



Science Education Internship

Overview and Outcomes

Do you love science? Are you someone who loves to engage with people and facilitate learning? Then join our amazing team of Museum interns!

Learning in a science museum setting, often referred to as an “informal learning experience,” is different than the “formal” education a student receives in their K-12 classroom. Learning is a life-long process, and informal science educational techniques are a great way to learn how to communicate and engage different audiences in rich content. A career oriented person, whether ultimately working in a classroom, a cultural institution, research lab, industry or other setting, will benefit from learning different communication styles.

Interns will learn the methods and theory behind inquiry-based learning and teaching at an informal science museum. They will gain a broader understanding of how diverse audiences engage with science and science content and how to apply that knowledge to program development.

Interns serve as science facilitators, sparking excitement, curiosity, questioning and appreciation for scientific research. Duties include delivering energetic scientific demonstrations, facilitating interactions with the museum’s exhibits, answering guest questions, staffing the labs, and developing and delivering workshops for guests.

Opportunities for Professional development

Interns will complete a project based on their interests and the needs of the museum. Projects *could* include (but are not limited to):

- Developing a live science demonstration for the Museum
- Developing hands-on science experiments for Museum guests
- Developing science based museum gallery guides to engage families and school groups
- Developing activities and experiences for guests around inclusion, equity, accessibility and diversity
- Other projects related to candidate interests and talents

Qualifications

- Interns must be at least 18 years of age.
- Candidates should be outgoing, enthusiastic, creative, energetic, and able to work in a busy exhibit space.
- Enjoy working with people of all backgrounds – especially children.
- College undergraduate or graduate student, recent graduate or adult, with an interest in the fields of science, engineering, science education, informal science education, and/or teaching in museums.
- Enjoy learning new information and sharing it in an age appropriate, interesting, accurate, fun and educational manner.
- Demonstrate maturity, common sense, flexibility, and reliability.
- Ability to work independently while following supervisor’s instructions and guidance.

Commitment

Internship time commitments are generally 20-30 hours per week for a period of 8-12 weeks. If you will be receiving school credit for your internship, your specific program will determine required hours and schedule. Interns must commit to participating in any/all training sessions associated with the position.

To apply

Candidate must submit all of the following to be considered for an internship:

- Completed online application <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=1326533525>
- Cover letter
- Resume
- Two letters of reference

Documents can either be emailed to Sarah Farrow, Volunteer Coordinator sfarrow@smv.org or mailed to the address below:

Volunteer Coordinator
Science Museum of Virginia
2500 West Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23220

Name/Address of Internship Site

Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220-2054