



Fact Sheet on the APHIS Foreign Service

A career as an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Foreign Service Officer (FSO) is a challenging and highly rewarding opportunity. Established through an Executive Order in 1982, the APHIS Foreign Service works in collaboration with the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). APHIS seeks candidates with scientific backgrounds to support the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) mission of facilitating safe agricultural trade and protecting the health and value of U.S. natural resources worldwide.

APHIS FSOs are responsible for the following:

- Protecting American agriculture from pests and diseases that occur internationally. APHIS FSOs accomplish this by living and working in foreign countries to advance U.S. regulatory policies.
- Facilitating safe agricultural trade for exports and imports and eliminating trade barriers through sound science.
- Providing technical training and capacity building to foreign countries. Our FSOs work with foreign countries to advance risk management protocols and regulatory management. APHIS collaborates with the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and many other non-governmental agencies like the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Organization for Animal Health.

Additionally, APHIS FSOs:

- Play leadership roles in U.S. Embassies worldwide in support of U.S. agriculture;
- Work with Foreign National counterparts; and
- Learn new cultures and languages.

Is the APHIS Foreign Service Right for You?

- Are you adaptable?
- Do you have a high level of mental flexibility and resilience?
- Can you live and work in harmony with different cultures?

To become an APHIS Foreign Service Officer, you must:

- Have a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or equivalent degree.
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be available to travel for worldwide assignments at the needs of the Agency.
- Be able to obtain and maintain a U.S. Top Secret Security Clearance and a worldwide medical clearance.

For more information or to apply go to www.aphis.usda.gov/careers/foreign-service.