

Leaders in Animal Welfare

Animal Care is a leader in determining humane care and treatment standards 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 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 committed to attracting and recruiting a talented workforce to advance our mission. We recognize the value of hiring students to bridge academic learning with professional employment. Our robust externship program provides motivated students the opportunity to gain unpaid work experience in various areas of interest. Externships last up to 2 weeks, and opportunities depend on the availability of Animal Care personnel across the United States.

We offer meaningful, field-based externship experiences across the United States.

Our externship encompasses a wide range of organizational areas, including but not limited to:

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

If you are selected for an externship, we will work with you to develop an individualized learning plan to maximize the value of your experience—for you and Animal Care.

Contact Us

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



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

To explore the many benefits of working
with us, visit: www.aphis.usda.gov/careers

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

- **Resume that includes your work experience, educational institution, major, GPA, and expected graduation date**
- **Narrative essay (750–1,000 words) addressing the following:**
 - Why you are interested in an externship with Animal Care
 - What you hope to gain from the externship experience
 - How the experience aligns with your career goals and commitment to public service
 - What contribution you can make to the Animal Care program
 - Your preferred geographic location(s) and specific timeframe for participation
- **Transcripts (official and unofficial) for all college or university coursework completed to date**

When To Apply

Key deadlines for submitting all required materials are as follows:

- **Fall: June 1**
- **Spring: November 1**
- **Summer: March 1**

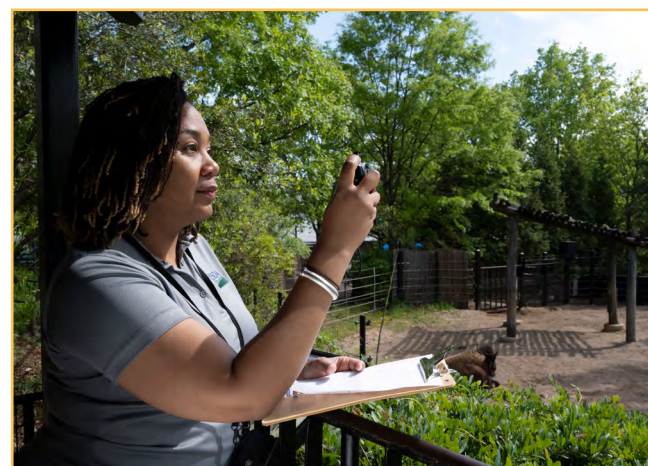
Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early to facilitate timely placement and accommodation arrangements.



Other Information

Students are evaluated and selected based on how well their interests align with Animal Care's mission and priorities. Unforeseen circumstances—such as man-made or natural disasters—may force the cancellation of established externship opportunities; however, every effort will be made to identify alternatives to cancellation.

If selected, applicants are responsible for costs associated with housing, transportation, and other personal expenses during the externship. Selectees must sign a Confidentiality Disclosure, Volunteer Agreement, and other consent forms.



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