

An Interview with ANSC Undergraduate Student Callista Huang on Her Internship Experience at Research Department at Ocean Park

Q: Where did you intern, and when?

I interned in the Research Department at Ocean Park Hong Kong during the summer of 2019.

Q: Was it a paid internship? What did you do there?

It was not paid, but I did receive credits for the internship through Dr. Milvae. I was responsible for assisting with research sessions every day with Pacific Bottlenose dolphins. The research department's main focus of study was on the echolocative abilities of dolphins as well as cooperative behavior dynamics, so I helped collect audio data using code as well as written qualitative data for the echolocation studies, and video and qualitative data for the cooperative behavior studies.

I also worked on a separate behavior project myself and helped to design a study which observed the stereotypic behavior of regurgitating fish after feeding times.

Q: When did you apply for this internship?

I applied during the fall semester of 2018.

Q: How long did the internship last?

It lasted for 12 weeks, or 3 months, which is the minimum time period for a full-time summer intern.

Q: How did you learn about this opportunity?

I have been going to this theme park with my family since I was young, and I knew from family members who live in Hong Kong that they offered internships in certain departments, so I searched online for Ocean Park's internships.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add about your experience?

Just that it was awesome, and I loved it. It never felt like work, and I was always excited to go in every day, even though I had to wake up quite early at 6:45am to make it to the park in time for work. The work was very hands on and varied. We never had the same day twice and I was doing everything from cutting and gluing PVC pipes that served as echolocative objects, to learning how to code behavior on a computer software, or learning how to operate dive equipment.

Q: What is your area of interest as an ANSC major?

I am pre-vet with an interest in lab animal and research medicine.

Q: So, what are your plans when you graduate?

I've applied to vet school and am hoping I'll be accepted to attend vet school! If I'm not accepted this cycle, I'm planning to take a gap year and gain more veterinary experience before applying again.

Q: If someone has questions, can they contact you regarding your internship experience?

Definitely! My email is callista.huang@uconn.edu.

