



NATIONAL AQUARIUM IN BALTIMORE.

Conservation Education Department
Pier 3, 501 East Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Ask the Aquarium

*Fact Sheets from the
Conservation Education Department*

Careers at the National Aquarium in Baltimore

What are some of the different careers at the National Aquarium in Baltimore?

In general, the following positions require at least a four-year degree in biology, zoology, or a related field, and practical knowledge and experience.

Husbandry

They are responsible for maintaining the animal collection. They are involved in all aspects of care such as exhibit cleanliness, food preparation, monitoring animal health, medical treatments, acquisition of new animals, exhibit design and installation, behavioral training, breeding, and record keeping.

Positions include:

Aquarists: Responsible for all aquatic systems, both freshwater and marine. This position often requires SCUBA certification.

Aviculturists: Maintain the Aquarium's bird collection.

Herpetologists: Care for the Aquarium's reptile, amphibian, and invertebrate collection.

Marine Mammal Trainers: Care for the Atlantic bottlenose dolphins. These positions require SCUBA certification and public speaking skills.

Conservation Technicians

Working with volunteers to restore and monitor tidal wetland and sea grass habitats at various locations throughout the Chesapeake Bay is the job of conservation technicians. They also coordinate school-based wetland nursery programs and participate in



Career opportunities exist in many fields at zoos and aquariums, like the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

community outreach designed to educate the public about wetland conservation.

Conservation Education

Education staff are responsible for teaching others about marine biology through formal education programs, visitor interactions, public presentations, and exhibitry. By sharing this knowledge, educators strive to promote environmental stewardship.

Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians

The health of the entire animal collection is extremely important. They perform "rounds" every week, talking to the husbandry staff to correct any existing health problems and prevent future ones from occurring. They make diagnoses, recommend treatments, and perform surgeries, preventive tests, and physicals. Veterinarians have a doctorate in animal medicine and also specialized training. Veterinary technicians have a two or four year spe-

cialized degree and license.

Water Quality Technicians

Good animal care begins with clean water. Water quality technicians use specialized laboratory equipment to monitor aquarium water for dissolved oxygen levels, ammonia levels, nitrate levels, temperature, and salinity. They work with aquarist staff to ensure that the water composition is both healthy and safe for aquarium animals.

FAQ's

Does the National Aquarium in Baltimore provide job shadowing opportunities and staff interviews?

Unfortunately, the National Aquarium in Baltimore does not provide job shadowing opportunities or grant interviews due to the overwhelming number of requests we receive. However, we do offer programs, such as Career Workshops and Immersion Tours, where students have an opportunity to interact with our staff. These programs are listed under the "Programs and Events" section of our website at www.aqua.org/calendar.html

Do you recommend a certain college for students interested in careers in the marine sciences?

Simply put, no. There are many factors to consider when choosing a college. It's important to remember that you will do best at a school where you are happy. Some questions to ask include:

- ◆ What majors/programs/courses are you looking for?
- ◆ What resources or marine research/nature centers are available?
- ◆ How far away from home do you want to be?
- ◆ How large of a school do you

want?

Our animal care staff have attended a wide variety of colleges and universities. There is no one school that we can recommend. Taking science classes in high school, such as Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, and math classes, like Algebra, Trigonometry, and Calculus, will help you to prepare for college.

What are some ways I can gain experience in a marine science career?

1) Summer Student Volunteer Program for Maryland high school students who have completed 9th grade and one biology class. See side bar for more information.

2) Internship for College Students offers unpaid internships to college students (both undergraduate and graduate students) in 16 areas. See side bar for more information.

3) Veterinary Preceptorship/ Externship students is specifically designed for 3rd Year Vet students with an interest in Aquatic and Exotic Animal Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, and Environmental Medicine. Inquiries may be directed to the Medical Assistant, Dr. Michele Martin, at mmartin@aqua.org.

4) Volunteering at the Aquarium requires a one-year commitment to the program and the equivalent of 4 hours of work per week. More information on the volunteer program can be found on our website www.aqua.org/volunteer.html.

5) Visit our employment page at www.aqua.org/employment.html. You can view positions that are currently open and post your resume for future openings.

Career Resources

American Federation of Aviculture

www.afa.birds.org

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

www.asih.org/pubs/ichjobs.htm

American Veterinary Medical Association

www.avma.org.

National Marine Educators Association

www.marine-ed.org.

Society for Marine Mammalogy

www.marinemammalogy.org

Society for the Study of Amphibian and Reptiles

www.ssarherps.org

Opportunities at the National Aquarium in Baltimore

Career Workshops and Immersion Tours

These programs are listed under the "Programs and Events" section of our website at www.aqua.org/calendar.html.

Internships for college students

are available in 16 Aquarium departments. www.aqua.org/students_internships.html

Summer Student Volunteer Program

Applications available through your science teacher or science department chair or contact the volunteer office www.aqua.org/volunteer.html.