



38 CURTIS ROAD • PO BOX 1260
WASHINGTON, CT 06793

(860)868-0518 • (860)868-1649 (fax)
WWW.IAISMUSEUM.ORG

Research & Collections Internship Opportunities

About:

The Institute for American Indian Studies (IAIS) is a 501(c)3 non-profit museum, education and research center. Through discovery and education, IAIS preserves the vitality, knowledge and diverse traditions of Native American Peoples with a specialization in Eastern Woodland Cultures.

Experience & Expectations:

Interns accepted into the IAIS' Internship Program are given a professional and engaging experience to work under the direct supervision of the Executive Director and the Director of Research with support of research laboratory staff. All work and performance will be reviewed by supervising staff with feedback and guidance provided to the Intern. An internship at the IAIS is a unique and excellent short-term opportunity for those interested in gaining experience and contacts within the professional museum, archaeological and Native American communities.

Interns are expected to work with staff to develop and complete a personalized project within listed opportunities, summarize their findings, and produce a final paper and/or presentation (in line with their college/university requirements) reporting on their work and what was accomplished during their time at IAIS. Once approved by both the Executive Director and Director of Research, all work will have the option to be published in the IAIS research bulletin or as a monograph. Presenting any work completed during the internship at outside conferences, with approval from the IAIS Collections Committee and/or the Executive Director, is encouraged.

Application & Eligibility

Applicants must submit a resume, referral from their advisor, and responses to the application questions. Applicants must be either currently enrolled in an accredited college or university majoring in an area of study related to anthropology, archaeology, museum studies, history, environmental science or Native American studies with a minimum GPA of 3.0; or demonstrate a special interest and respect to Native American cultures or archaeological research. If an individual is not enrolled in a college program, please see the IAIS Volunteer Application on the IAIS website.

Available Internships

Archaeological Collections: Interns will be assigned a specific archaeological collection(s) and associated files to examine, interpret, and identify artifacts to their ability with the assistance of the Director of Research and Collections. Interns will be instructed in use of Past Perfect Museum Software, IAIS' collections database. Interns will need to possess strong organizational skills, a basic understanding of archaeological excavation techniques, and attention to detail. Interns will be expected to write a report discussing the contents of the collection and their interpretation of the site, based on their analysis of the artifacts and excavation documentation as well as perusal of any previously written descriptions, reports, and publications concerning the site and its material remains. All papers, notes, etc. generated by the intern are to be incorporated into the site file stored at IAIS and used as a reference for future research and collections work. A candidate should have experience, or want to gain knowledge, in basic artifact identification, archaeological knowledge, proficiency with Microsoft Office, the ability to work independently as well as with others, and be willing to learn.



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Ethnobotanical Collection: Interns will assist in the continuing cataloging of IAIS' extensive ethnobotanical collection, ensuring that each specimen is properly identified with all appropriate information and correctly preserved. All of the specimens will be entered into the PastPerfect Museum Software for easy, digital access. Interns will be instructed in how to properly use the PP5 Software. Applicants should possess strong organizational skills, excellent writing skills, an avid interest in botany, and an ability to work independently as well as part of a team.

Comparative Zoological Collection: Interns will work with the comparative skeletal zoological collection to help identify and preserve items in the collection. Complete specimens will be properly articulated and a brief life history of each specimen will be generated. Applicants should have a background in zoology and have interest in zoology, zooarchaeology, or osteology. Strong organizational skills, excellent writing skills, self-motivation, and the ability to work both as part of a team and independently.

Cultural & Environmental Independent Studies: Interns will utilize the IAIS research library, collections and oral histories/interviews to complete various projects for the IAIS. Interns will investigate Native American cultures and communities, local environments, and interactions with other tribal groups, and European groups. Students will work with the Executive Director and Director of Research to select an appropriate topic. Examples:

Cultural landscape histories: Study land use and change of ownership over time, focusing on the impact of Native perspectives on land juxtaposed to European perspectives. Interns will look at tribal homelands during Pre-contact period, how these actual areas changed Post-Contact, and how Reservation lands.

Regional tribal or community studies: Promote awareness of tribal history and continued presence through the study of, interviews with, or research collections within the region and produce public-oriented educational materials from the research.

Post- Contact Cultural Studies: Interns will work with both primary and secondary resources to study how Native American communities interacted internally, with other Native American communities, and with non-native communities after European contact. This covers the period of time from first contact up until modern day. Potential topics include: healthcare, tribal relations, repatriation, economic, land/treaty disputes, preservation of language and other contemporary issues. Additional topics may be chosen at the discretion of the Executive Director and Director of Research.



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IAIS Research and Collections Internships Application

Full Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

School Address: _____

Major: _____ Year in College: _____

Email: _____

Number of credit hours required: _____

Please provide the name of and contact information for your advisor.

Name: _____ Department: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Two References (one *must* be a professional reference and can be a professor)

1.) Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Years Known: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

2.) Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Years Known: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship: _____ Alternate Phone: _____



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Application Questions

Choose an internship and briefly explain why you are interested in this particular subject.

List any completed courses or experience which are relevant to this internship and the grades obtained.

How has your previous course work and experiences prepared you for this internship?

What do you perceive as your strengths and weaknesses?

Please list your computer skills and experience including specific software programs.

What role do you see cultural museums playing in today's society?

How did you find out about our internship program?