

FAQ

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.

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.

Can interns complete a project during the internship?

No. At this time we are not set up for students to complete a project.

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. Unfortunately Gulfport is a spread out city with little city transportation. The best option for interns without a car is to work out car pool arrangements with staff members who will be living nearby.

What is the weather like in coastal Mississippi?

During the summer months the weather can be extreme with a high heat index and high humidity. The winter months are mild, typically in the 40's °F, with a slight possibility for snow. However, on the boat the wind chill is typically 20° colder.

What do interns do on boat trips and how often are boat trips?

On boat trips interns learn and record all data collection, use a YSI and GPS, and learn photo ID techniques. Boat trips are every week, once or twice a week into the Mississippi Sound.

What do interns do with Animal Care?

Interns will assist animal care with their daily duties. Interns will learn to prepare fish, clean fish buckets, clean bird cages, and assist with the feeding of sea turtles in rehabilitation.

What do interns do with Education?

The Education department provides public tours of our museum and touch pool room as well as giving a reptile talk, and leading to groups to see bird presentations and dolphin presentations. Interns will assist the education department with leading tour groups.

What do interns do with Strandings?

Interns will assist the stranding department in examining a marine mammal or sea turtle stranding, collecting samples, and recording all findings.

Does IMMS have marine mammals at the facility?

Yes. IMMS does have four resident Atlantic bottlenose dolphins and 4 resident California sea lions.

FAQ cont.

What are the current ongoing projects at IMMS?

IMMS has on several ongoing research projects involving dolphins and sea turtles. Our dolphin projects include Photo ID, Abundance, and Focal Follow of Atlantic bottlenose dolphins with in the Mississippi Sound. We have also satellite tagged several Kemp's ridley sea turtles and follow their day to day movement.

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. Your intern coordinator will help you coordinate flights and transportation from the airport.

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. It is recommended to get travelers insurance.

What is the dress code?

IMMS will provide interns with 3 intern/volunteer t-shirts. Additional clothing may be purchased at a discounted price. Each intern is responsible for bringing khaki shorts and/or pants for office attire, and appropriate clothing for outdoor work. **FLIP FLOPS ARE NOT PERMITTED**. Footwear must have a heel strap.

How many applicants are accepted each term?

IMMS offers 3 terms each year and we accept at least two interns per term.

Things to do in Gulfport?

The Mississippi Gulf Coast provides all sorts of entertainment. Below is a link to the areas Calendar of Events. <http://www.gulfcoast.org/events/>. Also, New Orleans, LA is only a 45 minute to 1 hour drive from Gulfport.