INTERN FAQ’S

Does Dolphins Plus/Dolphin Cove provide housing for interns?

Dolphins Plus/Dolphin Cove 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-$950/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/Dolphin Cove. 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/Dolphin Cove consider international applicants?

Yes, international applicants are welcome to apply for the internship programs offered at Dolphins Plus/Dolphin Cove, provided that all eligibility requirements are met. These requirements are detailed in the Animal Care 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/Dolphin Cove and many other local amenities (e.g. Starbucks, Walgreens, and many restaurants).

What airports are located near Dolphins Plus/Dolphin Cove?

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/Dolphin Cove 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 are also an option but are very expensive.

How many internship positions are available?

We host approximately 3-5 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/Dolphin Cove?

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/Dolphin Cove 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/Dolphin Cove:

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, 31 Corinne Place, Key Largo, FL 33037
Dolphin Cove, 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/Dolphin Cove will provide each intern with two, Dolphins Plus/Dolphin Cove 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/Dolphin Cove 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?

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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 season begins June 1st and ends November 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.

What are some animal care and training intern daily responsibilities?
Interns assist with diet preparation and sanitation (e.g. preparing daily meals for the resident animal population, cleaning the fish kitchen, cleaning and maintaining refrigerators and freezers), interacting with/educating guests (including providing educational briefings and answering guest inquiries), assisting trainers with a variety of needs, and helping in the photo department. Additionally, interns frequently assist trainers during animal training and husbandry sessions.

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

Both the animal care and research internships are based upon a reward system. The privileges each intern receives, including animal interactions and assisting with training sessions, will be granted based upon the performance of the individual. Interns are provided with the appropriate tools to gain a vast amount of knowledge, as well as the opportunity to shine. The Coordinators will ensure that each intern is rewarded appropriately for his/her efforts.

Do interns train the animals?

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 with different types of sessions (e.g. guest interactions, husbandry, and enrichment).

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

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.

What is the likelihood of obtaining a job at Dolphins Plus/Dolphin Cove post-internship?

Dolphins Plus/Dolphin Cove has hired several interns over the past decade, some of which are your Internship Coordinators. Within the industry, internships provide an opportunity for individuals to engage in what essentially becomes a prolonged “interview” with the facility. It is a perfect time for the intern to get to know the facility, and for the supervisors to evaluate potential candidates, but there are no guarantees regarding employment.