

**ST. LOUIS ZOO RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
INTERNSHIPS AND INDEPENDENT STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

The Research Department offers internships and independent study opportunities in animal behavior, endocrinology, reproduction, nutrition, conservation and Latin American conservation. Specific projects vary during the year. There is no stipend available, but students can often arrange to receive credit through their college or university. Standard internships require at least a 20-hour per week commitment, and independent study typically requires 3 hours per week in the lab for each credit hour, although university policies vary.

BEHAVIOR: Observational studies of behavior may be "live" or consist of reviewing video footage of focal animals. We have a state-of-the-art computer/video system for recording and analyzing behavioral data that was created for us on contract. Students are also expected to spend time on data summary and analysis, as well as readings for the particular study. Coursework in animal behavior is helpful but not required.

ENDOCRINOLOGY: Dr. Joan Bauman, staff endocrinologist, currently runs radioimmunoassays (RIA) on serum, urine and feces for gonadal and adrenal steroids. Students begin by learning fecal sample extraction procedures and, if lab skills are proficient, may advance to assisting with assays. Previous experience in basic laboratory techniques is required.

REPRODUCTION: Projects vary by semester but may include opportunities to assist on projects that involve biotelemetry, ultrasound exams, oocyte retrieval, semen collections, or in-vitro-maturation and fertilization lab work. Students with coursework in reproductive physiology and/or lab experience are given preference.

NUTRITION: Jan Dempsey, M.S., staff nutritionist, manages the Animal Nutrition Department. Students interested in exotic animal nutrition have the opportunity to learn data collection techniques, computer analysis of diets, interpretation and diet formulation by participating in ongoing projects, as well as learning daily operations in the Commissary.

CONSERVATION: Projects vary by semester but may include St. Louis Zoo or American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) conservation projects/programs such as studbooks, population masterplanning, creating husbandry manuals, data management and literature searches.

LATIN AMERICAN CONSERVATION: Students work on translating materials into Spanish, managing a database of conservation resources, web-page maintenance for the Mesoamerican Conservation Action Partnership, and creating/translating educational materials in collaboration with the Zoo's Education Dept. Fluency in Spanish required for some but not all projects.

TO APPLY, COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM BELOW AND SUBMIT TO:

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