

Animal Care Specialist Intern: Avian Husbandry

This intensive 12-week program offers participants a chance to establish a strong foundation in the skills and knowledge essential for effectively caring for birds in a contemporary zoo environment.

Interns will partner with seasoned animal care professionals who will guide them in maintaining the latest husbandry standards for a diverse collection of over 70 bird species. Alongside practical animal care, participants will engage in classes and activities that cover crucial topics such as:

- Collection management
- Exhibit design
- Incubation techniques

A strong emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, enabling interns to comprehend not only current management practices but also their historical context and rationale.

Interns will also have the chance to enhance their communication skills regarding the vital role zoos play in animal conservation. This will involve participating in keeper chats and formal penguin encounters.

The internship will culminate in a project designed by the interns themselves, aimed at advancing animal husbandry and welfare practices at Brookfield Zoo in Chicago.

AT A GLANCE

PAY RATE: Unpaid

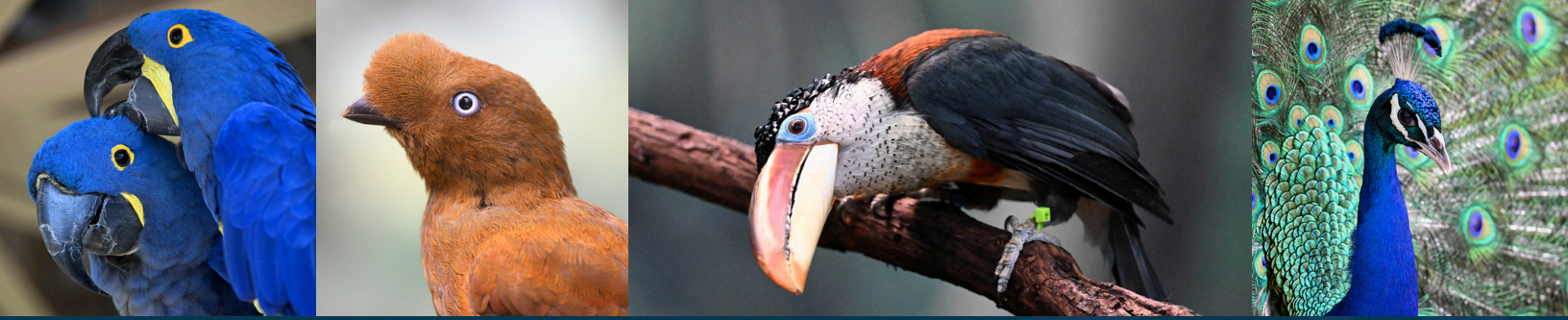
HOURS/WEEK: Full Time (35+ hours/week)

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: Avian Husbandry

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.