



## AGRICULTURE INTERN PROGRAM FACT SHEET

### **Background**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Intern Program will prepare exceptional men and women who are pursuing an education in the agricultural sciences for careers in these areas. Interns will participate in a semester-long program that is designed to fine-tune their skills and abilities. Students are nominated for the program by the dean, director, or chairperson of their academic degree program. Nominations are screened and evaluated by USDA officials. The criteria used by the officials may include: academic performance, quality of accomplishment, demonstrated leadership, realistic career goals, potential for future professional growth, and quality of written expressions. The best candidates may be interviewed either in person or via telephone.

### **Agriculture Interns**

Students must be United States citizens and at least 16 years of age and possess a 3.0 grade point average or greater. The undergraduate students should be at least in their third year. Candidates selected for the program will serve under an Excepted Service appointment at the GS-4, 5, 7, or 9 levels depending on their experience and education. These internships differ from most student jobs in that they emphasize hands-on experience in the various USDA mission areas and agencies. Through a variety of opportunities such as shadow and rotational assignments, interns are exposed to a wide range of management activities and issues. At the successful completion of the internship, the student will return to school with hands on experience in USDA's career growth fields. Supervisors are encouraged to work closely with interns to ensure that on-the-job training includes rotational assignments, shadow assignments with executive-level individuals, and short-term assignments to other Federal agencies. Mentors will be assigned to guide and assist interns.

### **Benefits**

Interns will earn annual and sick leave, paid Federal holidays, and transit subsidy. Transportation and housing subsidies may be provided to the interns selected depending on available funding and need.

The 2007 salary rates in the Washington, D.C. area are as follows:

<b>Education Level</b>	<b>General Schedule Level</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>
Junior or Senior (3 <sup>rd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup> yr student)	GS-04	\$13.01
College graduate with acceptance to graduate school	GS-05 or GS-07	\$14.55 or \$18.03
Graduate Student	GS-07 or GS-09	\$18.03 or \$22.06