

Animal Excellence Research Internship (Unpaid)

Description: This professional internship at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden will assist the Animal Excellence Coordinator in implementing an evidence-based approach to animal care and management. Using science to better understand animal behavior, animal welfare, and our visitors' perception of animal well-being is integral to the zoo's mission and is the best way to promote a thriving animal community and an optimal visitor experience. Interns will assist with applied behavioral research projects and other initiatives related to animal welfare and will attain practical experience conducting research and working in a zoological facility.

This internship is a 14- to 16-week program (duration dependent on semester; 24-40 hours per week minimum; unpaid, un-benefited). Interns can expect to have a regular set schedule but may be scheduled to participate on some weekends, holidays, etc.

Summary: The Animal Excellence Research Intern will assist with the planning and execution of various animal behavior monitoring and welfare projects around the zoo. As the Animal Excellence Research Intern, they will work under the supervision of the Animal Excellence Coordinator to gather scientific literature, design studies, collect data, and prepare reports. These activities require attention to detail, critical thinking, excellent organizational skills, and effective communication. The intern candidate must be able to work independently, as well partner effectively with the broader zoo team.

Responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Search for and review scientific literature related to animal welfare
- Collect and maintain animal behavior, animal welfare, and/or visitor-related data
- Assist with study design, technology setup, and report preparation
- Assist with on-boarding of new research assistants
- Coordinate research scheduling
- Interpret on-site research operation to visitors
- Provide support as needed to larger Department of Visitor Experience & FUN team

The intern will also be required to participate in professional development classes and opportunities organized as part of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden internship program.

Qualifications: The ideal candidate will meet the following requirements:

- Current college junior or senior working toward an animal related field: Biology, Zoology, Psychology, etc.; or a recent graduate with a related degree.
- Proven experience participating in the research process (e.g., study design, data collection, analysis), with animal behavior research experience a plus.
- Demonstrated professionalism, communication skills (both written and oral), critical thinking ability, and attention to detail.
- Enthusiasm for the mission of Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden: creating adventure, conveying knowledge, conserving nature, and serving the community.

Working Conditions/Other Requirements: While performing the duties of this position the intern is regularly required to stand, walk, and grasp objects. In addition, the intern is regularly exposed to outside weather conditions. Some time will also be spent sitting and utilizing a computer or tablet.

- Appointment is conditional upon passing a pre-start drug & nicotine screen
- Must provide a negative TB test result prior to beginning the internship