

Apprentice Trainer Internship (Full Time)

While interning with the Marine Mammal Care department you are expected to work alongside staff members to maintain and care for the marine mammals housed at the facility. The Apprentice Trainer Internship is designed to give interns hands on experience to learn all the work that goes into becoming a marine mammal trainer. During your internship, you will be able to assist trainers in caring for Harbor Seals, Grey Seals, and California Sea Lions. Interns are expected to work both independently and as part of a team. 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 get experiences with our animals, we cannot guarantee animal contact or interaction.

In addition to completing the online application, applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, and letter of recommendation. Interns must also attend an orientation session before the start of the internship.

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

- Food Preparation: Interns will be responsible for sorting 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. Husbandry of sea lion exhibit requires being a competent swimmer in cold, deep water.
- Enrichment: Assisting trainers with enrichment and training sessions.
- Training: Learning different training aspects including operant conditioning, classical conditioning, & positive reinforcement techniques. Interns may be asked to assist with training sessions after a considerable amount of dedicated time.
- Public Speaking: Interns will be trained to speak on a microphone to make announcements & after considerable time learn to narrate seal presentations.
- Understanding of AZA animal protocols and standards.
- Interns will also assist with special projects as needed.

Qualifications for internship:

- Minimum of a college junior in a psychology, marine biology, zoology, biology, or another related field.
- Recent graduates may also apply.
- Must be able to afford housing and transportation.
- 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 available to work 40 hours per week with at least one shift on a weekend.
- Must be able to complete a 12-14 week term.
- Interns are needed daily from 7:30 am- 5:00 pm from Labor Day to Memorial Day; summer hours can range from 7:30 am- 7:00 pm.
- Must be a competent swimmer and comfortable in cold, deep water.
- Demonstrate proficiency in public speaking and guest interaction.
- Must be comfortable handling fish and squid.

Availability:

- Summer, Fall, Winter, & Spring

Deadline for application:

- Summer- March 1st
- Fall- June 15th
- Winter- Sept. 15th
- Spring- Nov. 15th

For more information or questions, please email kwroblewski@aquariumofniagara.org