

Position Title: Scientific Diving Assistant, Internship

Department: School of Marine Sciences

Supervisor: UMaine Diving Operations Manager

Description: *Part-time, temporary position.* The primary responsibility of the intern is to serve as a Dive Leader and assist with the instruction and supervision of students enrolled in SMS academic diving courses. The position is based primarily at the Darling Marine Center and is field intensive. The internship provides the necessary training and experience to earn certification as a Divemaster.

Location: Darling Marine Center, 193 Clark's Cove Road, Walpole, ME 04573 (Summer/Fall)
Wallace Pool, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469 (Spring)

Period/Time: 12-16 hrs./week for 6-12 months; Spring, Summer and/or Fall terms. Exact schedule to be determined

Qualifications: Candidates must demonstrate diving/ watermanship ability acceptable to the instructor, as well as knowledge of scientific diving regulations, skills, and techniques. Ability to follow strict safety guidelines and detailed work instructions but also take appropriate initiative and operate independently. Desire and motivation to exhibit role-model behavior and serve as a mentor to student divers. Duties include but may not be limited to: preparing equipment, filling scuba cylinders, grading/reviewing student assignments, preparing/ presenting course lectures, acting as a certified dive buddy, and supervising divers during both confined and open water dive activities.

Requirements:

- Current status as a UMaine Scientific Diver; previous training as an AAUS Scientific Diver or equivalent experience acceptable. Experience with SMS324 preferred.
- Current AAUS/UMaine Diving Medical Exam and other administrative requirements
- Medical insurance specific to scuba diving
- Current certification in CPR/FA/O2 administration
- Ability to drive a University vehicle
- Must provide all personal diving equipment (*some equipment may be available from UMaine)

Compensation:

- Financial: None; this is an unpaid internship position.
- In-Kind: Divemaster academic materials and training (value: ~\$600), CPR/FA/O2 re-certification (value: ~\$100), course-related boat dive (value: ~\$150), some meals provided on dive days.

NOTE: While academic materials and training are provided as a portion of the internship, the Divemaster application fee must be paid by the intern (~\$100-150).

Benefits: None, University health and other benefits do not apply.

To Apply: Applicants should submit a letter of intent, professional resume/vitae, and a record of diving activity (Dive Log) to the UMaine Diving Safety Officer. Applications will be reviewed and potential candidates will be chosen; phone or personal interviews will be scheduled as necessary. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis with the following deadlines:

- Jan 15- Spring session
- Apr 15- Summer session
- Jul 15- Fall session

Expectations and Responsibilities

In addition to the responsibilities outlined in the *Scientific Diver Statement of Understanding and Code of Conduct*, as a scientific diving intern, divemaster candidate, and a future industry professional, you are expected to exhibit the personal and professional characteristics listed below. You will follow the guidance of your supervisor in certain situations, but you must also be self-motivated and learn to assist the instructor by anticipating what needs to be done instead of waiting for instructions.

General Characteristics

- High-quality personal diving skills
- Positive and professional attitude
- General understanding of Dive Leader role
- Motivated independent worker
- Interest and ability to serve as a mentor to student divers
- Role model behavior in the classroom and the field

Academic/Field Duties

- Complete academic and practical exercises as directed in professional Divemaster manual.
- Arrive on-site as scheduled, on-time and prepared
- Assist with student concerns, issues, and problems
- Encourage teamwork and positive attitude among student divers
- Review/grade student assignments; maintain student assignment completion roster
- Assist with preparation and maintenance of University vehicles and dive trailer
- Guide students in preparation, packaging, and transport of necessary field equipment
- Assist with dive site preparation and management

Divemaster Certification

The intern will be provided the necessary training and experience to earn certification as a scuba-industry Divemaster. To do so, the intern must complete all required academic coursework and practical exercises in order to gain experience with a variety of diving activities. At minimum, interns must participate in one entire basic scuba course, one entire scientific diving course, and one discover scuba course.

Certification as a Divemaster is considered the first step towards becoming a diving-industry professional. As such, responsibility for completing the academic and participatory requirements of the internship rests solely with the candidate; professional level behavior and work is expected during all aspects of the program. The structure of diving courses at UMaine provides ample opportunities to complete these objectives over the course of a single year. Unless other arrangements are made, the internship will be officially terminated one year from the start date, regardless of whether the intern has met the requirements for Divemaster certification.