BOVINE INTERNSHIP

PROGRAM

FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

# GHENT UNIVERSITY

Salisburylaan 133, B-9820 Merelbeke, Belgium

Organising departments:

Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University

## *Prof. dr. G. Opsomer*

Department of Large Animal Internal Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University

## *Dr. B. Pardon*

Coordinator of the program:

## Prof. dr. G. Opsomer

## DVM, MSc, PhD, Dipl. ECBHM, Dipl. ECAR

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* **Start of the program:** First day of the academic year of UGent (around 20th of September)
* **End of the program:** Last day of the academic year of UGent

Objectives:

The Bovine internship program is a one-year post-academic educational program for recently graduated veterinarians aiming to give them advanced clinical training in bovine health care at the individual (ambulatory clinic, reproduction, obstetrics, internal medicine, surgery and medical imaging) and herd level (nutrition, reproductive management, health monitoring, problem herd analysis and infectious diseases). This year of comprehensive broad postgraduate training and experience prepares the veterinarian for high-quality service in practice or for a decision of an area of specialisation (residency) or further PhD studies.

Program Overview:

The bovine internship program is organized by 2 different clinical departments of the faculty of veterinary medicine (Ghent University, Belgium):

\* The “Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health” is responsible for the organization of the ‘Bovine internship, option ambulatory clinic, herd health, and reproduction”. An intern following this program will spend a majority of his/her time (8 months) in this department. The remaining months will be spent on the stationary clinic in the “Department of Large Animal Internal Medicine”.

\* The “ Department of Large Animal Internal Medicine” is responsible for the organization of the ‘Bovine internship, option stationary clinic, diagnostic medicine and infectious diseases’ Similarly, an intern following this program will spend a majority of his/her time (8 months) in this department. The remaining months will be spent at the ambulatory clinic and herd health division of the “Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health”.

Internship Format:

The internship is a full-time 12 months program. It includes 44 weeks of clinical training, leaving 3 weeks for working on a project of the intern’s interest and 5 weeks for vacation per year. The program starts at the start of the academic year. The time schedule of the internship program will be as follows:

* 14 weeks will be used for farm visits in the framework of herd health management and monitoring;
* 8 weeks will be used for farm visits at problem herds (problem herd analysis), organized by either the Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health or the Department of Large Animal Internal Medicine;
* 4 (intern related to the Department of Large Animal Internal Medicine) -12 (intern related to the Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health) weeks of clinical training at the ambulatory clinic of the University of Ghent. During this time the intern will spend most of her time participating in the daily routine of the ambulatory clinic: participation in farm visits, examine cases, provide treatment for patients, assist in case documentation, and assist in and perform surgery. The clinical experience will be complemented by lectures and seminars related to bovine herd health management, gynecology, internal medicine, and case reports.
* 6 (intern related to the Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health) - 14 (intern related to the Department of Large Animal Internal Medicine) weeks of clinical training at the stationary clinic. During this clinical rotation the intern will spend most of his/her time participating in the daily routine of the clinic which includes clinical examination of cases (gynecology, internal medicine, orthopedics and surgery), diagnostic methods and laboratory techniques, orthopedics, surgery, anesthesiology, medical imaging, curative therapy and pathology (necropsy)).
* 5 weeks of holidays are taken in agreement with the coordinator.
* At the end of each rotation a progress and performance evaluation of the candidate is carried out by the responsible supervisor.

Clinical Training:

During the clinical training the intern will be expected:

* To participate in the examination and treatment of bovine patients.
* To keep an Internship Dossier. This dossier comprises an Internship Activity Log which documents her training steps. Additionally, entries of presentations, publications, seminars given/attended, lectures attended, conferences and congresses attended and documentation on external training will complete the Internship Dossier.
* To complete a minimum of 100 hours of lectures and seminars related to bovine herd health management.
* To participate in a minimum number of 20 farm visits for bovine herd health diagnostic reasons.

Directed Study:

* A journal club will be held at regular time points throughout the year. Pertinent articles from current veterinary journals will be discussed.
* A case report meeting will be held weekly for one hour throughout the academic year.

Documentation:

* The intern will keep an Internship Dossier and an Internship Activity Log as described in previous sections.
* The intern will receive a written performance and progress review at the end of the 12 months training period.

Schedule:

During the 44 weeks of training the weekly schedule will be as follows: 44 weeks will be spent on clinics. The time spent on clinics is divided in rotations among different disciplines present in the bovine clinic of the Veterinary Faculty of Ghent while 4 weeks will be spent in an external practice or clinic. Time for participation in regular course work will be allowed within the schedule as necessary.

**Residency**

The internship program is in principle, the basis for a residency program of any College, member of the EBVS. 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”, either at Ghent University or at another European University. 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.
* Candidates should be able to speak Dutch in order to communicate with local farmers.

**Applications:**

* Internship position will be declared vacant in the months March-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 in 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:

A jury representing the different organising departments will evaluate all applications. The selection will be based on:

* the file of the candidates;
* an interview for selected candidates (telephone interview for foreign candidates who cannot be present at the faculty).

Candidates will be classified according to their curriculum, 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 grant (around 1000 euro (tax-free)).

### Evaluation of the interns

The organising department will perform an intermediate evaluation in January according to a standard evaluation document. This evaluation 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 and evaluations of the theoretical training. 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.