



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education, and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

Dear Program Directors,

On behalf of the USDA Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) Animal Sciences Research Office (ASRO), thank you for your commitment to mentoring the next generation of veterinary scientists. We are pleased to announce the continuation of the ARS – Boehringer Ingelheim Veterinary Scholars Program (BIVSP) for Summer 2027.

Application Process & Timeline: Student applications will open on **November 2, 2026** via the ORISE Zintellect portal (<https://www.zintellect.com/Opportunity/Details/USDA-ARS-HQ-2026-0314>). ARS has funding to support **6 veterinary student scholar positions** for summer 2027. The application deadline for these ARS-funded positions will be **December 4th, 2026**.

If any veterinary schools have their own funding to support student scholars, we welcome their participation – please submit your students' application materials (including a letter of intent, transcripts, project choices, and letters of recommendation) to Roxann.Motroni@usda.gov by **December 4, 2026** for inclusion in the matching process.

Selected ARS-supported students will receive a competitive stipend and will be appointed as ORISE Fellows, with their stipend payments administered directly through the ORISE program (no funds are transferred to universities). Travel support will also be provided for each ARS-funded scholar to attend and present their research at the 2027 National Veterinary Scholars Symposium at the end of the summer. Veterinary School-supported students will have to complete a volunteer agreement with ARS.

Eligibility: To be eligible for this program, **applicants must be U.S. citizens** currently enrolled in an accredited Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program. Please note that students must be available to participate for 8–10 weeks during summer 2027 on a full-time basis. Given the intensive nature of the program and the limited slots, students should not commit to other overlapping summer programs or clinical rotations during their ARS research appointment.

Program Administration and Notification: Applications will be reviewed in December 2026. Students and their universities will be notified of acceptance decisions by **January 15, 2027**. Once finalists are selected, each ARS-supported student will undergo a standard federal background check and will need to complete required onboarding paperwork through the ORISE program before beginning the internship. Vet school-supported students will have to complete a volunteer agreement as well as a federal background check.

List of USDA ARS Locations and Projects for Summer 2027:

- *Produce Safety and Microbiology Research Unit (Albany, CA):* Design, Construction, and Production of Pseudovirus Platforms for Emerging Animal Viruses; Development of Aptamer-Based Diagnostic Assays for Animal Disease Detection

- *Produce Safety and Microbiology Research Unit (Albany, CA)*: Using mass spectrometry and Western blot-based methods of distinguishing among prion strains
- *Virus and Prion Research Unit (Ames, IA)*: Functional Validation of Non-PRNP Modifiers in Prion Replication and Pathogenesis
- *Endemic Poultry Viral Diseases Research Unit (Athens, GA)*: Expression and purification of different reovirus proteins for development of vaccines and diagnostics
- *Endemic Poultry Viral Diseases Research Unit (Athens, GA)*: Comparing the effect of different Marek's disease vaccines on reducing virus transmission
- *Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit (Manhattan, KS)*: Evaluating the virome of *Culicoides* biting midges collected from deer at a commercial deer farm
- *Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit (Manhattan, KS)*: Determining the effect of temperature on insecticide resistance testing outcomes using predetermined diagnostic concentrations for house flies
- *National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (Manhattan, KS)*: Develop the optimal surveillance and arthropod management techniques to reduce insect contact with confined animals
- *Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit (Manhattan, KS)*: Impact of permethrin-induced stress in adult *Culicoides* biting midges on vesicular stomatitis virus infection and transmission dynamics
- *Animal Disease Research Unit (Pullman, WA)*: Evaluating novel therapeutics and diagnostics for bovine and equine piroplasmiasis
- *Animal Disease Research Unit (Pullman, WA)*: Prion-selective aptamers to enhance prion identification
- *Animal Disease Research Unit (Pullman, WA)*: Measuring thermal tolerance limits of *Haemaphysalis longicornis* ticks at each life stage and using this data to develop distributional limit models
- *Animal Disease Research Unit (Pullman, WA)*: Identification of a *Rhipicephalus microplus* tick midgut protein associated with *Babesia bovis* infection

If you have any questions about the application process, eligibility criteria, or program logistics, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to a rewarding Summer 2027 program and the valuable contributions these student scholars will make to ARS's mission.

Sincerely,

Roxann Motroni, DVM, PhD
 National Program Leader for Animal Health
 Animal Sciences Research Office
 USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

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