



**KING CONSERVATION  
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

**BROOKFIELD ZOO  
CHICAGO**

## **College Internship Program**

### *Dolphin Communication Research Intern*

**Department**

Animal Health & Welfare

**Work Group or Team**

Animal Welfare Research Team

**Season/Term**

February to June

**Level of Commitment**

Part-time

**Est. Hours per Week**

25

**Pay Rate**

Unpaid

---

## **Position Summary**

This position contributes to the success of Brookfield Zoo Chicago by training future leaders in the fields of animal behavior and welfare. Intern will work with the Animal Welfare Scientist, along with other members of the Animal Health & Welfare team, to learn all aspects of performing behavioral research at a zoological institution, specifically focusing a project on the collective behavior of zoo-housed dolphins. Intern will receive direct experience performing data analysis on dolphin behavior and vocalizations, and gain knowledge on the physics of sound. Finally, intern will practice their scientific communication skills by conducting a formal presentation of work completed for relevant Brookfield Zoo Chicago staff.

## **Duties & Responsibilities**

- Perform data collection and/or data analysis for NSF-funded project on the collective behavior of dolphins
- Learn techniques necessary to conduct behavioral research in a zoo setting.
- Code videos of dolphin behavior and analyze acoustic features of dolphin vocalizations.
- Learn the physics of sound, particularly in the context of zoo-housed dolphins.
- Participate in departmental discussions and meetings, including the review and discussion of scientific literature.
- Present results of behavioral research and/or skills and abilities learned to Brookfield Zoo Chicago staff.
- Other related duties as assigned.

## **Requirements & Specifications**

- 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.
- Completion of intern-led project required as part of position.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Good computer skills.
- Good organization skills.
- Must be able to commit to 6 months at approximately 25 hours/week.
- 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.
- Preferred: Valid driver's license preferred
- Preferred: Previous experience with dolphins or other marine mammals.
- Preferred: Previous experience analyzing bioacoustics.
- Preferred: Applicants who demonstrated experience with research in a laboratory, field, or other relevant setting.
- Preferred: Coursework in research skills, biology, animal behavior, ecology, or related.
- Preferred: Previous experience working or volunteering at a zoological institution.
- Preferred: Multilingual ability, Spanish fluency a plus.