**Mississippi State College of Veterinary Medicine**

**Marine Animal Veterinary Externship**

**About MSU College of Veterinary Medicine**

MSU CVM captures a unique balance of world class research in animal and public health, high quality learning experiences, and cutting-edge medical care, all with a family-like atmosphere. We have one of the largest team of aquatic animal health specialists among U.S. colleges of veterinary medicine. Our faculty specialize in bacteriology, virology, parasitology, toxicology, pathology, and immunology of aquatic organisms. To complement this team, MSU CVM has one of the largest groups of board-certified veterinary epidemiologists among U.S. colleges of veterinary medicine who help conduct outbreak investigations.

**Program Description**

MSU CVM is pleased to offer externships for veterinary students (preference given to third and fourth year students) and veterinary technician students with our faculty located at the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies (IMMS) in Gulfport, MS. Externs will work directly with the attending veterinarian, veterinary staff, and IMMS Stranding Department staff. Externs will receive varying degrees of exposure to marine mammals, sea turtles, elasmobranchs, birds, and reptiles. Seasonal variations in scheduling and training may occur, with an emphasis placed on different species at different times of the year. Externs will participate in many aspects of zoological and wildlife medicine including physical exams, minor surgical procedures, ultrasound, phlebotomy, gastroscopy, necropsies in both the field and laboratory, anesthesia,daily rounds, collecting diagnostic samples, and more. Externs may also have the opportunity to gain experience with animal trainers, researchers, and aquarists. There is no compensation offered to externs. Veterinary student externships are generally 3-4 weeks in duration and veterinary technician student externships are generally 2 weeks in duration.

**Extern Responsibilities**

All externs are required to adhere to MSU CVM policies. Externs can expect to work, Monday through Friday from 8am – 5 pm, with weekends on-call, and the expectation to respond to potential emergency and rescue events of cetaceans and sea turtles. Work hours may be extended during weekdays on an as needed basis. Externs may be expected to complete a short clinical research project pertaining to their experience during the externship and give a 30-minute presentation during the last week of the externship. Externs are responsible for providing their own transportation and housing. IMMS staff members may have rooms available for rent. We are happy to contact staff to help identify housing arrangements whenever possible.

**Application Process**

Applications are accepted year-round. Positions fill quickly and often 1 year in advance; early application is strongly encouraged. All students interested in an externship should submit a letter of intent expressing specific interests and experiences in aquatic animal health and including preferred dates for the externship, a resume or CV, a letter of recommendation from two professional references. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and selected applicants are contacted for additional discussions and externship scheduling. If selected, applicants will be required to submit proof of a current tetanus vaccination and results from a recent TB test.

**More Information**

More information can be found on the following websites.

* [www.vetmed.msstate.edu](http://www.vetmed.msstate.edu)
* [www.vetmed.msstate.edu/clinics-locations/marine-mammal-studies](http://www.vetmed.msstate.edu/clinics-locations/marine-mammal-studies)
* <https://imms.org>

**Contacts**

For more information or to submit application materials, please contact **Dr. Stephen Reichley at stephen.reichley@msstate.edu**.