **Open Ocean and Stingrays**
- **Freshwater Native/ Tropical**
- **Tropical Marine**
- **Quarantine (medical facility)**
- **South American/Amazon Habitat**

Aquarium interns are responsible for learning a majority 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

Session Schedule:

**SUMMER** (May – Aug), applications due March 1<sup>st</sup>

**FALL** (Sept – Dec), applications due July 1<sup>st</sup>

**SPRING** (Jan – April), applications due November 1<sup>st</sup>

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!