Sea Grant Marine Education Internships for 2013 - 2014

The University of Georgia's Marine Education Center and Aquarium (MECA) offers annual post-baccalaureate internships in marine education. Interns train and work for 50 weeks at MECA, near Savannah, Georgia. Four interns will be selected for the period of September 4, 2012 - August 15, 2013. Salary is $8.14 per hour. On-site housing is required. Marine Education internships salaries are supported through the Georgia Sea Grant College Program.

The Marine Education Center and Aquarium is located on the north end of Skidaway Island on a 1,718-acre tract owned by the University System of Georgia. This property lies along the Skidaway River and Intracoastal Waterway and is composed of nearly 700 acres of maritime forest and open field, 1,000 acres of salt marsh, and 18 acres of freshwater ponds. MECA serves as the education arm of the Marine Extension Service and a Public Service and Outreach unit of the University of Georgia. Our mission is to develop the public's understanding and appreciation of coastal marine environments in the state of Georgia, and to foster respect for the beauty and complexity of these environments. Our user groups are PK-12 students and teachers, undergraduate/graduate students, and the general public.

Sea Grant Marine Education internships are designed for recent college graduates (with a BS in Biology) who would like some teaching experience in marine science and coastal ecology. The internships provide a transitional period between college and permanent professional positions or graduate work. Interns live on site for 50 weeks in studio apartments provided rent-free by MECA. Meals are available without charge in the cafeteria whenever visiting groups are on campus. The internship includes a variety of teaching opportunities: in the salt marsh and maritime forest, on the beaches of developed and pristine barrier islands (Tybee and Wassaw), on research vessels, and in well equipped plankton, fish and invertebrate labs. Interns begin to teach after a 6-8 week training period. They are also responsible for maintaining touch tank animals, working in the aquarium 1-2 Saturdays a month, and assisting staff in other areas of operation where necessary. During the winter months, each intern also completes an education project.

MECA provides year-round residential and day programs. Student groups (grades 5-college) make arrangements for half, full, or multi-day experiences at the MECA facility. Two-hour day programs provide hands on lessons for grades PK-4. The facility also offers outreach to schools and provides public programming on site and at coastal festivals. Summer months are filled with marine science camps for ages 4-15 and teacher/graduate workshops. All MECA education programs are described with more detail elsewhere on this website.

The MECA facility is unique. Although the outdoor classroom is our most important teaching space, the main building houses a small public aquarium containing indigenous fish, invertebrate and reptile species, teaching laboratories, multipurpose classrooms, an auditorium, and flow-through touch tank rooms. The small public aquarium is used daily as a teaching classroom, but does not house marine mammals or marine mammal research activities. Although we spend a great deal of teaching time on the water, we do not SCUBA or snorkel. The rest of MECA's facilities include nature trails and observation platforms, docks and vessels (43 ft trawler and skiffs), an 88 bed dormitory, and a full service cafeteria. Other institutions sharing the campus include the UGA Shellfish Research Laboratory, UGA Marine Science Library, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, NOAA's Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, and Georgia Southern University Applied Coastal Research Laboratory.

Application deadline for the 2013-2014 academic year is 4:00 pm EST April 5, 2011. Early application is encouraged, since applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

**Internship Qualifications:**

Please read the following information thoroughly. If you do not meet the following requirements your application will not be considered. Strong applicants will demonstrate to the intern selection committee that she/he has the following qualifications:
• An undergraduate degree in biological science or science education, from an accredited college or university, awarded since May 2012. Degree must be awarded before internship begins on September 3, 2013. Applicants with graduate degrees or previous multiple internships are not eligible for this program.
• Training or experience in marine science courses (e.g. biology, marine biology, marine science, ecology, invertebrate zoology, and ichthyology) is required.
• Some previous experience teaching or working with children/students is required.
• Physical ability to carry out internship duties to include teaching outdoors during hot summers and cold winters and lifting objects up to 50 lbs.
• Fluency in English - bilingual applicants (English/Spanish) are encouraged to apply.
• U.S. citizenship or U.S. work visa. If selected, MECA will provide intent to employ documents for visa application. Background checks are required for University of Georgia employment.

Application Packet Instructions:

Emailed, faxed, incomplete, or late applications will not be considered. Complete application packets must arrive by mail no later than 4:00 pm EST on April 5, 2012.

Mail complete application packets to:
Intern Search Committee
UGA Marine Education Center & Aquarium
30 Ocean Science Circle
Savannah, GA 31411

A complete application packet must include (with no exceptions):

• A one page cover letter (12 point font, 1 inch margins) briefly describing your past experience as it relates to the internship qualifications and your future goals.
• A full résumé describing your academic background and work experience. Include contact information for three personal/professional references. Be sure to include email addresses and an alternate phone number where you may be reached easily.
• An official transcript of your college/university work, including courses in progress (if applicable). If your college or university is not in the U.S., an explanation of the grading system must be included. Any material not in English must include a translation.
• Three letters of recommendation from the individuals listed in your résumé. Letters should either be mailed directly to the selection committee by these individuals, or if included in your application packet, placed in a sealed envelope signed by the referring individual. Emailed or faxed letters will not be accepted.
  NOTE: The three letters of recommendation must arrive by the April 5 deadline.

Members of the intern selection committee will contact finalists for telephone interviews. The interview process will be completed and internship positions offered by late May, 2012.