



## BERMUDA ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SUPPORT CHARITY FOR BERMUDA AQUARIUM, MUSEUM & ZOO

### INTERNSHIP POSITIONS

#### **Experience The Aquarium**

With over 200 species of colorful fishes and delicate invertebrates in numerous naturalistic displays, Aquarium interns explore Bermuda's diverse marine communities from the deep ocean and spectacular coral reefs to shallow coastal waters. The 140,000 gallon North Rock Exhibit showcases live corals and large predatory fish including sharks. Our Local Tails exhibit gives attention to distinctive conservation stories and species special to Bermuda including some of our reptiles, amphibians, insects and birds. Exhibits housing marine turtles and harbor seals delight visitors and provide for captive management and research initiatives.

#### **Experience The Zoo**

The Zoo displays over 300 birds, reptiles and mammals from oceanic islands and has a tradition of successful captive management of endangered island species. An emphasis on conservation including captive breeding programmes for endangered species destined for reintroduction to the wild and public education forms the focus of our unique zoo facility. The fragile nature of island ecosystems is carried in the theme for free-flight immersion exhibits like the Caribbean and Australasia exhibits and our soon-to-be-built Madagascar exhibit.

#### *Intern Opportunities:*

Aquarium and Zoo husbandry interns have the opportunity to experience the daily operations at BAMZ. They will develop an understanding and appreciation for animal care responsibilities through hands-on involvement at our facility. The typical activities of a husbandry intern include:

- Experience in all aspects of the daily care of exotic animals and plants
- Animal handling and treatment
- Behavioral observations and animal behavioral enrichment
- Diet preparation and feeding
- Food culture methods
- Exhibit cleaning and maintenance
- Life Support maintenance & water quality monitoring
- Exhibit enhancement - may include the collection of marine specimens, horticulture and or fabrication of exhibit furnishings
- Assistance with interpretative talks to visitors and special interest groups
- Maintenance of daily records including animal activities, food consumption and special projects
- Interaction with staff and volunteers

Seasonal opportunities may include:

- Wildlife Rehabilitation - Primarily with birds and sea turtles
- Sea turtle field research-The Bermuda Turtle Project
- Flamingo propagation
- Exhibit development and fabrication
- Collection of exhibit specimens

#### **Experience The Marine Collections & Quarantine Facility**

The Marine Operations department is responsible for the collection and quarantine of marine specimens for exhibit displays. The collection of specimens is usually achieved using seine nets along coastal areas or SCUBA diving offshore in depths of 20 to 50 feet.

The goal of quarantine is to identify and treat fish diseases before a specimen is put on display. The fish are fresh water dipped and moved to a sterile tank every 5 days, for a total of 30 days, in order to interrupt the lifecycle of any parasites. Adapting these specimens to a captive environment and diet is also critical and requires patience and careful observation. An unusual factor about marine operations at BAMZ is that we do not rely heavily on chemicals to treat disease. We have an open water system drawing raw, untreated seawater, circulating it through our tanks and draining it back into the sea.

Applicants are expected to assist with daily operations, which may include quarantining marine specimens, boat maintenance, and the upkeep of the life support systems. She/he will also assist with the collection of specimens for Aquarium exhibits. SCUBA certification is mandatory.

#### **Experience Conservation Research:**

Under the umbrella of BZS Conservation Research, internships are available in a variety of field ecology; project areas include: Amphibians, Bermuda Turtle Project, Diamondback Terrapins, and Bermuda Reef Ecosystem Assessment and Mapping.

In addition to field-based studies including sampling and monitoring, animal capture and marking, interns may become involved in laboratory or database work.

#### **Experience Education**

Education is one of our highest priorities. The Education Team's goal is to support the BAMZ mission, '...to inspire appreciation and care of island environments' through the provision of classes, courses, resource material, interpretation and special programmes. The five-member Education Team shares the following responsibilities: The Schools Program, interpretation of exhibits, member and public nature encounters, and the publication of a variety of educational materials.

Education interns will assist in the delivery of classes and field trips (snorkeling and land-based) to Bermuda school children. Approximately 6000 school children attend our classes throughout the school year or our summer day camps. The week-long camps accommodate 700 children each summer and offer hands-on interaction with nature, field trips to Bermuda's special places, arts and craft, practical conservation projects and daily wading and snorkeling. Education interns will also assist in the delivery of Nature Encounters to small groups of children or adults at weekends and help with the interpretation of our exhibits.

**The preceding outline is intended to help provide the intern with an idea of the work involved. Availability depends on BAMZ requirements at the time of the internship.**