

Position Title: Scientific Diving Assistant, Internship

Department: School of Marine Sciences

Supervisor: UMaine Diving Operations Manager

Purpose: 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)

Work Schedule: *Part-time, temporary position* 12-16 hrs./week for 6-12 months; Spring, Summer and/or Fall terms. Exact schedule to be determined.

Work Environment: This is a field intensive position requiring long-hours outdoors in a variety of weather conditions. Scuba diving requires a significant level of good health, physical fitness, endurance, and mental fortitude. Divers are regularly exposed to a variety of hostile environmental conditions; equipment is heavy, cumbersome, and limits visibility, hearing, and movement. Divers must learn to tolerate long periods of relative discomfort while maintaining focus on the duties and objectives at hand.

Qualifications and Requirements: 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.

- 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
- Current certification in CPR/FA/O2 administration
- Ability to drive a University vehicle
- Medical insurance specific to scuba diving
- 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, the Divemaster certifications 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, future industry professional, and representative of the UMaine Scientific Diving Program, you will be expected to exhibit conscientious, ethical, and professional behavior at all times when interacting with students, university personnel, and other diving community professionals. 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

Duties and Expectations

General duties include: assist with all aspects of academic diving courses, prepare equipment, fill scuba cylinders, grade/review student assignments, act as a certified dive buddy, and supervising divers during both confined and open water dive activities.

Specific duties include:

- Complete academic and practical exercises as directed in professional Divemaster manual.
- Arrive on-site as scheduled, on-time, and prepared
- Assist with preparation and maintenance of diving equipment, University vehicles, and dive trailer
- Guide students in preparation, packaging, and transport of necessary field equipment
- Assist with dive site preparation and management
- Manage/Supervise classroom and in-water activities
- Encourage teamwork and positive attitude among student divers
- Assist with student concerns, issues, and problems; provide verbal and/or written evaluation/feedback to students
- Review/grade student assignments; maintain student assignment completion roster
- Engage with and monitor social media platforms and website

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.

