



Internship FAQs

Does the Maryland Zoo offer college internships for credit?

Yes, we offer for-credit internships in departments throughout the Zoo, including in non-animal areas. Please visit Marylandzoo.org/Internships to view the descriptions of our available internships and their requirements.

Do I need to be in college or receiving college credit to complete an internship?

You do not need to be currently enrolled in college or receiving college credit to qualify for an internship. We accept recent college graduates as well as career changers for many of our programs.

Are internships paid? Do you provide housing?

All internships are unpaid, and we cannot provide housing for interns. Please keep this in mind before submitting an application.

How do I apply for an internship?

After reviewing the available positions, you will need to submit an online application which includes a resume, cover letter, and transcript. After submitting your application, you will receive an email with a link to an additional form you need to complete. If you do not complete the additional form, your application will be marked incomplete and removed from consideration.

Can I apply for multiple internships?

Each session you may only apply for one internship. If you would like us to make an exception, please reach out to the Volunteer Department to request an exemption and instructions. If you apply for multiple internships without contacting the Volunteer Department, we will delete all but the first application we receive.

What internship sessions are offered throughout the year?

Most Zoo departments offer a Spring, Summer, and Fall session for internships. We recruit for one internship session at a time. Below is the application window for each session:

Spring - June 16th - October 31st

Summer - November 1st - February 28th

Fall - March 1st - June 15th



Is transportation available?

You are responsible for transportation to and from the Zoo, and reliable transportation is required for all internships. The Zoo is accessible via public transportation.

Do I need to pass any background checks?

At orientation, accepted interns will be asked to fill out a background investigation form. This form checks against the National Sex Offender Registry.

I submitted my complete internship application and have not heard anything yet. How do I check the status of my application?

We will reach out to qualified applicants for interviews in the weeks following the internship deadline. We do our best to keep our applicants updated throughout the process, but this sometimes takes time, so we appreciate your patience. Please understand we are not able to provide updates on individual applications.

I'm having trouble completing the online application. What should I do?

First, try using a different browser or type of computer. If that does not work, please contact internships@marylandzoo.org.

I've applied multiple times but have not gotten an internship. What can I do?

Applying for an internship repeatedly without changing anything on your resume or cover letter will seldom result in success. Our internships are competitive, and most require at least some relevant experience. This is especially true of positions in our Animal Department. Without any animal care experience beyond pets, you will not be a competitive applicant for an Animal Keeper & Behavior internship. This experience does not necessarily need to come from another zoo or aquarium--volunteer your time at local animal shelters, nature centers, farms, or ranches to gain the fundamental skills we expect our interns to come in with.

Will I be eligible for other volunteer positions if I'm not accepted for an internship or once my internship is over?

Yes, you will be eligible to apply for other volunteer opportunities.