

Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society®



American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) Dr. Lee H. Somers Scientific Diving Internship

ABOUT AAUS

The American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) facilitates the development of safe and productive scientific divers through education, research, advocacy, and the advancement of standards for scientific diving practices, certifications and operations. AAUS standards have allowed research diving teams as part of scientific diving programs to operate under the exemption from OSHA commercial diving regulations. AAUS was organized in 1977 and first incorporated in the state of California in 1983. Today, there are 118 AAUS Organizational Members that adhere to the consensual Standards for Scientific Diving. Adherence to a parent standard facilitates the establishment of reciprocity arrangements when collaborating on research projects with other AAUS member organizations. AAUS reciprocity is the product of years of experience, trust and cooperation between underwater scientists.

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

The AAUS scientific diving internship will provide undergraduates with the experience and opportunities necessary for a future in science, diving for research, or scientific diving-related fields. Intern applicants can be students from colleges and universities with an interest in science and diving. The program runs primarily from mid-May through August and will include training at one of several AAUS organizational member sites. This training will give the intern the necessary dive qualifications to allow participation in research projects requiring scientific diving and introduce the student to careers that utilize scientific diving as a tool. Once trained as an AAUS-recognized Diver-in-Training, interns will participate in underwater fieldwork at one or more locations or research facilities associated with AAUS.

The fundamental goals of interns should include desires to:

1. Receive professional training and experience;
2. Become a Diver-in-Training or acquire a Scientific Diver certification;
3. Participate in scientific research and data collection using diving as a tool;
4. Learn about AAUS scientific diving standards and procedures; and
5. Assist with scientific diving program management and field operations.

The internship will last about three months and be organized into the following sections:

- *Dive Training* (late May–early June). Training may include any of the following topics: diving physiology, physics, research methodology, history, regulations, dive planning (table and computer), enriched air diving, decompression profiling, accident management emergency procedures, diving under special conditions, and procedures for scientific dives. In addition, interns can receive training in CPR, First Aid, Oxygen Administration, and dive rescue.
- *Scientific Diving and Scientific Diving Program Management* (June–August). After reaching the Scientific Diver-in-Training level, interns will be placed with one or more AAUS-affiliated institutions. Interns may remain in residence for 1–3 months depending on the research project and location. Daily activities may include planning scientific dives, preparing dive equipment, participating in research projects, spending time on research boats, diving, interacting with divers, and logging dives. Advanced training will include Scientific Diving Program Management.

This additional training will provide greater insights into operational standards, proper dive planning and documentation, and operation and maintenance of equipment and facilities. The program has a great degree of flexibility. The opportunities available will depend on the aptitude and motivation of the intern and the fit with the host institution(s).

LOCATION and DURATION

Host locations vary each year. Information about the current host institution will be provided to the intern after selection. The internship will take place for about three months during the summer. Exact dates and schedules will be coordinated between the intern and host.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Open water scuba certification
2. Medical authorization established with an AAUS-compliant diving physical prior to the internship start-date
3. Interest in marine biology, science, or other underwater-related discipline that uses scientific diving as a tool

***Applicants who have NOT yet been awarded an AAUS Scientific Diver certification will be prioritized during the selection process.** CPR/First Aid and Oxygen Administration certifications are preferred but not required.

SUPPORT

A stipend will be provided to cover travel to and from internship sites, housing, food, and other essential internship-related expenses.

Please visit www.owusolarship.org/internships for more information.