

BOVINE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

European College of Bovine Health Medicine

FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
GHENT UNIVERSITY

Salisburylaan 133, B-9820 Merelbeke, Belgium

Organising department:

Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health

Prof. Dr. A. de Kruif

Coordinator of the program:

Prof. Dr. G. Opsomer

DVM, PhD, Msc., Dipl. ECAR, Dipl. ECBHM

Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health,

Ambulatory Clinic

*Tel: *32 9 264 75 46*

*Fax: *32 9 264 75 34*

Geert.Opsomer@UGent.be

Start of the program: October 1st

End of the program: September 30st of the next year.

Objectives:

The goal of the internship program is to meet the application requirements of the ECBHM Training Brochure (Chapter III/III., Paragraph A) for the Bovine Health Management Residency Program.

Facilities, Equipment, and Caseload:

The intern program will mainly be organised in the ambulatory clinic of the Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health of the University of Ghent. The Faculty campus is located in Merelbeke, a small town in the suburb of Ghent. The construction of buildings was finished in 1996.

At the Faculty Campus there are 98 hospitalisation places for cattle and 44 places for small ruminants. The Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health has 20 hospitalisation places for adult cattle and 8 for calves. The caseload at the faculty is expected to exceed 800 patients per year.

The facilities on the Department for Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health include 5 fully equipped cars to use for the farm visits (1 for horses), a surgery room for caesarean section, a surgery room for gynaecological cases in horses, 3 boxes for rectal examination of horses and 1 for cows, a sterilization room, a sperm laboratory and a laboratory for bacteriological examination of milk samples and uterine swabs. There are several cows and two bulls for teaching purposes.

The facilities on the internal medicine and the surgery department include for cattle 2 examination rooms, a fully equipped laboratory for haematology and clinical chemistry, 1 surgery room and 3 examination boxes. Further facilities at the Faculty are a necropsy room, a library and a University farm "Bio-center Agri-Vet". Here 60 dairy cows and young stock are available for training.

The equipment available for cattle at our University include an x-ray machine, several ultrasound machines, an endoscope and instruments for surgery and claw treatment.

Residency

The internship program is the basis for a residency program organised by the European College of Bovine Health Medicine (ECBHM) and the European College of Animal Reproduction (ECAR). Nevertheless, the completion of an internship program is no guarantee for admission as a resident.

Conditions for admission:

- Candidates should have obtained the diploma of "Veterinary Medicine" at a University from the EU. Candidates that have obtained their diploma outside the European Union will be evaluated on an individual basis.
- Applications from last-year students will also be accepted.
- A profound knowledge of the English language is essential for candidates that are not Dutch-speaking.

Applications:

- Internship position will be declared vacant in the month of April

- By the 15th of May, each applicant should submit a file to the coordinator of the internship, consisting of:
 - An application letter with the motivation of the candidate for participation to the program.
 - A curriculum vitae including a list of the results obtained during the different study years and the title of the thesis.
 - A copy of the diploma of Veterinary Medicine (except for last year students)
 - For candidates that did not obtain their diploma at Ghent University: a letter of reference from a University professor or a Diplomate. This letter should be mailed directly to the coordinator of the internship program and should give a clear description of the clinical capacities of the applicant.
- Late applications can only be considered in exceptional cases, and should be discussed with the coordinator.

Selection of the candidates:

The selection will be based on:

- The file of the candidates
- An interview (telephone interview for foreign candidates that are not able to visit the clinic).

Candidates will be classified according to their curriculum, study results, clinical education and motivation for participation in the program.

Statute of the interns:

Interns should subscribe as students of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Belgium. They receive a one-year scholarship with a monthly payment of 620 euro (tax-free). No reimbursement is provided for evening-, night- and weekend duties or for travel expenses.

Education of the interns:

For the clinical part, interns participate in the daily clinical work in the organising department or in collaborating departments according to a schema that will be drawn up at the start of the program. The number of weeks that will be spent in the clinic, generally consists of:

- 8 months of clinics in the organising department;
- 3 months of clinics in other institutes;
- 4 weeks of holiday, plus the public holidays.

The organising department is free to make limited changes to the exact number of weeks that will be spent. At the start of the program, each intern will receive a schema indicating which weeks need to be spent at which department.

The education in veterinary pathology will be integrated in the clinics of surgery and internal medicine. The intern is encouraged to do a complete follow-up of the patients finally ending at the pathology department.

Each department determines how the interns will be engaged in the clinic. However, a staff member of the department has the final responsibility of all clinical activities of the intern, including the communication with the owners of clinical patients.

The rotations in the different clinics are usually performed on a 4-week-basis. Holidays are taken on a 2-week basis with a maximum of 2 weeks to be taken in the months of July and August. Interns will also be enrolled on a weekly basis in the evening-, night- and weekend duties of the participating departments. Interns on duty are expected to sleep in the clinic (room provided in each department), making sure that they are present for first-aid in urgent cases and for the communication with the owners of hospitalised patients. The frequency of

evening-, night- and weekend duties is either “one week on two” or “one week on three”, depending on the number of interns that will be accepted.

The theoretical education consists of:

- Participation in the weekly organised ‘case study-afternoons’ both in the ambulatory clinic as well as in the clinic of internal medicine.
- Interns should participate to at least 5 post-academic courses (national courses like PUO, or comparable ones) or international congresses. The payment of these courses (at student/intern fee) is for the participating interns.

Evaluation of the interns

A representative of the organising department will perform two intermediate evaluations during the year according to a standard evaluation document. These evaluations will be discussed with the intern.

The final evaluation is performed at the end of September. It includes a permanent evaluation of the clinical work, the evaluations of the education afternoons and the participation to the post-academic courses/congresses. A positive evaluation results in a “certificate of bovine internship”, delivered by Ghent University.

The organising department has the possibility to cancel the participation of an intern to the program when the intern does not comply with the rules or after several negative evaluations.