



Child Life Internship Frequently Asked Questions

Before submitting your internship application, please review the list of questions below.

Q. What major fields of study would allow me to be considered for an internship experience?

A bachelor's or master's degree in a variety of areas such as Child Life, Child Development, Sociology, Psychology, Human Development, Therapeutic Recreation, Counseling or other related fields with an emphasis on child development and/or working with children under stress.

Q. Where can I gain more information about Child Life as a career?

The Child Life Council has a wealth of information about Child Life including: educational information, the role of a child life specialist, where they work, job placement, average pay by location, etc.

Q. Can I job shadow a child life specialist?

Due to patient/family confidentiality regulations, job-shadowing opportunities are not available at Lurie Children's. We can offer interested individuals an opportunity to complete a site visit/tour with a child life specialist on staff. If students would like to schedule a site visit or meet with a CLS on staff, there will be two offerings per month in which to schedule these visits: 1st Friday of the month between the hours of 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. or the 3rd Monday of the month between 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Typically these site visits will last between 1-1 ½ hours.

Please contact Katelyn Zilles for further information at kzilles@luriechildrens.org.

Q. Do you offer a practicum?

We are now offering a practicum. [Learn more.](#)

Q. How can I volunteer? Will I be able to volunteer under the supervision of a CCLS?

Opportunities are available to volunteer under the supervision of a CCLS. If you are interested in volunteering at Lurie Children's, please check out our volunteer requirements.

Q. When should I apply for an internship?

The Child Life program at Lurie Children's follows the guidelines for application as recommended by the Child Life Council. Please check out the updated application deadlines at childlife.org.

Q. When do I take the exam — before or after the internship is complete?

After the internship is complete. The internship supervisor will sign and verify that all standards for entry level clinical competence have been achieved. The Clinical Experience Verification form with the required signature will be necessary to provide to the Council to establish eligibility to sit for the exam.

Q. Is there a fee to complete a Child Life internship?

There is a \$25 application processing fee that can be paid by mailing a check with the application.

Q. If I am from out-of-town, do you provide housing?

Housing is not provided, but links to resources can be given to help in your search.

Q. How many interns are accepted each offering?

The number of interns accepted will vary for each internship offering due to the number of applicants and supervisor availability. Generally we accept two child life interns for both the fall and summer internship offering.



Q. What is the structure of the Child Life internship?

Interns rotate through two different areas of the hospital during their internship experience. Students will be able to rotate through a variety of both inpatient and outpatient areas during each internship experience. Internship hours will match those of rotation supervisor; this may include weekend days as well as evening hours.

We require interns to complete two case studies, one final project and weekly journal entries. Interns will meet for weekly reflective supervision with primary internship supervisor. The Child Life internship program at Lurie Children's currently utilizes the Child Life Internship Curriculum that was developed by the Child Life Council.

Q. Do interns get to pick where they're placed?

Interns have the ability to provide feedback about which units/populations in the hospital are most interesting to them. It is the Internship's Coordinator's final decision as to where an intern is placed based on supervisor availability.

Q. Do you accept interns that are not currently enrolled in/affiliated with an academic institution?

Yes. We accept both independent applicants as well as applicants who are enrolled in school (last semester of senior year). If candidate is completing an independent internship, then it is the applicant's responsibility to obtain liability insurance with the help/guidance from internship coordinator.