

Q: When is the deadline for receipt of applications?

A: This year's deadline is March 16, 2008. All applications must be POSTMARKED no later than March 16, 2008.

Q: How will the start date for the internship be determined?

A: Start date is determined on an individual basis by the divisions. They usually accommodate the students' schedules without any problem.

Q: Are letters of reference required or advised?

A: One letter of reference is REQUIRED, and more may be submitted.

Q: Is the summer research fellowship full-time or part-time?

A: Your position as a student intern will not be classified as an employee of the Zoological Society of San Diego; it is classified as an unpaid intern with a stipend at the Beckman Center for Conservation Research. You are required to work a total of 480 hours during the course of your 12-week internship. You are expected to work eight hours per day five days a week (Monday through Friday) for a total of 40 hours per week.

Q: Will I have holidays/days off?

A: This cannot be assumed and should be worked out in advance with the division staff.

Q: Would you be able to facilitate/provide me with contact information for other people taking the summer internship so we might be able to find an apartment together?

A: Intern contact information is shared (phone, email, address) so that as soon as possible you can all be in contact with each other.

Q: How available is public transport to the lab?

A: Public bus #386 stops at the Wild Animal Park/Beckman Center. Parking for private vehicles is also available at the Beckman Center.

Q: How do I find out more information about specific research projects, such as data collection techniques?

A: Specific research projects are not chosen until the fellow is chosen, meets with the division head and other employees within the division, and discussion ensues. Information about ongoing projects in each division is available at [www.zooconservation.org](http://www.zooconservation.org)

Q: Is housing provided?

A: Housing is not provided, but is generally available through Craig's List San Diego or other online sources.

Q: Do you require specific core biology courses for summer research fellows?

A: There are no required courses for summer research fellows.

Q: How do I find out about typical duties of research fellows?

A: Duties will be spelled out by division heads once the specific research project is agreed upon, but will typically involve the application of standard laboratory or field techniques to conservation questions.

Q: Do you have any other suggestions for gaining experience or education that would make my application competitive for the fellowship program?

A: Volunteer in a research lab on campus or in industry and/or volunteer on a field project. Many colleges and universities have opportunities for students to volunteer in the field or in the lab with graduate students and/or professors. Gain as much hands-on research experience as possible!

Q: How can I make my application more likely to succeed?

A: Obtain more research experience (field and/or lab), provide strong letters of recommendation, keep grades high, and write a thoughtful and meaningful statement of interest that is relevant to the types of research that go on at CRES. Things to include that are helpful: details of interests that separate you from the large group of applicants that “like animals” and want to contribute to conservation; scientific interests; details of practical experience; independent work skill a strong commitment to learning about research design, data collection and analysis, and disseminating results in the form of presentations and publications.

Q: Can course credit be obtained through the internship program?

A: No credit can be obtained through this internship program, unless home campuses consider it worthy of credit. This is something that interns would need to arrange on their own.

Q: How will I know that I have been accepted into the program?

A: An official offer is sent within two weeks of verbal contact and acceptance.

Q: Is there an orientation to the program for incoming fellows?

A: There will be a social gathering with all of the interns early in the internship and others throughout the internship. There are also presentation days for interns to share their work, as well as monthly all-staff meetings.

Q: Can international students apply for the internship program?

A: Yes, national as well as international students are encouraged to apply.

Q: What is the dress code at CRES?

A: Casual business attire is acceptable while in the Beckman Center. Depending on if you will be working in animal enclosures or laboratories (for example: you must wear closed toe shoes in labs), there may be other requirements; you will be told about this during discussions with the division head.

Q: What supplies should we consider bringing?

A: If you have a laptop computer, that would be useful. You will have access to an Internet connection, and it would make data collection and analysis easier. If not, there are usually division laptops that will be available most of the time.

Q: Do we receive extra passes for visiting the zoo or Wild Animal Park?

A: Each summer intern is given four passes to that can be used at either the San Diego Zoo Wild Animal Park.

Q: What are the details of the student presentations?

A: Dates are based on when the students start/end their fellowships at CRES, and based on availability of the meeting room. The presentations are 10 to 15 minutes long, and if the two students in your division are working together on a project, then their presentations may be combined. Presentations follow a potluck and outside guests may be invited.