

Dolphins Plus Internship FAQ

Does Dolphins Plus provide housing for interns?

Dolphins Plus does not provide housing, however, interns are assisted in finding units within walking distance to the facility. Units are furnished, include all utilities (except for internet access) and range in price from \$700-\$950/month. Each unit is a little different, and may or may not include internet or a full stove/oven. However, a microwave, toaster oven, and/or hotplate are available in the unit. Prices are subject to change, but those willing to room with other interns will pay significantly less.

Does it cost anything to participate in the program?

There is no cost to participate in the program. However, interns are responsible for the cost of both room and board, as well as any additional personal expenses that occur.

Does Dolphins Plus consider international applicants?

Yes, international applicants are welcomed to apply to the program as long as all other eligibility requirements are met. These requirements can be found under the description of the Animal Care/Training and Research Internship descriptions.

Do interns need to have a car if accepted into the program?

No, but a car does allow for you to be more freedom and flexibility during your time with us. Daily/Weekly needs of the interns, such as trips to the grocery store, will be taken care of by the internship coordinators. Options such as bike rentals, weekly car rentals are available through various companies within the keys. In addition to the living facilities being within walking distance to Dolphins Plus, other amenities such as restaurants, Starbucks, Walgreens, and CVS are a short distance walk from your residence.

What airports are located near Dolphins Plus?

Miami International Airport (MIA) is located about 60 miles north of Key Largo, and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) about 90 miles north of Key Largo. You can expect by car for it to take about an hour and 15 minutes to get to MIA and about an hour and 45 minutes to get to FLL.

What transportation is available to and from the airports?

Dolphins Plus does **not** provide transportation to and from the airport. However, there are a couple of reliable options for each of you to get to and

from the Florida Keys. The Keys Shuttle (www.keysshuttle.com) runs several trips daily to and from both Miami and Ft. Lauderdale airports. Additionally, the Greyhound Bus (www.greyhound.com) has multiple pick up and drop off times daily to the Miami airport. Lastly, taxis are an option, but are very expensive.

How many internship positions are available?

The internship programs (Animal Care and Research) at Dolphins Plus both usually host 3-5 interns per session. The acceptance process for both internships is quite competitive, but we do try and offer the program to as many individuals as we can.

After interviewing for the internship position, how soon should an applicant expect to receive a response?

Intern coordinators set aside several blocks of time post application deadline to begin reviewing applications. Applicants are individually rated and scored based upon the completed application and phone interview process. After the phone interview, applicants will be contacted within one week of the session's deadline. Both accepted and not accepted applicants will be notified of their status.

How many hours a week are intern required to be on site at Dolphins Plus?

The internship is an unpaid position that requires a 40-hr/week commitment. Interns are usually excited about starting with us and do not want to take days off. However, it is required by the program that each intern take 2 days off a week.

Is obtaining college credit an option?

Yes. Every University has different requirements for obtaining academic credit. Often times, we as a facility, internship program, and directors have to meet the criteria that are set forth by your institution in order to even qualify. Although Dolphins Plus has not had an issue with this in the past, each student is treated differently. Accepted applicants are responsible for speaking to their University advisors and connecting them to our Internship Supervisor. Dolphins Plus is very flexible with fulfilling the requirements of the facility and are able to often tailor the program to the Universities needs.

Directions to Dolphins Plus

We encourage individuals to use a service such as Mapquest.com to find our facility. Our address is:

31 Corinne Place

Key Largo, Florida 33037

What are some lunch options for interns?

Interns are welcome to bring a lunch to work; a fridge is on site where food can be stored. Since housing units are generally within walking distance, some interns choose to go home for lunch.

What is the dress code for interns? Wetsuit? Rain gear? Warm clothing?

Dolphins Plus will provide each intern with 2 Dolphins Plus intern T-shirts. Interns have the option of purchasing more of these shirts at a discounted rate. Each intern will be responsible for bringing black, navy, or grey shorts (board shorts, workout shorts, cotton, etc), solid color t-shirts or tank tops (black, white, navy, etc.), full-piece swimsuits only (must cover the entire stomach and chest region), and durable foot wear (sandals, flip-flops, crocs, etc.). Interns will be exposed to the fish house and water daily, as well as seasonal weather conditions. Be mindful of this when choosing your attire.

Dolphins Plus strongly recommends that all weather conditions are prepared for. Interns may bring a personal wet suit, but Dolphins Plus has wet suits available onsite. A personal raincoat should be brought for the Florida Keys summer showers. Winter interns may be interested in bringing rubber boots and other warm weather gear.

What are normal weather conditions for Summer/Fall/Winter/Spring?

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
HI (Fahrenheit)	70	71	74	79	83	85	86	86	85	84	79	70
LOW (Fahrenheit)	53	53	56	65	69	72	73	74	74	71	65	50
Precipitation (inches)	1	3	2	2	4	7	6	5	8	3	3	1

Overall, Key Largo has beautiful sunny weather for the majority of the year. However, summer months have high humidity, which is toned down by the cool breezes from the ocean. There is an increase in rainfall beginning late May. The official hurricane season begins June 1st and ends November 30th with the highest potential of storms occurring mid August through mid October. Evacuation drills are in place in the event a hurricane is predicted to come to the Keys. However, interns are encouraged to prepare for all weather conditions, including cool nights when the temperature has been known to drop in the 40's and 50's.

What are some animal care and training intern daily duties?

Interns aid in diet preparation, facility maintenance, guest interaction, public speaking, educational lecture series, animal training sessions, as well as cross training in different departments.

How much hands-on interaction with the animals does an intern receive?

Both the animal care and research internships are based upon a reward system. The amount of privileges that each intern receives, from animal interactions to assisting in the training process, will be granted based upon the performance of the individual. Interns are given the appropriate tools to gain a vast amount of knowledge, as well as the opportunity to shine. Each of the coordinators will ensure that every intern will be rewarded appropriately for their efforts.

Do interns train the animals?

To provide consistency and clarity for the animal population at Dolphins Plus, interns are allowed to participate (upon approval) in training sessions as assistants but are not allowed to directly train the animals.

Do interns participate in sessions with the animals?

Yes, interns will assist trainers in different types of sessions (guest interaction sessions, husbandry sessions, enrichment, play, etc).

Can an intern's family visit? Are discounts available on interactions or purchases in the gift shop?

Accepted intern may have their family come and visit. As far as family members participating in one of our animal interactions, each intern will receive 2 swims at a discounted price; each additional swim can be purchased at regular price. Additionally, interns receive a 20% discount from our gift shop during their internship.

What is the likelihood of an opportunity of obtaining a job post-internship?

Dolphins Plus has hired many interns over the past decade, some of which are your internship coordinators. Within the industry, internships are an opportunity for individuals to have a prolonged "interview" with the facility. It is a perfect time for the intern to get to know the facility; all while the facility is assessing if the individual is a good fit for their staff.