



Executive Summary

Rhode Island Life Sciences Internship Pathways Program

Launching in 2026, the Rhode Island Life Sciences Internship Pathways Program is a statewide education and workforce development initiative preparing students and emerging professionals for careers across the life sciences sector. Anchored at the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island, the program integrates biology, physiology, ecology, public health, and applied science within real-world clinical and field-based learning environments.

Grounded in core life sciences disciplines, the program emphasizes skills that translate across wildlife, environmental, and human health systems. Interns gain exposure to how biological systems function, how disease and environmental stressors move through populations, and how scientific data informs care, conservation, and public policy.

The program builds on the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island's longstanding education and training efforts and formalizes them into a structured career pathway. Funding from the Rhode Island Governor's Workforce Board supports 11 paid internship placements in 2026, helping reduce financial barriers to participation. Additional internship opportunities may be offered for academic credit or experiential learning as capacity allows.

Interns are placed within a working wildlife hospital and, when appropriate, with partner organizations across Rhode Island. Learning experiences may include clinical care support, exposure to emergency veterinary medicine and public health systems, ecology and environmental science, disease dynamics, GIS and data analysis, science communication, and ethical decision-making.

By recognizing the deep connections between wildlife, environmental, and human health, the program prepares interns for diverse pathways including public health, biomedical research, environmental science, conservation, veterinary medicine, and applied life sciences. Through this initiative, the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island strengthens its role as both the state's emergency wildlife hospital and a contributor to Rhode Island's life sciences workforce.

Partner Organizations and Program Collaborators

The Rhode Island Life Sciences Internship Pathways Program is delivered through a sector-based partnership model that brings together employers, educators, conservation organizations, and public agencies.

Anchor Organization:

Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island – Lead applicant, fiscal agent, employer of record, and program convener.

Employer and Applied Learning Partners:

Westplace Animal Sanctuary; Rawr Sanctuary; Boulderwood Animal Sanctuary; Narrow River Preservation Association; Ghost Army Apiary; Tufts Veterinary Emergency Treatment & Specialties; Compass Cartographic.

Strategic and Public Sector Partners:

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; Rhode Island Animal Control Officers Association.

Recruitment and Education Partners:

University of Rhode Island; Salve Regina University; The Met School; Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI); New England Institute of Technology (NEIT); Bristol Community College; University of Connecticut; University of New Hampshire; Roger Williams University; Rhode Island School of Design; University of Vermont; YMCA of Rhode Island, Johnson & Wales University.