



Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County Dinosaur Institute Summer Internship in Fossil Conservation

Summary: This internship will focus on developing student skills and experience in vertebrate fossil conservation and museum science. An emphasis will be placed on fossil preparation and labwork within the Dinosaur Institute (DI), with ancillary training in specimen curation and digitization. Enrichment activities will include museum seminars, workshops, and tours, as well as the possibility of participation in fieldwork. The goals of the program will be to develop workforce-related skills in fossil conservation and broad experience in museum collections care, utilizing an approach that follows the “life of a fossil” through collection, preparation/conservation, documentation, curation, and outreach/education.

Term: 8-week term, with flexible start/end dates to accommodate different academic calendars and student responsibilities. 2026 proposed dates are June 2nd–July 31st.

Salary: Students will be hired as part-time employees at NHMLAC, with an expectation of 24 hours of work over 4 days each week, at a rate of \$21/hr. The internship package will also include travel reimbursement and summer housing.

Eligibility: Applicants should be full-time undergraduate students currently enrolled in good standing at either Howard University, or the University of Chicago.

Application: Students should submit a cover letter of interest (no more than one-page), with a current CV, including contact information for two references. Applications should be submitted via email to Dr. Nathan Smith (nsmith@nhm.org) by April 10, 2026. Decisions on candidates can be expected by the end of April.

Resources: <https://nhm.org/research-collections/departments/dinosaur-institute>

