



OYSTER AQUACULTURE TRAINING

The **OAT** program is a 6-month paid internship at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in Gloucester Point. The program runs from March through July each year. Participants attend lectures and facility tours and work alongside staff from the Aquaculture Genetics & Breeding Technology Center (ABC) to learn the principles of oyster aquaculture in a hands-on intensive format.

The OAT Curriculum

Brood stock

- Learn conditioning process
- Maintain brood stock tanks

Algae Culture

- Grow and maintain cultures
- Calculate feeding requirements
- Feed adults and larvae

Spawning

- Differentiate male & female adults
- Rate gonad ripeness
- Learn spawning techniques
- Participate in oyster spawns

Larval Rearing

- Measure water quality
- Clean larval tanks
- Count larvae
- Determine larval densities
- Monitor larval health

Setting

- Track larval development
- Setting systems and techniques
- Understand downwelling process

Nursery

- Learn upwelling process
- Care and maintenance of nursery
- Count and sieve seed
- Size seed

Field Grow Out

- Learn deployment types
- Prepare and stock bags
- Determine stocking densities
- Care and maintenance of field gear

Laboratory

- Learn the process of ploidy analysis
- Understand disease testing

Externships are arranged at research facilities, state agencies, and private companies throughout the season based on each applicant's career goals.

To apply, complete a Virginia state application. Please be sure your application is accompanied by a cover letter that clearly states your interest in aquaculture training. For more information, email Amanda Chesler-Pool at achesler@vims.edu or visit vims.edu/oat.



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Our 6-month hands-on internships help train the next generation of shellfish aquaculture professionals. For more information, visit:

vims.edu/oat

