

## **INTERN FAQ'S**

Does Dolphins Plus Oceanside and Bayside provide housing for interns?

Dolphins Plus Oceanside and Bayside does not provide housing; however, we provide assistance with identifying and acquiring short-term rentals within walking and/or biking distance of the facility. Most of the units are furnished, include all utilities (except for internet access), and typically range in price from \$700-\$1000/month. Rentals without a full stove/oven 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 pay a fee to participate in the program?

There is no cost to participate in the internship programs offered at Dolphins Plus Oceanside and Bayside. 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.

Does Dolphins Plus Oceanside and Bayside consider international applicants?

Yes, international applicants are welcome to apply for the internship programs offered at Dolphins Plus Oceanside and Bayside, provided that all eligibility requirements are met. These requirements are detailed in the Animal Care Veterinary/Internship/Research Internship descriptions on our website.

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. Important weekly excursions, such as trips to the grocery store, will be organized by the Internship Coordinators. Bike and car rentals are available through various companies in the Florida Keys. Intern on-site residences will be within walking distance to Dolphins Plus Oceanside and Bayside and many other local amenities (e.g. Starbucks, Walgreens, and many restaurants).

What airports are located near Dolphins Plus Oceanside and Bayside?

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 Oceanside and Bayside 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](http://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](http://www.greyhound.com)) offers multiple pick-up and drop-off options between the Miami airport and Key Largo. Taxis are also an option but are very expensive.

How many internship positions are available?

We host approximately 2 veterinary interns per session. Acquiring an intern position is very competitive, but we do our best to accommodate as many qualified applicants as possible.

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.

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

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

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

It may be possible to acquire academic credit from your hosting university for the Dolphins Plus/Dolphin Cove internship. However, these opportunities and conditions vary among colleges and universities, and students are responsible for making these arrangements and clarifying 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.

Directions to Dolphins Plus Oceanside and Bayside:

Directions to Dolphins Plus can be found here:

<http://www.dolphinsplus.com/directions.htm>

However, we also encourage the use of Mapquest.com to locate our facilities.

Dolphins Plus Oceanside, 31 Corinne Place, Key Largo, FL 33037  
Dolphin Plus Bayside, 101900 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037

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 8:30 – 5 every day. Since intern housing is typically located within walking distance of the facility, some interns choose to go home for lunch.

What is the intern dress code? Wetsuit? Rain gear? Warm clothing?

Dolphins Plus Oceanside and Bayside will provide each intern with two, Dolphins Plus Oceanside and Bayside intern t-shirts, which are a part of the required, daily attire. Interns have the option to purchase additional shirts at a discounted rate. Each intern will be expected to wear black, navy, or grey shorts (e.g. board shorts, workout shorts, cotton), the intern t-shirt OR a solid color t-shirt or tank top (black, white, navy), and durable footwear (e.g. sandals, flip-flops, crocs). Female interns are required to wear full-piece swimsuits ONLY (must cover the entire stomach and chest), and male interns may wear black, navy, or grey swim shorts/board shorts (no Speedos or short/tight swimsuits). 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 Oceanside and Bayside 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?

**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 the majority 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 1<sup>st</sup> and ends Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.

What are some veterinary intern daily responsibilities?

- Assist veterinary staff with daily operations and procedures, included but not limited to:
- Laboratory result data entry and veterinary medical record entry
  1. Collecting, or assisting with the collection of, biological samples from husbandry collection
- Administering, or dispensing to Husbandry staff for administration, medications according to the Veterinarian's prescriptions
- Laboratory procedures: assisting diagnostic clinical and gross pathology procedures including complete blood counts, blood chemistry analysis, microbiological sample collection and cultures, cytology, parasite screening and identification and necropsy techniques
- Assisting in the transportation of animals
- Sample Processing and helping with submission to outside laboratories
- Facility and equipment cleaning, maintenance, and organization
- Maintaining biohazardous waste disposal program
- Assisting in medical Procedures
- Performing rounds with staff veterinarian
- Participating in water quality and fish diet preparation training
- Performing other duties as needed
- Participating in a comprehensive lecture series and complete relevant exams to evaluate progress

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

As a veterinary intern you will have exposure to the animals when you assist the veterinarians in sample collection and diagnostic techniques performed. A significant time for our veterinary interns is spent in the lab processing and analyzing samples or in the vet office with record keeping and rounds.

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

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.