



Dolphin Encounters & Blue Lagoon Island – Internship FAQ's

We know you have questions! Please take a few minutes to review our most common questions for student internships. If you need more information, please contact Education at 242-359-0278 or education@dolphinencounters.com.

Who can apply for an internship? This program is designed for young adults, 16 and older, that are enrolled or recent graduates of high school or college.

How long can I participate in an internship? The internship program has a minimum of one week and a maximum of four weeks. As a tourist, you are limited to 30 days of travel in The Bahamas.

Do you have paid internships? No, the internship program is NOT employment. The program is a 5-day guest program for local and international students to gain insight into animal care, training & education.

When is the internship program offered? The program is offered Monday - Friday all year long.

How many interns are accepted per week? Three.

Is there a deadline for applying? No, applications are accepted all year long. Space is subject to availability so if you have preferred dates, we recommend you apply as soon as possible.

What do I do if I have a special project or am seeking school credit? We will do our best to incorporate special projects or school requirements into your internship. You must supply all supporting documents with your application. All research projects have to be approved by our Research Committee.

How do I know if my application has been received? You will be contacted within 3 business days of your application being received by email or fax. If you have not been contacted, send an email to education@dolphinencounters.com to inquire if it has been received or its current status.

Is the phone interview required? Yes, your application is only complete with the phone interview. The sooner this is completed, the more quickly you can secure your dates.

What forms of payment are accepted? Payment can be made by credit card form or certified/personal cheque to our Fort Lauderdale Office. Cheques are accepted if payment is made TWO weeks in advance of the booked program. If you plan on paying locally, payment can be made in cash, credit card (with ID) or certified cheque. Personal cheques are not accepted for local payment.

Do you refund students that don't show? No, tickets are non-refundable.

Where should I stay? We recommend that you check out a variety of options, including hotels, condos, bed & breakfast or house rentals. Prices vary widely during the year. If staying in Nassau, we would not recommend staying beyond the Cable Beach Area as the commute becomes much longer. If staying on Paradise Island, you will be within walking distance of the ferry terminal. If you are concerned about safety or cleanliness of your hotel, you may contact Education for information on hotels we would not recommend or check on Trip Advisor.

Is transportation included? No, all students must provide their own transportation, including airlines, taxi, bus service, etc. If staying at a local hotel, you may be able to schedule low-cost round-trip bus services with our contracted vendor, Mr. Johnson's Bus Service. If needed, please ask for more details. If you are staying on Paradise Island, you will be able to walk from your hotel to the Paradise Island Ferry Terminal.

Are there any travel requirements? Citizens from most countries are not required to have a VISA to enter The Bahamas. Please check on-line with your embassy for further details. You will need a valid passport, address of your lodgings, and proof of airline arrangements to leave the country within 30 days after arrival. Please do NOT use the words "INTERNSHIP" or "WORK" when you enter through Bahamas Immigration as these are going to be confused with persons seeking paid employment in The Bahamas. You are a tourist on vacation with a ticket for an activity on Blue Lagoon Island.

Are professional photos available? Each internship program includes two photos per week OR options to purchase photos. Please see the Photo Souvenir Flyer for additional services.

What should I wear? Students should be prepared to go in the water or get wet at all times. We recommend: sandals, swimsuit, towel and a dry change of clothes. You will be provided with 2 t-shirts for each week of your program, a rain poncho, and use of a company wetsuit, mask & snorkel, and gloves for water activities. Please see the Uniform Guidelines for full details of acceptable clothing and accessories. Other items: sunscreen, rashguard, hat, and warm layers if weather is cool.

What happens if it rains? Programs go rain or shine. Rain can be frequent or heavy. Refunds will ONLY be offered if the decision to cancel due to extreme weather conditions is made by Dolphin Encounters.

Is the boat ride included? Yes, round-trip transportation is provided from Paradise Island to Blue Lagoon.

What do I do when I get to the Paradise Island ferry terminal? The Intern Coordinator or Education Supervisor will be there before 7:30 AM to greet you and answer any questions before you board the tender.

What happens if I am late? Tenders will NOT be held up for late students. You will need to contact Education by phone, email, text or what's app as soon as you know that you will not be on a scheduled tender.

Are the boats safe? Yes, our professional double-decker catamarans are operated by certified captains and mates and are equipped with proper facilities for guest comfort and safety.

Are wetsuits provided? Yes! Wetsuit rentals are FREE.

Can I play in the Aquapark & Bounce Parks at Blue Lagoon on my lunch break? Approval for interns to use guest areas at Blue Lagoon during the lunch break must be obtained from the Beach Manager.

Does my program include any food? No, interns are responsible for their own food & beverage. However, you will be able to purchase individual items and lunch at available staff rates.

Can I bring my own food? Yes, you may bring your own food and beverage to the island. There is access to a refrigerator and microwave on the island.

How much should I plan for food costs each day? We recommend that you plan \$20-\$25 a day.

Is there a secure area for my belongings on the island? Yes, each intern is issued a full-size locker and combination lock to use during their internship. Dolphin Encounters is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

What are interns allowed to do with the animals? Interns will assist qualified trainers in training sessions which may include husbandry behaviors, new training, program behaviors or research. For safety reasons, ONLY qualified DE trainers are allowed to feed or train the animals for any behaviors. Training sessions are subject to reservations and the goals of the supervisor and trainer for each session.

Are there any extra credit opportunities in the program? Yes, animal training interns can select from a number of merit badges, each with its own requirements for completion, including Dolphin Specialist, Sea Lion Specialist and Touch Tank Specialist.

What documents do I earn through my internship? Each intern receives a program evaluation, certificate of completion and (pending favorable evaluation) letter of recommendation, detailing the tasks of the program. These are valuable documents that can supplement your resume in pursuing a marine career.

Can I come to the island on weekends or dates outside of my internship? Yes, you may purchase tickets for any activities on the island at local rates. Tickets are required for all persons to visit Blue Lagoon Island.

Can we bring family members or friends to the island? Yes, your family or friends may purchase tickets for any island activity, however they may not shadow you through any internship activities. You may spend time with them on the island during your lunch break only.

What time will I come back from the island? Interns are scheduled to leave on the 4pm tender, regardless if the island is still open for other guest programs. If you need to leave early (1pm or 2pm), you will need to notify the Education Supervisor.

What happens if I am injured or sick? In the event you are ill, please contact the Intern Coordinator and let her know that you will not be participating that day. In the event you need to see a doctor for injury or illness, your choices of local care are walk-in clinics, the private hospital or public hospital. You will need to be prepared to pay for any health services and should carry your health insurance card in the event you need it. Dolphin Encounters will assist you getting to your chosen care provider based on the situation.

What circumstances would terminate my internship? Weapons, theft, alcohol, profanity or physical altercation with other guests or staff are strictly prohibited. If there are unexcused lates, incidents of an intern not reporting to a designated area, or a violation of any of the Animal Training Safety Standards, the internship may be terminated without refund.

What do I do if I want to purchase photos after I go home? Contact Education and they will help you with your choices and order form.

Do I need to submit a new application if I have already successfully completed an internship? If you had a favorable evaluation for your last internship, you only need to email a request to the Intern Coordinator or Education Supervisor to reapply. If you had a substandard evaluation, you will not be considered for an additional internship.