

YALE-NEW HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Child Life Internship Program

Thank you for your inquiry into the Child Life Internship Program at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital. Our 14-week, 560-hour internship program provides individuals with the clinical and professional experiences needed to enter the field of Child Life. Under the supervision of a team of certified child life specialists, an intern will learn about all aspects of child life, including therapeutic play, procedural preparation and support, coping techniques, bereavement, and parental and sibling support. At the completion of the internship, an intern will be eligible to sit for the Child Life Council certification exam and will be prepared to practice as an entry-level child life specialist.

Requirements and Deadlines

The following requirements must be met at time of application:

1. Enrollment in or completion of a degree program (undergraduate or graduate) related to the field of child life, child development, human development, family studies, or psychology. We contract with colleges as well as individual learners.
2. A minimum GPA of 3.0 in your major course of study.
3. Successful completion of a minimum of 10 college-level courses within any combination of the following subject areas: Child Life, Child Development, Family Studies, Human Development, Psychology, Sociology, Counseling, Education, Expressive Therapies, Therapeutic Recreation. *Please note that we require you to submit your transcript to the Child Life Council for their coursework review. Documentation from the Child Life Council must be attached to your application. Refer to www.childlife.org for further information.
4. A minimum of 50 hours of volunteer, practicum, field placement work in a hospital setting directly under the supervision of a certified child life specialist. Hours may be in-progress but must be completed by the start of the internship. Proof of hours on hospital letterhead must accompany your application.

	Application Deadline	Offer Deadline	Acceptance Deadline	Internship Start Date	Internship End Date
Fall Semester	Postmarked by May 5th	June 22nd	June 28th	Early September	Mid-December
Spring Semester	Postmarked by Sept. 5th	October 22nd	October 28th	End of January	End of April
Summer Semester	Postmarked by Jan. 5th	February 22nd	February 28th	End of May	End of August

Requesting an Application Packet

Please contact the Child Life Internship Coordinator for an informational packet which contains our application. Please note this information is not available online and will be mailed to you. When contacting the Internship Coordinator, please provide the following information:

1. Are you affiliated with a college/university, and what is your course of study (include your GPA)?
2. Where have you completed (or in progress of completing) your volunteer/practicum/field placement hours?
3. For which semester are you applying (spring, summer, fall)?
4. What has influenced your decision to apply to the Child Life Internship at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital?
5. Mailing address where you'd like to receive the informational packet.

Contact Information

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Child Life Internship Coordinator
Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital
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New Haven, CT 06510

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Email: erin.spaulding@ynhh.org

Frequently Asked Questions

What level of education do I need to be eligible for a child life internship?

An applicant needs to have **at least** a bachelor's degree (or enrolled in coursework leading to a bachelor's degree) in child life or a related field (including but not limited to psychology, child development, education, counseling, family studies, etc.).

Do I have to be affiliated with a college/university to complete my internship?

We contract with colleges/universities for enrolled students completing their bachelor's or master's degrees. For individuals who have already earned their bachelor's or master's degree, the contract is between Yale-New Haven Hospital and the individual learner. Individual students must purchase their own professional liability insurance.

Are there fees/expenses associated with the internship?

There is no fee to apply to the internship, which is an unpaid position. Educational materials are provided and administrative costs are covered by the hospital. Interns are responsible for parking expenses and meals during the internship, although interns are eligible for a 15% food discount in the cafeteria with photo ID. Interns are also responsible for their own housing and living expenses while in New Haven. Child Life interns are able to apply for housing in the graduate dormitories associated with Yale School of Medicine and Yale University. In addition, interns have access to Yale University's off-campus housing data base to rent apartments or rooms in local Bed and Breakfasts.

What can best prepare me for the internship?

We require a minimum of **50 hours** of volunteer, practicum, or field placement work in a hospital setting, ideally under the direct supervision of a certified child life specialist. This exposure will provide the opportunity to observe the role of a child life specialist and help you solidify your own commitment to the field of Child Life.

What happens after my application is received?

Each application is reviewed by the Child Life Internship Coordinator upon receipt. In keeping with the deadlines on the above chart, you will be notified if your application is going forward to the interview process. We require those within 100 miles of New Haven to interview on-site. Parking will be validated the day of the interview; all other travel expenses are the responsibility of the applicant.

What can I expect as a Child Life Intern?

Our goal during the 14-week internship is to provide a professional level, clinical experience that will prepare you to enter the field of Child Life. As an intern, you will work 40 hours a week (Monday-Friday), following the same schedule as your supervisor(s). The hours are typically during the daytime, although they may vary with supervisor schedules as well as special programming that might occur during the evening. In this way, you will acquire the most realistic and consistent working experience to prepare you to be a child life specialist.

Comments from past interns at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital:

“I've had a great experience here these past 14 weeks! I feel that my placement settings provided me with a very comprehensive background with which to enter the professional field.”

“My supervisors have been very supportive, while still challenging me to think and do more. They have used supervision time effectively, always giving feedback and being very open to listening to my thoughts and feelings.”

“I really feel like I was prepared/trained to transition from student to professional. The internship met my expectations as I was able to accomplish my goals and meet my challenges.”

“Weekly educational seminars provided an opportunity to expand and learn additional areas of child life. It was also great to learn about other healthcare staff and how they collaborated with Child Life.”

“The midterm and final evaluations allowed an outlet to express concerns, issues, and successes. I found the evaluations to be helpful in demonstrating where I was as a student and where I needed to be at week 14.”

“I felt my supervisor did a good job in maintaining a balance between independence/autonomy and supervision. I feel I worked well with my supervisor and received positive feedback, which was crucial to my advancement in the internship and child life profession.”

“I had a very positive experience with my internship and I am so glad I came here. It is a challenging program, yet I found it to be very rewarding. At times, I got stressed about things, but staff members served as supports and my supervisors did a great job of helping me focus. I have grown so much, both professionally and personally throughout the semester. The assignments and expectations were both reasonable and challenging. Each day brought new learning experiences.”