



Animal Care Specialist Intern: Australia House

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to work with animals from Down Under? This may be the opportunity you've been looking for to work with mammals and birds from Australia and beyond. This continent's isolation of millions of years is inhabited by many unique species (like egg laying mammals) that are found nowhere else in the world.

You would work both indoors and out, in diurnal and nocturnal settings alongside experienced Animal Care Specialists on a dedicated and enthusiastic team. You would be caring for Western grey kangaroos, Bennett's wallabies, Brush-tailed bettongs, Short-beaked echidnas, Rodrigues fruit bats, Emus, Cape Barren geese & Laughing kookaburras. As if the animals at the Australia House weren't unique enough, the Australia House team also cares for the breeding colony of the White-bellied tree pangolins that are housed off habitat in another building. These endangered scaly West African mammals are, in the wild, heavily trafficked for the bush meat trade & traditional medicine.

Interns will have the experience of working in with every species and will learn how to operate safely around these different species. Interns will learn how to identify individuals within large social groups, the bats and kangaroos, and learn about their group dynamics.

Interns will also gain practical experience in duties including animal nutrition, habitat maintenance, guest interaction, record keeping, animal observation, training and enrichment. There are breeding recommendations for several of the species housed here, so reproductive observations and development of young is another potential aspect of this internship.

The Australia House team is involved with AZA's Marsupial & Monotreme Taxon Advisory Group (M&M TAG). The M&M TAG is filled with a lot of devoted and dynamic people who share a passion for these animals and as such, there are multiple online collaborative meetings and summits about these magnificent mammals throughout the year. Should any of these meetings or summits occur during the internship, attendance is strongly encouraged, exposing the intern to a broader view of cooperation & participation within the North American zoo community.

A research project on an aspect of animal husbandry is also required.

AT A GLANCE

PAY RATE: Unpaid

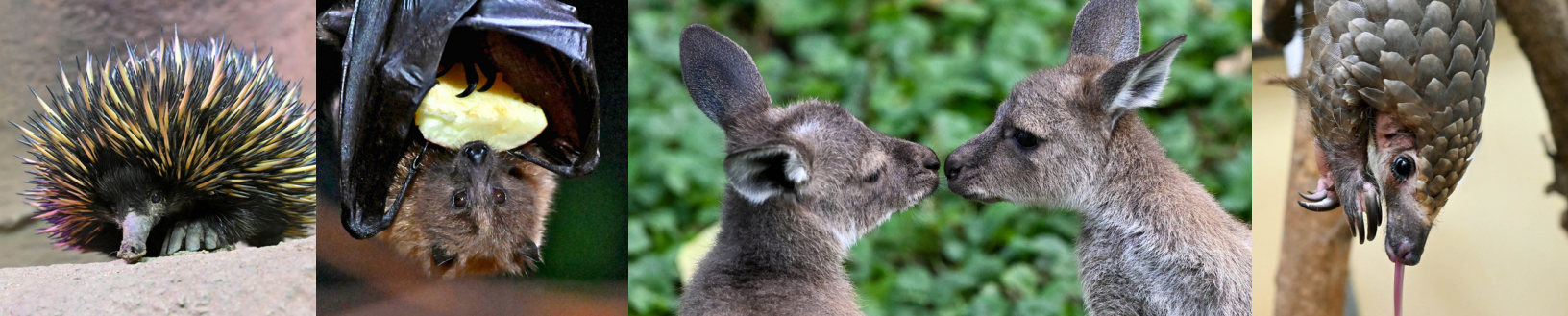
HOURS/WEEK: Full Time (35+ hours/week)

COMMITMENT: 10-12 weeks

LOCATION: Onsite at Brookfield Zoo Chicago

PREREQUISITE: At least 1 year of college credit & experience

COLLEGE CREDIT: Available upon request



Position Details: Australia House

Physical Requirements

Animal Care Specialist positions are physically demanding, and interns may be subjected to a variety of physical demands and environmental factors and exposures. Candidates must have the ability to perform essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations, such as:

- Ability to stand, walk, kneel, or squat for extended periods.
- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds regularly
- Comfort working outdoors in varying and extreme weather conditions, including inclement weather, extreme heat, and cold temperatures.

All interns, regardless of proximity to animals, must have an up to date TDAP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis) vaccination (booster within the last 10 years) and test negative for TB (Tuberculosis) within the last 12 months.

Scheduling Expectations

Brookfield Zoo Chicago operates 365 days a year. Schedules vary by position, but may include weekends, holidays, early mornings, and evenings. Successful interns exemplify a positive attitude, strong work ethic, an eagerness to learn, and an ability to work effectively both in a team and independently. Given the competitive landscape of professional animal care, candidates should be mindful of the following scheduling requirements:

- Must be willing to commit to 10-12 weeks in a term, not to exceed 480 total hours.
- Availability is required for the full internship term, including weekdays, weekends, holidays, early mornings, and evenings.
- Schedules may change based on animal and departmental needs, with advance notice provided whenever possible.
- Any anticipated scheduling conflicts should be disclosed during the interview process.

Preferred Qualifications

- Preference is given to those who have completed at least 2 years of college.
- Multilingual ability, Spanish fluency a plus.