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Opportunities for Native Youth

Last Modified:

We offer paid internships, summer programs, and other career opportunities for students and recent graduates of all educational backgrounds.

Safeguarding Natural Heritage

(PDF, 14.03 MB)

Every year, APHIS collaborates with Tribal colleges and universities to deliver Safeguarding Natural Heritage, a 2-week summer outreach program that helps students ages 14–17 explore careers in plant and animal science, wildlife management, and agribusiness.

Safeguarding Natural Heritage 2025 is currently paused and will not be accepting applications. We will post updates as they occur. We apologize for any inconvenience.



Native American-Serving Institutions Internship Program

(PDF, 1.71 MB)

Are you a college student interested in animal and plant health? Would you like to learn about the many career paths open in agriculture and natural resources? We have a unique opportunity for you.



AgDiscovery Program

APHIS partners with universities and colleges to help teenagers learn about careers in animal and plant science, wildlife management, and agribusiness. The annual 2-4 week program allows student to live on a college campus and experience hands-on labs, workshops, and field trips.



William F. Helms Internship Program

(PDF, 234.1 KB)

Interested in a career in agriculture, botany, plant pathology, entomology, or other biological sciences? This program provides university and college-level students with the opportunity to plan and coordinate pest surveys, participate in Federal regulatory functions, and assist with domestic plant health programs and activities.



Pathways Programs

USDA offers different pathway opportunities—including tuition assistance—for students and recent graduates to work in the agricultural, science, technology, math, environmental, management, business and many other fields. Several opportunities with APHIS are available through this program.



Animal Care Externship

(PDF, 909.45 KB)

Animal Care externships help students gain up to 4 weeks of unpaid work experience in the fall, spring, and summer. Opportunities may be available throughout the United States, depending on a student’s area of interest and the availability of APHIS personnel.



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