



## Serengeti-Park Department of Research

### Internship Program

#### Types of Internships

- A. Research internship
  - B. Zoology internship
  - C. Education internship
  - D. Veterinary internship
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#### **A. Research Internship, April to October**

Students will work with biologists and behavioral neuroscientist to learn about research in zoos. Students will gain hands-on experience collecting behavioral data, learn to manage and analyze their data, and receive training in public speaking and professional dissemination of scientific findings. Results from these projects may be used by zookeepers, veterinarians, and curators to inform management decisions and provide insight into the welfare of the animals in our care.

A summer internship schedule involves a minimum of 24 hours each week for up to 12 weeks. Our interns will serve a minimum of two full 8-hour days each week on site at the Serengeti-Park Hodenhagen to collect behavioral data (e.g., evaluate animal behavior using ethograms, assess animal enrichment protocols), analyze data, and attend meetings, etc. A minimum of 8 hours each week is required remotely for literature review and report writing.

Interns may also receive course credit for the internship from their respective institutes as arranged by the student and intern coordinator.

#### **Experience required**

Students currently enrolled in a university or institute are eligible to apply. They should have an interest in animal behavior research, have completed relevant course work (e.g., statistics, animal behavior, report writing), and/or have some applied research experience. Recently graduated students who are not continuing their education by the start of this internship are not eligible for the program.

*Students are responsible for all expenses associated with serving as an intern (i.e., housing, transportation, food, etc.). Interns are required to follow the health and safety policies of the Serengeti-Park Hodenhagen GmbH, as well as the policies of the research department.*

**Application Deadline: April 1 of each year**

#### **B. Zoology Internship, May to October**

Our goal is to provide qualified interns a hands-on introduction to basic animal husbandry and its role in improving the lives of animals in our care. Zoology Interns may work alongside our researcher,

curator, biologists, and animal keepers on rotation. Responsibilities include assisting with daily husbandry of hoofstock (e.g., rhinos, giraffes, antelopes) and primates (e.g., lemurs), helping with daily preparation of food and following proper nutrition and diet requirements, evaluating basic animal behavior and group dynamics using ethograms, assisting with record keeping and daily activity logs, planning and/or implementing animal enrichment, and observing animal training techniques. Interns should work cooperatively in a team environment, and maintain respectable behavior in the interaction with other keepers and the visitors.

Internships are for up to 12 weeks at a minimum of 20 hours per week. Students need to be associated with a university, institution or have at least 10 years of education (for example, secondary school) to be eligible for our zoology internship. Recently graduated students who are not continuing their education by the start of this internship are not eligible for the program.

Interns may also receive course credit for the internship from their respective institutes as arranged by the student and intern coordinator.

### **Experience required**

Zoo keeping is a physically demanding profession, and interns are subjected to a variety of physical and environmental challenges. Applicants must be willing and able to work in all types of weather, be able to lift at least 20kg, be observant, have strong verbal and written communication skills, be able to balance multiple assignments successfully, and show strong computer skills (E.g. with excel spreadsheet). The intern may also have experience with conducting ethograms on zoological animals (preferred, but not required). The intern must be able to drive vehicles of the safari park and be able to follow oral and/or written instructions.

*Students are responsible for all expenses associated with serving as an intern (i.e., housing, transportation, food, etc.). Interns are required to follow the health and safety policies of the Serengeti-Park Hodenhagen GmbH, as well as the policies of the research department.*

***Application Deadline: April 1 of each year***

## **C. Education Internship, May to October**

As an education intern, you will aid in sharing the global message of conservation represented by our animal ambassadors. Work alongside our “Safari-Schule” educators to assist with school tours and on-site programs for children and adults, special events planning (e.g. world animal days), and research and development of educational materials.

Interns must work a minimum of 20 hours a week, and at least one full 8-hour day over the course of the internship (up to 12 weeks).

### **Experience Required**

College student (at least one year of college completed) or recent graduate interested in pursuing a career in zoos, animal care or informal education. Preferred candidates will have worked or be working towards a degree in biology, zoology, animal behavior or any other related field (or is a (soon-to-be) teacher with experience with biology). Applicants should show strong observation and communication skills, may have experience in any kind of childcare (e.g., birthday tours in a park/zoo, baby-sitting, vacation jobs, trainers), an ability to work alone or in a group, an ability to think creatively and show critical thinking and good problem-solving skills.

*Students are responsible for all expenses associated with serving as an intern (i.e., housing, transportation, food, etc.). Interns are required to follow the health and safety policies of the Serengeti-Park Hodenhagen GmbH, as well as the policies of the research department.*

**Application Deadline: April 1 of each year**

## **D. Veterinary Internship, January to December**

The students work closely with the veterinarians at Serengeti Park to learn more about veterinary work in a zoo. The prevention and treatment of diseases, as well as a species-appropriate diet are of utmost importance for zoo animals. Accordingly, you will assist the veterinarians in the care and regular control of the animal population, the clinical examination of the animals and in the preparation of feeding plans. In addition, you will be trained in parasitology, which largely takes place in the veterinary practice.

We are looking for interns who are passionate about what they do and want to be actively involved in the work. You should also be a team player, as we will be working closely together during the internship. A weekly working time of 40 hours is expected.

### **Experience Required**

In principle, an internship is possible for all students of veterinary medicine, but primarily students from the 8th/9th semester are accepted in the practical year. Knowledge of clinical veterinary medicine, parasitology, infectious diseases, and animal nutrition is required. For undergraduate students, such an internship is not available. The duration of the internship should be at least 6 - 8 weeks (according to TappV §57).

*The costs incurred during the internship (e.g. accommodation, transport, meals, etc.) must be borne by the students themselves. The interns are obliged to follow the health and safety policies of Serengeti-Parks Hodenhagen GmbH, the policies of the research department, as well as the guidelines of the veterinary practice.*

**Application Deadline: not applicable**

### **Internship benefits**

- Learn and work alongside the animal park team in Germany's largest Safari Park.
- Access to the Serengeti-Park and a visitor pass is at no cost to the student.

### **Salary**

Unpaid

### **Duration of Internship**

Start and end dates are flexible but must be approved in advance. The duration of the internship is determined by the internship coordinator.

### **How to Apply**

#### **Application Packet Requirements:**

- Completed and signed application form

- Letter of intent stating what you hope to gain from the internship and what skills you will bring to the position (one page maximum).
- Current resume or CV (one page maximum)
- University or college transcript (unofficial copies are accepted). If you are in your bachelors, you could share only your certificate of matriculation.
- One letter of recommendation (**optional, but preferred**). It can be included in the packet or emailed separately to [i.azogu@serengeti-park.de](mailto:i.azogu@serengeti-park.de) with **Subject Line:** Recommendation Letter for "Name of Applicant"
- Please specify the length of your internship program.
- Please indicate which internship (research or zoology or education or veterinary) you are applying for.

Email all required documents to [i.azogu@serengeti-park.de](mailto:i.azogu@serengeti-park.de), paying close attention to the listed application deadlines. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. You will be notified if positions in the internships are no longer available.