

Interpretive Delivery Internship

Program Outline

Vancouver Aquarium

April 2011

Mission Statement of the Vancouver Aquarium

The Vancouver Aquarium is a self-supporting, non-profit association dedicated to effecting the conservation of aquatic life through display and interpretation, education, research, and direct action.

Interpretive Delivery Department

An integral part of the Aquariums mission is interpretation. Using interactive props, multi-media and live animal displays we deliver engaging programs to all audiences. Our shows include animal handling, large scale marine mammal programs, presentation dives and behind the scenes tours, among others. We highlight unique aspects of an animals' natural history and inspire guests to make changes in their day to day lives to help conserve aquatic populations.

Interpretive Delivery Internship Program Description

The Vancouver Aquarium in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, is accepting resumes for internships in the interpretive delivery department. This internship is designed to introduce practical experience in interpretation and the basics of program development and delivery in combination with the many skills that are associated with being an excellent interpreter. Successful applicants will also gain a vast knowledge and understanding of the different animals and ecosystems and their associated conservation issues. This goal will be accomplished by working closely with our interpretive staff under the supervision of Interpretation Specialists. Regular evaluations, both formal and informal will allow for a productive and fun learning experience. This is an unpaid 5 days a week, 37.5 hours per week position for three months (approximately 13 weeks). During the placement period you will experience all aspects of interpretive delivery, including but not limited to, facility cleaning, administrative tasks, research, public presentations, interactive programs, and invertebrate handling.

Essential Responsibilities

During the early stages, interns will spend a large portion of their time developing a working knowledge of the animals and ecosystems displayed at the Aquarium. Interns will experience continuous growth in their interpretive skills through regular training sessions with staff. All interns will be required to develop and present a formal presentation to the public prior to the end of their term.

Requirements

Applicants must be currently enrolled in a community college or university, or a recent graduate and intending to pursue a career in biology or a related field. Must be a highly motivated self-starter with excellent interpersonal and presentation skills. Should exhibit the ability to communicate effectively with audiences of all ages and learning abilities. Must be creative, flexible and proactive in problem solving. No previous interpretive delivery experience is necessary for the position.

International Applicants

Applicants must be legally eligible to work in Canada

- unpaid internships do fall under the category of work, and therefore require a work permit
- it is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain a work permit prior to entering Canada, for more information, please contact Citizen and Immigration Canada <http://www.cic.gc.ca/>

Accommodation

All candidates are expected to find their own accommodations in Vancouver. For more information on accommodation and maps, please find resources like the "Student Guide for Living in Vancouver" on our intern webpage:

<http://www.vanaqua.org/volunteer/internships.html>

Application Deadline and Number of Positions

Internship Placement Dates	Number of Positions	Application deadline	Notification/ Interview Period
January 30th – April 29th, 2012	2 unpaid	January 2nd, 2012	January 6th, 2012
June 4th – Sept 3rd, 2012	4 unpaid	May 6th, 2012	May 14th, 2012
October 1st, 2012 to Dec 30, 2012	2 unpaid	August 19th, 2012	August 20th, 2012

Please note these dates are subject to change. As well, please make note of the application deadlines, as late applications may not be considered.

How to apply

Please send resume, letter of interest, and one reference letter to Interp.interns@vanaqua.org. Your letter of interest should include which placement you wish to participate in, what experience you have, what you hope to gain from the placement, how you heard about the placement and your career goals. Successful applicants will be contacted. Good luck to all our applicants. Thank you for your interest in the Vancouver Aquarium's Internship program.