

# **Marine Mammal Training Internship Program Outline**

Vancouver Aquarium

September 2009



**Marine Mammal Internship**

**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.

### **Marine Mammal Department**

An integral part of the Aquariums mission is the display of marine mammals for education, interpretation and research. The Marine Mammal department at the Vancouver Aquarium cares for and trains 30 individuals of 6 different species, some of which include Pacific white sided dolphins, Beluga whales, Harbour seals, Sea otters, Steller sea lions and Northern fur seals. We are dedicated to providing the best care possible for each of our animals. Our training is based on positive reinforcement.

### **Marine Mammal Training Internship Program Description**

The Vancouver Aquarium in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, is accepting resumes for a summer internship in the marine mammal department. This internship is designed to introduce practical experience in husbandry skills and the basics of training in combination with the many skills that are associated with being an excellent marine mammal trainer. This goal will be accomplished by working closely with our marine mammal staff under the supervision of a mentor. Regular evaluations, both formal and informal will allow for a productive and fun learning experience. This is an unpaid 5 days a week, 40 hours per week position for three months. During the placement period you will experience all aspects of marine mammal care, including but not limited to, facility cleaning, diet preparation, public presentations, interactive programs, and animal training/husbandry sessions.

### **Essential Responsibilities**

During the early stages, interns will spend a large portion of their time cleaning exhibits and preparing animal diets. Daily animal observations, training tutorials, record keeping, participating in the department's enrichment program and observing and assisting in the training of the Aquariums marine mammal collection will help complete the day. All interns will be required to complete and present a formal presentation to the marine mammal department 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 marine mammal care and training. Must be a highly motivated self-starter. No previous marine mammal experience is necessary for the position.

## 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/volunteer-wex.html>.

## Application Deadline and Number of Positions

Four unpaid internship placements are available for each slot. Applications are due one month before each placement begins. Please note these dates are subject to change.

<b>Internship Placement Dates</b>	<b>Number of Positions</b>	<b>Application deadline</b>	<b>Notification/ Interview Period</b>
<b>January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010</b>	4 unpaid	November 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	November 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
<b>May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010</b>	4 unpaid	March 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	March 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2010
<b>September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010</b>	4 unpaid	June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	June 15 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2010

## How to apply

Please send resume, letter of interest, and one reference letter to [marinemammalinterns@vanaqua.org](mailto:marinemammalinterns@vanaqua.org) or by mail to the attention of Marine Mammal Department, Marine Mammal Training Internship, Vancouver Aquarium, PO Box 3232, Vancouver BC V6B3X8. 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. Questions? Inquires? Please email [volunteer@vanaqua.org](mailto:volunteer@vanaqua.org).