JELLYFISH AQUACULTURE INTERNSHIP AT THE MAST CENTER

The Marine Science and Technology Center (MaST) is the marine laboratory for Highline College and is the only facility of its kind in King and Pierce County. The MaST Center is dedicated to expanding knowledge about the Puget Sound and the surrounding environment through teaching, outreach, and research. Our Jelly Team raises 2 species of jellyfish in the lab for our aquarium and for research purposes; the Moon Jelly (*Aurelia labiata*) and the Egg Yolk Jelly (*Phacellophora camtschatica*). Gelatinous zooplankton are indicator species of ocean health, allowing our Jelly Team to collect baseline data of these 2 species to better understand how they react to change in the ocean.

The Jelly Team has developed as a program from a one tank, live catch system, to a multi-tank and life stage operation. Currently we maintain 3,000-10,000 jellies at any given time in approximately ten separate tanks. The team has been experimenting with in vitro fertilization and spawning techniques as well as best practices of raising fully-grown medusa from polyps. We are currently looking to expand our program to include three new species of jellyfish that have not yet been previously cultured in a lab setting. We are also hoping to expand our program to collect data on how wild jellies cope with climate change.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Internships at the MaST Center are geared towards college students and recent graduates who are interested in gaining valuable hands-on experience in the lab. Candidates should have a strong career interest in aquaculture or marine biology. All applicants should be organized, self-motivated and have excellent people skills. Please note, this is an unpaid internship.

NO SPECIFIC EXPERIENCE NECESSARY; ALL TRAINING PROVIDED.
JOB DUTIES

You will learn aquaculture techniques, aquarium maintenance, water chemistry, veterinary duties, tank engineering, and planktonic marine biology. The internship will focus on two species of jellies (Aurelia labiata and Phacellophora camtschatica) through their entire life cycle.

COMMITMENT

The internship is 3 months in length. A commitment 3-5 hours for 1 or 2 days per week is required for the duration of the internship. Exact times are flexible and are determined by the needs of the program. Successful interns have the option to continue with the program after the conclusion of their internship.

ELIGIBILITY/REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for this position you must:

• Currently enrolled in a college institution or a recent college graduate
• Coursework in biology or zoology related field is preferred
• Be capable of lifting 50 pounds, climb a 6ft ladder, walking on uneven and slippery surfaces, and able to handle repetitive bending, pushing, pulling, and carrying
• Note: this position requires interns to work in all weather conditions including heat, humidity, rain, wind and cold
• (optional) Field and laboratory research experiences are a plus

APPLICATION PROCESS

• Submit a cover letter (including your career goals). In your letter include preferred start and stop dates
• Submit a résumé/curriculum vitae including 3 professional references
• Undergo a phone or on-site interview—pending review of your application

Applications should be sent to citizenscience@highline.edu with a subject line of “Jelly Team Internship Application.” Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed during the last two weeks of each month. Successful applicants will start on the 1st of each new month.

Check us out on social media and online at mast.highline.edu

MaST Center, 28203 Redondo Beach Dr. S., Des Moines, WA, 98198