Marine mammal intern program

- Applicants are invited for a marine mammal internship at Fjord&Bælt in Kerteminde, Funen, Denmark.

Internship goal

- Learn the daily tasks at a marine mammal facility, daily cleaning, maintenance and fish sorting
- Learn about and participate in the care of the marine mammal collection
- Learn about the basic animal training theories while gaining some practical experience in how to maintain a few basic behaviours
- Acquire knowledge about marine mammals in general
- Guest outreach according to your language knowledge and our visiting guest

Working environment

1. Fjord&Bælt is a marine education centre which opened in 1997, created to combine research, public exhibition, aquariums, and education on marine issues. The Kerteminde Fjord, the Danish Belts, and their marine life are the common denominators for all the activities. The center is visited by 50,000 guests each year and has a staff of 15 full-time staff, not including the many interns and part-time staff. The seal and porpoise enclosures is a part of Kerteminde fjord. It means that the animals are living outside in natural sea water and the enclosure is separated from the harbour by a net.

2. The Research department consists of 3 harbour porpoises, 5 harbour seals and a team composed of four trainers. Danish and foreign interns assist in the daily care. The harbour porpoises and seals are trained both for voluntary husbandry behaviours, research training and public presentations.

3. The harbour porpoises are the main focus of the research and are one of the main attractions. The harbour porpoise research aims to enhance knowledge of sensory systems and behaviour and to investigate methods of reducing bycatch. By having the porpoises at Fjord&Bælt we are also able to create awareness and educate the public about the harbour porpoise's plight in the wild. International research co-operation is currently carried out with institutions from many different countries.

4. Fjord&Bælt is located in Kerteminde, Denmark. Kerteminde is located 20 km from Odense, the third largest city in Denmark (200.000 inhabitants) on the island of Funen, and has a population of approx. 8,000. It is two hours via public transportation from Copenhagen, the Danish capital. Historically, Kerteminde is one of the last functioning fishing villages in Denmark and one of the larger tourist sites with its old Danish architecture and attractive beaches.

Type of employment

- Duties will be mainly to participate in the daily care/maintenance of the animal facilities and in the fish kitchen. This will involve fish sorting, a lot of cleaning, maintenance of animals and guest areas, assist in for ex. public presentations, research training and various centre activities. With time you will start working with our animals and also learn how to maintain a few basic behaviours. How far you will reach depends on your own interest/commitment and how much time you invest in the internship.

Experience

- is preferred, but not required, that applicants have some experience with animal husbandry.

Terms and Expectations of Internship

- Internships are unpaid and lodging is not provided.
- Applicants must commit to a minimum of 6 months fulltime internship and can apply for up to a year.
- Working hours are around 37 hours per week, variable hours, including weekends and holidays. During the internship you would work around half of the weekends. Important to know is that work with animals is every day/ 365 a year and includes Christmas, New Year's etc. We work from 8 to 16 o'clock but some days we need to start earlier or stay longer.
- Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age. The applicant should show a good deal of personal involvement, responsibility and the ability to work harmoniously in a small international team.
- Applicants have to be able to speak and write English fluently. Some knowledge of Danish and German is helpful, but not necessary.

We offer

- Pleasant working atmosphere among a young, dynamic, and open- minded team.
- Nice working environment in a modern facility.
- We provide with uniform pieces like t-shirts, long sleeves, sweeter and rain clothes. For ex. shoes and pants you bring your self.
- Coverage by Fjord&Bælt's accident insurance during working hours
- Experience of the daily care of harbour porpoises and harbour seals
- Hands on experience with the very basics of animal training

Application

- The application should include a C.V., a statement of interest and a minimum of one letter of recommendation. The application should be emailed to the trainer, Christina Andersen - Christina@fjordbaelt.dk with the mention of "Application for Internship"

- Further Information Further information about the position may be obtained from trainer Christina Andersen by email to Christina@fjordbaelt.dk