



Expectations, Roles, Responsibilities of AAUS Internship Hosts

Providing an Experience

AAUS internships are aimed at providing young divers with both a scientific diving experience and a research experience. The Dr. Lee H. Somers internship requires the host to provide an AAUS Scientific Diver training experience; the Mitchel Research internship does not, since prior training as an AAUS Scientific Diver is a prerequisite. These experiences may be provided by a single individual or by a team. The structure and function of the internship can be modified based upon the model and function of the host institution.

- Diving- Certification as an AAUS Scientific Diver is a primary goal of the Dr. Lee H. Somers internship, therefore the host must have the ability to provide a scientific diver training experience that meets or exceeds the 100hr requirements for AAUS Scientific Divers. Hosts are encouraged to provide other dive training opportunities as they are available (nitrox, drysuit, photography, divemaster/teaching, etc.)?
- Research- Experience in the field of underwater research is a primary goal of both internships. What practical research opportunities are available? Field? Laboratory? Collaborations/interactions with on-site and local graduate students, researchers, and scientific divers? Opportunities for posters, presentations, etc?

Resources to Consider

- Funding- as of 2018, interns are provided with a stipend of \$3000, split 50/50 between AAUS/OWUSS. Additional support from the internship host in the form of actual funding or waiver of fees, etc. is encouraged but not required. In general, the intern is expected to pay for actual expenses (lodging, food, travel expenses, course materials, etc.) from their stipend, but the host is encouraged to provide equipment, training, and other experiences free of charge.
- Facilities- availability of appropriate lodging, transportation, laboratory/office space, etc?
- Diving Equipment- most interns do not provide all diving equipment. Is host equipment available for use or rent? Are any equipment sponsorship opportunities available?
- Daily activities- it is best to plan and keep to a schedule, particularly if working with a group or if the intern will be 'shared' between a diving and a scientific host. While interns are expected to be self-sufficient, a reasonable amount of interaction and mentoring with the host is necessary.

Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society AAUS Internship Sponsor Addendum



Choosing an Intern

The AAUS host, or hosts, must work closely with the AAUS Scholarship Committee Chair to sort through the potential candidates and choose a candidate who will:

- Benefit the most from the opportunities available
- Be a good fit in the working environment of the host-institution
- Serve as a good representative of the host institution and sponsoring agencies

Intern Attributes

The desired attributes of potential interns may vary by host, but applicants should be self-motivated and able to work independently. Other factors to consider:

- Experience- the goal of the internship is to provide a learning experience. Candidates with a high level of experience may be attractive to some hosts, but this is not the goal of the internship.
- Interests- What professional interests does the candidate have? Does the host-institution possess the capacity to develop these interests? Does the candidate possess the capacity to benefit from what the host has available?
- Professional/Social attributes- a realistic accounting of the host working environment is imperative, so that appropriate social interaction and opportunities are available. A professional research laboratory with little to no opportunity for social interaction with peers may feel isolating for a college-aged intern. In contrast, interns may not fully recognize or develop professional attitudes and opportunities if the environment is too similar to their previous experiences (i.e. college).
- Transportation- does the intern have a car, or is a host-sponsored vehicle available for use? This is not a requirement of the internship, and may not be appropriate or necessary in all circumstances however; it is reasonable to consider that the intern will have the need or desire to travel off-site and if no other transportation is available, the host may feel obligated to provide assistance.

Expectations, Roles, Responsibilities of Intern

- See OWUSS Internship Manual

AAUS Symposium/ OWUSS Annual Awards

The interns and a representative from the host institution are generally invited and encouraged to attend both the AAUS Symposium and the OWUSS Awards weekend, and provide an update/presentation on their experiences.

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Contact List

- **OWUSS**
 - Internship Coordinator- Jenna Walker

- **AAUS**
 - AAUS Office- Heather Albright, aaus@disl.org
 - AAUS Internship Coordinator- Christopher Rigaud crigaud@maine.edu
 - AAUS Scholarship Chair- varies by year
 - Former Internship Hosts
 - 2017- C. McDonald, SIO; Marybeth Head, NOAA Corps
 - 2016- Scott Noakes, UGeorgia System
 - 2015/2014- Christopher Rigaud, UMaine
 - 2013- Val Hodges, Oregon Coast Aquarium
 - 2012/2011- Nate Schwarck, Shannon Pt. Marine Center
 - 2010- Christian McDonald, Scripps Inst. Ocenography