

ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR AND REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY INTERNSHIP

The Smithsonian's National Zoo (NZZ) and Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) are offering a support internship to assist with ongoing research on rare and endangered species. Interns will receive training under the supervision of a Research Fellow in the fields of animal behavior and endocrinology (through Animal Care Sciences at NZZ and the Center for Species Survival at SCBI).

The Smithsonian is a world leader in the study of rare and endangered species. Our faculty is diverse, but specializes in reproductive physiology, endocrinology, cryobiology, embryonic/molecular biology, behavior, and the tools associated with assisted reproduction. Staff scientists have pioneered important concepts in reproductive biology for threatened and endangered species and created new conservation tools, including new approaches for noninvasive monitoring of hormone profiles; artificial insemination; implementation of a "mobile laboratory research" unit; and databases to track cryo-preserved biomaterials. More than 60 mammal, fish, coral, urchin, algal, and bird species have benefited from this vast experience.

As part of the internship interns will be:

- Performing data entry
- Summarizing data and data analyses
- Inventory of research samples and supplies
- Laboratory management – including cleaning, restocking and preparing reagents.

Students will gain first-hand experience in:

- *Ex situ* conservation research, answering fundamental biological questions while working alongside experienced researchers from the Smithsonian.
- Refined ethological skills and resulting data collection
- Aspects of interacting with behavioral observers.
- The operations of a laboratory – from ordering supplies to material preparation
- Activities will entail research both at the Smithsonian's National Zoo (Washington, D.C.) and Conservation Biology Institute (Front Royal, VA).

QUALIFICATIONS

- Completion of at least three years of undergraduate coursework in related field of study, including at least two laboratory-based courses.
- Candidates should be efficient, organized, and possess strong computer skills (must be proficient in Excel).
- Organizational skills that can be applied data management.

- Must be able to travel to and from internship site which will rotate between NZP and SCBI.
- Must be able to intern flexible hours 3-5 days a week at varied locations.
- Must be in good physical condition and be able to lift at least 50 pounds.
- Individuals will be subject to fingerprinting and a background check
- Must have a negative TB test
- A trial week is required prior to applicant acceptance into the program (This assures that the internship activities are understood by the selectee)

STIPEND

This is an unpaid internship. College credit is offered if desired; intern is responsible for obtaining necessary approvals from their university. Intern will be responsible for all transportation costs and personal health insurance.

LOCATION

NZP-Rock Creek and at SCBI-Front Royal

HOUSING

No lodging is available and individual is responsible for their own transportation.

PARKING

The National Zoo and the Smithsonian Institution does not provide free parking to interns. There is limited parking at SCBI in Front Royal, VA.

TERM OF APPOINTMENT

This is a 6 month internship. Interns must be able to intern flexible hours at least 3-5 days a week at varied locations including both Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, DC and the Conservation Research Center in Front Royal, VA.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- **Applications accepted until September 15th**
- **Fall** (Sept 30– Jan 1):

TO APPLY

To apply, go to: <https://solaa.si.edu/solaa/SOLAAHome.html> Then select "New to SOLAA? Create Account Here." When you complete the information to create an account, you will see a screen where you select the type of appointment you are interested in. You will select:

- Type of appointment: "Internship"
- Unit of interest: "National Zoological Park"
- Program: "National Zoological Park Internship Program"

- Project: “Rock Creek-Center for Animal Care Sciences; SCBI-Center for Species Survival (Repro; Husbandry)

Information that will be requested (in SOLAA) includes:

- Basic personal information (Mandatory)
- Resume or CV summarizing education (including current academic status) and employment experience. (Mandatory)
- A one-page statement of your interest in pursuing this position. The statement should mention relevant experience, career goals, your reasons for wanting this internship, and what you hope to gain from the experience. Your statement is very important during application evaluations. (Mandatory)
- Transcripts from your current and/or previous institutions. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable.
- Two letters of reference, including at least one academic reference.
- Schedule of availability.

Your application is considered complete when you hit “Submit” and when your references have been received (your SOLAA submitted application and references must be received by the deadlines as noted above).

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions about this internship should be sent to fazioj@si.edu

Send general internship questions to Tamie Dewitt (DewittT@si.edu)