

GEORGIA AQUARIUM

Career Information



What department is this position in?

Fish and Invertebrates

What is the position's official job title?

Aquarist

Does this position require a college degree?

Yes

What kind of degree does this position require?

Bachelor's Degree or higher in sciences are preferred but any discipline is accepted.

Do you need any certifications outside of a degree for this position?

Yes, a scuba certification.

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What does the average day look like for this position?

Each team is a little different, but in general, the morning starts with taking water samples and checking on all the exhibits and animals. Food needs to be prepped to feed all the animals. Dives happen each morning to clean and maintain the different habitats. All the animals get fed, some at particular times, others throughout the day. Some exhibits do training sessions with animals to get them to assist with their own care - things like swimming into a stretcher, or even flipping over for a voluntary blood draw or ultrasound. All the dishes have to be washed and spaces need to be cleaned. Records are kept for each training and feeding session to keep track of how all the animals are doing.

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Are there any internships that help to get this position?

Yes

Is there any way to volunteer or shadow with this position?

Yes

What path did you take to get to working at Georgia Aquarium?

I received a bachelor's degree in biology from University of Georgia. During my time in school, I did both an internship and a study abroad working with animals. After graduation, I was lucky enough to get a job at Georgia Aquarium right away.

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What is your favorite part about working at Georgia Aquarium?

The animals. Georgia Aquarium has a lot of animals that you would not get to see at other facilities, and would also be hard for many people to see in their natural habitat. It gives a great opportunity to work with and learn about them.

Is there anything else you want to share about this position?

Working with animals is often glamorized, but it's a lot of hard work and a lot of grunt work. But it is worth the effort to be able to spend time with and take care of these animals.

