

Leaders in Animal Welfare

Animal Care is a leader in determining standards of humane care and treatment for animals in the United States. As part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, we ensure the humane treatment of animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), eliminate soring, and promote the fair competition at events covered by the Horse Protection Act (HPA). Additionally, we ensure those covered by the AWA are prepared to care for their animals in an emergency.

A Unique Opportunity

We are dedicated to attracting and recruiting a diverse workforce to advance our goals. In doing so, we see great value in hiring students to help them link academic learning with professional employment. Animal Care has developed a robust externship program that allows motivated students to gain unpaid work experience in various areas of interest. Externships last from 1 to 2 weeks. Opportunities are based on the availability of Animal Care personnel throughout the United States.

We offer two types of externships:

- Office-based experiences
- Field-based experiences located throughout the United States

These opportunities cover many organizational areas, including, but not limited to:

- Nonclinical veterinary care
- Compliance inspections
- Administrative support
- Policy development
- Human resources and finance management
- Emergency programs
- Outreach and training
- Stakeholder engagement

If you extern with us, we'll work with you to develop an individual learning plan to maximize the benefits of your externship experience, both for you and for Animal Care.

Contact Us

For more information on externship opportunities, email Animal Care at acextern@usda.gov.



To learn more about the Animal Care program in general, visit us online at: www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-welfare

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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Animal Care Externship Program for College and University Students

Explore, Experience, Connect



Want To Apply?

If you're enrolled full- or part-time in a regionally accredited college or university and you have a grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or better, you are eligible to apply. To do so, submit the following materials to acextern@usda.gov:

- **Your resume, including work experience, educational institution, major, GPA, and expected graduation date**
- **A narrative essay of 750–1,000 words answering the following:**
 - Why are you interested in an externship in Animal Care?
 - What do you want to gain from the externship experience?
 - How does this experience relate to your career aspirations and commitment to public service?
 - What contribution will you make to the Animal Care program?
 - What is your preferred type of externship (i.e., office or field), geographic location(s), and specific timeframe for participation?
- **Transcripts (official and unofficial) for all completed college or university coursework to date**

When To Apply

Key deadlines for submission of the required materials are as follows:

- **June 1 for fall**
- **November 2 for spring**
- **March 1 for summer**

We encourage you to apply early to allow time for placement and accommodations.



Other Information

We accept students based on Animal Care's needs and priorities and students' interests. Unforeseen circumstances (such as man-made or natural disasters) may force us to cancel established externship opportunities, but we will make every effort to find alternatives to cancellation.

If selected, you are responsible for your housing and transportation costs, as well as other personal expenses during the externship. You will be required to sign a Confidentiality Disclosure, a Volunteer Agreement, and other consent forms.

In addition, if you are selected for a field-based externship, you will be required to submit negative results of a tuberculosis test within the past 6 months and any other medical requirements upon request.



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