

Beaty Biodiversity Museum Internship & Practicum Placements

Position Description

The Beaty Biodiversity Museum connects the public to world renowned scientists at the University of British Columbia's (UBC) Biodiversity Research Centre. The unique combination of world-class research, paired with beautiful compelling exhibits strives to make research conducted at UBC more accessible to the public.

Among our treasures are a 26-metre-long blue whale skeleton hanging from the ceiling, the third-largest fish collection in the nation, and a myriad of fossils, shells, insects, fungi, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and plants from around British Columbia and the world. Students play a vital role in the museum by bringing the collection to life through discussions and activities within the museum. For these roles, we are seeking candidates who are passionate about biodiversity, eager to share what they know with others, and interested in learning more about the natural world.

General Role Description

Placements are unpaid and are restricted to Canadian students who are currently enrolled in a college or university museum studies training program requiring a museum internship or practicum placement as part of the curriculum. Students are not provided accommodation, stipend, or assistance with transport to and/or from work. Applicants should be interested in pursuing a career in museum management, including but not limited to collections, education, outreach and exhibits and design.

Actual start and end dates are flexible as we recognize that different programs have varying requirements. Normally we expect a 12-16 week (35 hours per week) commitment, but this can be altered to match curriculum constraints if necessary.

Requirements

- Enrolled in a college or university museum studies or related training program
- Outgoing, enthusiastic and flexible
- Comfortable interacting with the public
- Strong communication skills
- Interested in biodiversity
- Basic understanding of ecology, evolution and natural history
- Highly reliable and professional
- Must be willing to go through a criminal record check upon selection

In addition to being enrolled in an applicable program, individuals should have a basic understanding of collections management practices, and an excellent ability to speak and write in English.

Benefits

- Gaining valuable training and experience in public speaking and informal education
- Working alongside and connecting with experienced museum staff and biodiversity researchers
- Expanding knowledge on biodiversity and biodiversity research through exclusive training and development opportunities

Training and Development

- Students will be provided with orientation and training as part of their onboarding to the museum
- Additional training is offered to enhance knowledge and understanding of working within a museum environment (i.e., attending daily training for volunteers, monthly collection training sessions)
- Students may be invited to participate in specimens preparation workshops and any additional sessions that may be scheduled during the placement