



## **IMMS Animal Training Internship Frequently Asked Questions**

*Does IMMS provide housing for interns?*

IMMS does not provide housing. However, following acceptance, IMMS staff will assist interns in finding rooms available to rent, usually with other staff members.

*Do interns need to have a car if accepted into the program?*

No, but a car is a practical option as most shopping locations in Gulfport are not within walking/biking distance. Having your own car would allow you to have more freedom and flexibility.

*Does IMMS consider international students?*

IMMS will accept international applicants; however, the applicant is responsible for obtaining the correct visa/passport (if required). IMMS will NOT sponsor visas and it is your responsibility to obtain your own visa and sponsor. Applicants must be able to obtain their visa before the start date of the internship. Interns must be able to read, write, and speak fluent English.

*Where is IMMS located?*

IMMS is located in the heart of the gulf coast. Our facility is located off Hwy 605, along the industrial canal in Gulfport, Mississippi. Our facility can be seen on Google maps.

Institute for Marine Mammal Studies  
10801 Dolphin Lane  
Gulfport, MS 39503

*What airports are near the IMMS facility?*

Gulfport-Biloxi International airport (GPT) is located less than 10 miles from the IMMS facility. New Orleans and Mobile airports are approximately 70 miles from Gulfport as well. IMMS staff will help you coordinate flights and transportation from the airport.

*Can interns receive school credit for the internship?*

University accreditation for completion of the internship program must be coordinated by the student through his/her school. IMMS will provide validation of participation upon completion.

*Does IMMS offer medical insurance?*

Medical Insurance is not provided by IMMS. Should any incident take place you will be responsible for payment or insurance coverage.

*What is the dress code?*

IMMS will provide interns with 3 intern t-shirts. Additional clothing may be purchased at a discounted price. Each intern is responsible for bringing their own shorts/pants and footwear. A nylon water resistant short/pant of moderate length and fit is best. Comfortable rubber-soled foot wear that can get wet is preferable. FLIP FLOPS ARE NOT PERMITTED. Footwear must have a heel strap. Interns may need a full-piece swim suit, but it is not part of our daily uniform. Thick windbreaker type pants and jacket, rain jacket, waterproof shoes or rubber boots may be needed for cool and wet weather. Interns will be exposed to fish and salt water daily, as well as other seasonal weather conditions. Be mindful of this when choosing your attire.

*What hours will I work?*

Interns will typically work 40 hours a week from 8am-4pm, but that is subject to change.

*What do interns do for lunch?*

Bringing a lunch to work is the most preferred option for interns. A fridge and microwave are on site for everyone's use.

*How much hands on interaction are interns exposed to?*

Animal interactions are based upon a reward system. The amount of privileges that each intern receives, from animal interactions to assisting in training processes, will be rewarded based upon performance of the individual. Interns will be given the opportunity to show that they can work hard and handle responsibility. Intern coordinators will make sure that each individual is rewarded for his/her efforts.

*Do interns train the animals?*

To provide consistency for the animals at IMMS, interns are allowed to participate, upon approval, in training sessions as assistants, but are not allowed to directly train the animals.