

EQUINE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
GHENT UNIVERSITY

Salisburylaan 133, B-9820 Merelbeke, Belgium

Organising departments:

Department of Large Animal Surgery, Anaesthesiology and orthopaedics

Prof. Dr. A. Martens

Dr. M. Haspeslagh

Department of Medical Imaging

Prof. Dr. J. Saunders

Department of Internal Medicine

Prof. Dr. G. van Loon

Coordinator of the program:

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Start of the program: September 22, 2025

End of the program: September 20, 2026

Goals / General description of the program:

The Equine internship program is a one-year post-academic educational program for recently graduated veterinarians aiming to give them clinical training in equine surgery, orthopaedics, medical imaging, and internal medicine. 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.

The equine internship program is organised by 2 different clinical departments of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (Ghent University, Belgium). The department of Large Animal Surgery, Anaesthesiology and orthopaedics together with the department of Morphology, Imaging, Orthopaedics, Rehabilitation and Nutrition are responsible for the organisation of the “equine internship with surgery and imaging focus”. The department of Internal Medicine, Reproduction and Population Medicine is responsible for the organisation of the “equine internship with internal medicine focus”.

Residency

The internship program is, in principle, the basis for a residency program of any College that is a member of the EBVS. Nevertheless, the completion of an internship program is no guarantee for admission to a residency program.

Conditions for admission:

- Candidates should have obtained the diploma of “Veterinary Medicine”, at a European University recognized by the EAEVE. Candidates who have obtained their diploma outside of the European Union will need to show proof of equivalence of their degree through NARIC (<https://www.naricvlaanderen.be/en/naric-vlaanderen>).
- Applications from students in their final year who will have completed their studies before the start of the internship will also be accepted.
- A good knowledge of the Dutch and/or French language is regarded as an asset. Proficiency in English is expected.

Applications:

The deadline for submission of the applications and the documents required are listed in the internship vacancy announcement. Typically these will consist of the following documents to be submitted electronically:

- An application letter with the motivation of the candidate for participation to the program. It should also be stated which one of the offered equine internship options is preferred by the candidate.
- A curriculum vitae including a list of the results obtained during the different study years and the title of the thesis.
- A scan of the diploma of Veterinary Medicine (except for last year students)
- For candidates that did not obtain their diploma at Ghent University: reference details or a letter of reference from a University professor or a diplomate of one of the EBVS colleges to be mailed directly to the coordinator of the internship program.
- Late applications can only be considered in exceptional cases, and should be discussed with the coordinator.

Selection of candidates:

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

- The file of the candidates
- Candidates may be asked to participate in an interview (online interview for foreign candidates that did not pay a visit to the clinic).

Candidates will be ranked according to their curriculum, study results, clinical education and motivation for participation in the program. Language skills will also be taken into account.

Statute of 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 (1500 euro, tax-free). No reimbursement is provided for evening-, night- and weekend duties or for travel expenses. On-site accommodation is only provided when on night duty. Interns are expected to find and arrange their own housing.

Education of interns:

The equine internship program takes place at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, and consists of a clinical and a theoretical part.

For the clinical part, interns participate in the daily clinical work in the different organising departments according to a schedule that will be drawn up at the start of the program. The approximative time that will be spent in the different departments depends on the equine internship focus that was chosen:

- The surgery and imaging focus program provides 2-3 months in medical imaging, 2-3 months in surgical hospitalisation, 2 months in orthopaedics, 1 month in surgery, 1 month in anaesthesia, and 2 months in internal medicine.
- The internal medicine focus program consists of 9 months in internal medicine, 1 month in the imaging department, 1 month in surgical hospitalisation, and 1 month in either surgery, anaesthesia or orthopaedics.

At the start of the program, each intern will receive a schedule indicating which weeks need to be spent at which department. Five weeks of holidays can be taken in agreement with the coordinator.

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. The rotations in the different clinics are performed on a monthly basis. Interns will also be enrolled in the evening-, night- and weekend duties of the different departments. Interns on duty are expected to sleep on-site (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 theoretical education consists of:

- “Educational afternoons” (10 per year): discussion of a specific topic with the interns and a clinical expert. At the start of the program, interns will receive the list of dates and topics that will be discussed, as well as the literature (chapters of textbooks, articles,...) that needs to be studied before participation to an educational afternoon.

- Participation to the journal clubs organised at the departments where the intern is present.
- Interns are encouraged to participate in post-academic courses (national courses like our Academy for Veterinary Medicine, BEPS, WVGP) or international congresses. The payment of these courses (at student/intern fee) is for the participating interns.

Evaluation of interns

A representative of the organising department will perform one 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, the evaluations of the educational afternoons and the participation to the post-academic courses/congresses. A positive evaluation results in a “certificate of equine internship”, delivered by Ghent University.

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