



Specialty Internship: Animal Welfare Research

This position contributes to the success of Brookfield Zoo Chicago by training future leaders in the fields of animal behavior and welfare. Interns in this role will work with the Animal Welfare Scientist, along with other members of the Animal Health & Welfare team, to learn all aspects of conducting behavioral research at a zoological institution, with a focus on evaluating and optimizing animal welfare.

Interns will gain direct experience collecting behavioral data for both ongoing and new research projects. In addition, they will participate in the design of projects focused on evaluating animal welfare, as well as the analysis of collected data. Interns will also develop their scientific communication skills by delivering a formal presentation on their work to relevant Brookfield Zoo Chicago staff.

Requirements

- Minimum of two years of college at an accredited institution; minimum GPA 2.5/4.0, majoring in biology, psychology, ecology, endocrinology, animal behavior, animal science, or other relevant field.
- Minimum 18 years of age
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Good computer and organization skills
- Cultural proficiency; experience and/or ability to work and interact effectively with a diverse, multicultural audience
- English fluency at a Speaking 3 (General Professional Proficiency).
- Ability to maintain confidentiality of privileged information

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.

AT A GLANCE

PAY RATE: Unpaid

HOURS/WEEK: Part-Time (20-25 hours/week)

COMMITMENT: 24-26 weeks

LOCATION: Onsite at Brookfield Zoo Chicago

WORK GROUP: Animal Health & Welfare

PREREQUISITE: At least 2 years of college credit & experience

COLLEGE CREDIT: Available upon request



Position Details: Animal Welfare Research

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 20-25 hours per week for 24-26 weeks in a term, not to exceed 480 total hours.
- 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.
- Coursework in research skills, biology, animal behavior, ecology, or related.
- Applicants with experience with research in a laboratory, field, or other relevant setting.
- Valid driver's license preferred.