

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

European College of Veterinary Public Health

FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
GHENT UNIVERSITY

Salisburylaan 133, B-9820 Merelbeke, Belgium

Organising departments:

Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health

Prof. Dr. A. de Kruif

Department of Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety

Prof. Dr. H. De Brabander

Coordinator of the program:

Prof. Dr. D. Maes

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Start of the program: October 1st

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

Objectives:

The veterinary public health internship program is a one-year post-academic educational program for recently graduated veterinarians aiming to give them a broad training and experience in veterinary public health and in its subspecialties namely population medicine and food science.

Residency:

The internship program is the basis for a residency program organised by the European College of Veterinary Public Health (ECVPH). 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 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 positions 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 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 620 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 veterinary public health, covering aspects related to the pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest phase of farm animals. The training program emphasizes the basic understanding of veterinary public health and its subspecialties, population medicine and food science.

Training pre-harvest phase

The intern gets knowledge and experience with different farm animal species (pigs, cattle, poultry) by performing herd visits and by training in population medicine. Particular attention will be paid to those aspects that are important for public health (zoonosis, use of antimicrobials, legislation, etc.) and animal welfare. Important elements are veterinary epidemiology, pre-harvest quality management, data collection, processing, interpretation and management, biostatistics, principles and applications of (field) study design, monitoring and surveillance systems, tracking and tracing of zoonosis and outbreak investigation, disease modelling, animal health economics, etc. This part of the internship will mainly take place in the Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health.

Training harvest and post-harvest phase

This training mainly covers aspects related to the slaughtering process and the processing of the carcasses and meat products. There are visits to slaughter plants and the further phases of the food chain. The intern will gain expertise with the different techniques that are used in the laboratory of veterinary public health. Many epidemiological aspects used during the pre-harvest phase are also applicable in the harvest and post-harvest phase. This part of the internship will mainly take place in the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety.

The theoretical training (approx. 5% of time) consists of participation in at least 5 post-academic courses (national courses like PUO, or comparable ones) or international congresses. In addition, it is highly recommended that the intern follows courses in epidemiology, statistics or microbiology of food pathogens.

Candidates that successfully completed the internship program can be selected to follow the residency program, in which they choose a subspecialty focussing mainly on (1) population medicine or on (2) food science.

Evaluation of the interns:

A representative of the organising departments 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 practical work, the evaluations of the education afternoons and the participation to the post-academic courses/congresses. A positive evaluation results in a “certificate of public health management internship”, delivered by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (Ghent University).

The organising departments have 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.