Veterinary Services (VS), a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), is proud to sponsor the Daniel E. Salmon Internship Program for undergraduate and graduate students in nonveterinary fields of study that support and are critical to the VS mission.

USDA Pathways Program: Daniel E. Salmon Internship

In carrying out our safeguarding mission, APHIS works to ensure the continued health of our Nation’s livestock and poultry. Within APHIS, the VS staff serves as a veterinary authority for the United States. It is our job to protect and improve the health, quality, and marketability of U.S. animals, animal products, and veterinary biologics.

Increases in global trade, the emergence of zoonotic diseases, and the threat of agroterrorism demand a comprehensive approach to protecting animal and public health. VS brings a wealth of skills and expertise to this effort—from global disease surveillance and animal health certification to disease eradication and emergency preparedness. In all of this work, we follow One Health principles to promote a collaborative, all-inclusive approach and make sure our decisions are grounded in the best science and information available.

The USDA Pathways Program offers different “pathway” opportunities for students and recent graduates to work in agriculture, science, technology, math, environment, management, business, and many other fields. One of these pathways is the USDA Internship Program, which provides paid work experiences for students. VS participates in this program, offering the Daniel E. Salmon Internship to help ensure a steady stream of talented professionals on our staff. This internship is expected to last more than 1 year, and the intern may be converted to a permanent position with APHIS after completing the Pathways Program and meeting all other requirements.

APHIS—Many Goals, One Mission

APHIS is a multifaceted agency with a broad mission area that includes protecting and promoting U.S. agricultural health, regulating genetically engineered organisms, administering the Animal Welfare Act, and carrying out wildlife damage management activities. APHIS builds and maintains a world-class system that safeguards the health of animals, plants, and ecosystems in the United States and fosters safe agricultural trade worldwide, resulting in abundant and affordable agricultural products for U.S. and international consumers. These efforts support USDA’s overall mission to protect and promote food, agriculture, and natural resources.

The Daniel E. Salmon Internship Program

for Nonveterinary Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Program Aid No. 2174

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This publication supersedes Program Aid No. 2061, “The Daniel E. Salmon Scholarship Program for Undergraduate and Graduate Students,” which was issued in September 2010.

Issued September 2015
Who Is Daniel E. Salmon?

Dr. Salmon was founding chief of the USDA’s Bureau of Animal Industry, predecessor of today’s Veterinary Services. As a member of Cornell University’s first class of graduates, he earned his bachelor’s degree in veterinary medicine in 1872, and 4 years later, Cornell awarded him the first Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree in the country. Today, Salmon is best known for identifying the infectious pathogen Salmonella and pioneering the fight against contagious diseases. His work contributed immeasurably to improving public health and disease control efforts.

Internship Experiences

As a Daniel E. Salmon intern, you will be part of a comprehensive mentorship and career development program designed to prepare you for a career in your field of study. We offer a wide range of learning opportunities so our interns are ready for life in the Federal sector. Having a wealth of talented people at APHIS is critical for our continued excellence in today’s fast-paced and increasingly complex scientific world. In addition to veterinarians, some of our key positions include microbiologists, entomologists, and budget and management analysts. Through the internship program, you will experience the real-world situations facing Federal employees every day, and you will be part of an organization with a multidisciplinary approach to managing disease, responding to animal health crises, addressing trade issues, providing laboratory support, regulating veterinary biologics, and analyzing animal health issues.

Internship Benefits

The Daniel E. Salmon Internship provides students:

1) Up to $5,000 per year for undergraduate studies and up to $10,000 for graduate studies for tuition and fees associated with your course of study.

2) Paid employment during summer and school breaks as a Student Trainee, participation in the Federal Employees Retirement System and the Thrift Savings Plan (401K), and paid vacation and sick leave. Based on the length of the work periods, compensation may also include health insurance benefits.

3) The possibility of conversion, without further competition, to a permanent appointment with APHIS upon successful completion of the Pathways Program, with the required degree, training, and other work requirements.

Application and Eligibility

Interested students must apply to specific internship announcements online via USAJOBS.gov. Locate announcements by entering the key words “Daniel E. Salmon” in the search engine under the “Student and Recent Graduates” tab. Please note that you must have a USAJOBS account to apply. The announcements will open on USAJOBS annually, between January and February, for approximately a 2-week period. Upon entrance on duty, you must:

1) Be a U.S. citizen;

2) Meet the educational and curriculum requirements of the internship program position for which you apply. These requirements, as well as the specific duties of the position, will be stipulated in each internship announcement and may include a wide range of majors or fields of study;

After completing all of the mandatory requirements for the program, the student must become a full-time agency employee for at least 1 calendar year (12 months) for each school year (2 semesters, 3 quarters, or the equivalent) that the student was covered by the internship. If the student intern does not accept an APHIS employment offer, he or she must reimburse APHIS for all financial assistance received under the Salmon internship program. If the intern fails to serve the entire length of the mandatory APHIS employment period, he or she must reimburse the agency a prorated share of the funds awarded.

For More Information

This internship may be available annually. To check availability or learn more, call the VS Management Support Division at (301) 851-3573 or visit our Web site: www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/recruitment