

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FAQs

Are interns expected to pay a fee to participate in the program?

There is no cost to apply to the internship programs offered at Dolphins Plus. However, interns are expected to maintain financial stability throughout the duration of the internship, including the cost of housing (including utilities), transportation, meals, travel, and personal expenses.

How many internship positions are available?

We host approximately 3-5 Animal Care and Training interns and 1-2 Veterinary interns per session. Fulfilling an intern position is very competitive, but we do our best to accommodate as many qualified applicants as possible.

Does Dolphins Plus consider international applicants?

Yes, international applicants are welcome to apply for the internship programs offered at Dolphins Plus, provided that all eligibility requirements are met. These requirements are detailed in descriptions on our website. If accepted, international applicants also work with a company called Experience International through which Dolphins Plus internship programs are registered, to assist in coordinating international affairs, including visa requirements etc.

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

The review process is lengthy and demanding. Internship Coordinators set aside a significant amount of time after the application deadline to review and evaluate candidates. Applicants are individually rated and scored, based upon the quality of the completed application and the phone interview. After the phone interview, all candidates will be contacted within 2-4 weeks, and both accepted and rejected applicants will be notified.

Does Dolphins Plus provide housing for interns?

Dolphins Plus does not provide housing; however, we assist with identifying and acquiring short-term rentals within walking, biking, and/or close driving distance of the facility. Most of the units are furnished, and typically range in price from \$700-\$1000/month. Often utilities are included in the cost of rent, but not always. Rentals without a full stove/oven typically provide a microwave, toaster oven, and/or a hotplate. Prices are subject to change, and shared rentals incur lower fees per individual.

Are interns expected to have a car if accepted into the program?

No, but a car does allow for more freedom and flexibility during an internship. Bike and car rentals are available through various companies in the Florida Keys if desired. Although not guaranteed, many participants have been willing to coordinate a carpool system amongst themselves to assist fellow interns.

What airports are located near Dolphins Plus?

Miami International Airport (MIA) is located approximately 60 miles north of Key Largo, and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) is about 90 miles north of Key Largo. The driving time from MIA to Dolphins Plus is approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes, and the drive from FLL is approximately 2 hours.

What transportation is available to and from the airports?

Dolphins Plus does not provide transportation to and from the airport. However, The Keys Shuttle (www.keysshuttle.com) hosts several trips daily to and from both Miami and Ft. Lauderdale airports to Key

Largo. Additionally, the Greyhound Bus (www.greyhound.com) offers multiple pick-up and drop-off options between the Miami airport and Key Largo. Taxis/Ubbers are also an option but can be more expensive.

Dolphins Plus Address:

101900 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037

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

The internships are unpaid positions that requires a 40-hr/week commitment, typically distributed across five, 8-hour days. Interns are required to take 2 days off each week.

What lunch options are available to interns?

Interns are welcome to bring their lunch to work. We have a staff refrigerator, microwave, and stove available to interns from 8:00am – 5pm every day. Since intern housing is typically located near the facility, some interns choose to go home for lunch. Interns are provided a 1 hour lunch break, usually between the hours of 11am-1pm.

What is the intern dress code? Should I bring a wetsuit/rain gear/warm clothing?

Each intern is provided with 5 Dolphins Plus intern t-shirts, which are a part of the required, daily attire. Interns have the option to purchase additional shirts at a discounted rate. In addition, each intern will be expected to wear black shorts (e.g. quick drying board shorts or workout shorts are recommended – jeans are not permitted) and durable, non-slip footwear (e.g. flip flops or Crocs/Tevas/Keens/Chacos). Female interns are required to wear full piece swimsuits ONLY (must cover the entire stomach and chest), and male interns may wear black or navy swim shorts/board shorts.

Interns will be exposed to the fish house, sun, and saltwater daily, as well as unpredictable, seasonal weather conditions. Thus, interns should be mindful of this when choosing their attire. Dolphins Plus strongly recommends that interns prepare for all weather conditions. Interns may bring a personal wetsuit, but Dolphins Plus has wetsuits available onsite. A personal raincoat is recommended year-round, and winter interns may want to consider bringing rubber boots and other warm weather gear.

What are the normal weather conditions in Key Largo for summer/fall/winter/spring?

MONTH: Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec

HIGH: 70 71 74 79 83 85 86 86 85 84 79 70 (F°)

LOW: 53 53 56 65 69 72 73 74 74 71 65 50 (F°)

Rain: 1 3 2 2 4 7 6 5 8 3 3 1 (inches)

Overall, Key Largo boasts beautiful, sunny weather for most of the year, but temperatures have been known to drop into the low 40's and 50's during a cold winter. Conversely, the summer months are characterized by high temperatures and humidity. There is usually an increase in rainfall beginning in late May. The official hurricane seasons begins June 1st and ends Nov. 30th, with the highest potential for storms occurring between August and October. Hurricane forecasts are monitored closely, and evacuation plans are in place in the event of a hurricane.

How much hands-on interaction with the animals should a Dolphins Plus intern expect?

As an Animal Care and Training intern you will have exposure to the animals when you assist the trainers during daily training session and guest interactions. However, significant time for our Animal Care interns is also spent in the fish kitchen conducting daily cleaning procedures and husbandry preparations.

As a Veterinary intern you will have exposure to the animals when you assist the veterinarians in rounds, sample collection and performing diagnostic techniques. However, significant time for our Veterinary interns is also spent in the lab processing and analyzing samples and assisting with record keeping.

Interactive time (and basic animal handling experience for animal care interns) with our dolphins is a privilege and earned as incentives for achieving curriculum goals.

Can an intern's family visit? Are discounts made available to interns and/or their family members while at Dolphins Plus?

Accepted interns may have their family visit Dolphins Plus/Dolphin Cove. Each intern will receive two (2) swim programs at a discounted price for family members, and additional swims may be purchased at the regular price. Interns also receive a 20% discount on all items in our gift shop for the duration of their internship.

Is obtaining college credit for my participation in the Dolphins Plus internship an option?

It may be possible to acquire academic credit from your hosting university for the Dolphins Plus Animal Care and Training or Veterinary internship. However, these opportunities and conditions vary among colleges and universities, and students are responsible for making these arrangements and providing the conditions for the receipt of academic credit prior to arriving on-site. Our Internship Coordinators will communicate with your professors as needed and will act as on-site advisors for the duration of your internship.