

PORCINE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

European College of Porcine Health Management

FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
GHENT UNIVERSITY

Salisburylaan 133, B-9820 Merelbeke, Belgium

Coordinator of the program:

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Start of the program: October 1st

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

Objectives:

The internship program is a one-year post-academic educational program for recently graduated veterinarians aiming to give them a broad training and experience in clinical porcine health management and their supporting disciplines. The program covers all aspects of general swine practice at the individual and especially at the herd level.

Residency:

The internship program is the basis for a residency program organised by the European College of Porcine Health Management (ECPHM). 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”, either at Ghent University, the University of Liège or at another University from the EU. Candidates that have obtained their diploma outside the EU 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 is necessary. 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 CV, study results, clinical education and motivation for participation to 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 700 euro (tax-free). No reimbursement is provided for evening-, night- and weekend duties or for travel expenses.

Education of the intern:

The intern will have a broad training and experience in clinical porcine health management and the supporting disciplines.

The clinical training (approx. 65% of time) takes place mainly in the Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health, eventually in a specialised veterinary pig practice. The clinical training involves conducting visits to pig herds to monitor the health status and the production targets of the

pigs. In the department, there are approximately 400 visits to pig herds every year. Some herds participate in a herd health control program, meaning that they are visited by a veterinarian every two to three weeks. These herds are mostly located in the region of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (Merelbeke). Pregnancy diagnosis is made using transabdominal echography (Ultrascan 45 Ami Aliens Medical Inc.). Back fat measurements of sows are performed using ultrasound measurements (Esaote Pie Medical Tringa Linear) on fixed dates to assess the body condition of the breeding population and to evaluate the feeding regimen in the herd. Other herd visits are performed upon request of swine practitioners or by Animal Health Care Flanders. Dead or euthanised pigs can be necropsied in the Department of Pathology and further laboratory investigations can be performed in the different laboratories of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (bacteriology, virology, histopathology, immunology, parasitology, toxicology, analyses of feed samples, etc.). The intern should conduct the herd visits and the follow-up of the laboratory analyses. The results are discussed on a regular basis with the promotor.

Additional training in the supporting disciplines (approx. 30% of time) takes place in the different laboratories or departments of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine: pathology (1 month), reproduction and obstetrics (2 w), virology (2 w), bacteriology (2w), nutrition (2w), epidemiology (2w). Eventually, pathology and additional laboratory investigations can also be performed partly in the laboratories of Animal Health Care Flanders. The intern should gain more knowledge and insight into these supporting disciplines and he/she should be able to interpret the different laboratory results.

The theoretical training (approx. 5% of time) consists of participation in:

- the weekly organised 'case study-sessions' in the department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health
- at least 5 post-academic courses (national courses like PUO, or comparable ones) or international congresses.

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 porcine internship", delivered by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (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.