

2023 CVMBS Veterinary Summer Scholars Program: Request for Applications

CSU Veterinary Summer Scholars Program

2023 Program Dates: May 15, 2023 – August 4, 2023

The primary goal of this program is to assist in the development of knowledge and skills of professional veterinary students in comparative and veterinary medicine related research problems. This training program provides mentorship and infrastructure for veterinary students to attain specific technical and conceptual skills to perform hypothesis-based research involving faculty supervised projects. Funded projects will provide student stipend (40 hours per week commitment required).

Students are encouraged to begin seeking out mentors to outline potential research projects one to two months in advance of the application deadline. Mentors will need to provide a letter of support for students outlining the potential research project and commit to supporting any research expenses (material, supplies, services, and equipment) associated with the project. For a link to the mentor match, please email Theresa.Rulon@colostate.edu. Only 1 student per mentor can be funded with VSSP program funds.

Eligibility

Interested 1st-2nd year veterinary students from any accredited veterinary college in North America are encouraged to apply.

- Students must have completed at least one year of the Veterinary Curriculum by May of the program year
- Veterinary School must be AVMA accredited and located in North America
- Trainees must be in good academic standing
- International students (outside of N America countries) are not eligible to apply (Pre-approved Boehringer Ingelheim International scholars are the only exception)
- Students from underrepresented backgrounds (as defined by NIH here: <https://diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented>) are highly encouraged to apply.

Open Positions

Boehringer Ingelheim: (up to 8 slots) Funds from BI are applied for annually by the CVMBS Dean's office via a short application and report of accomplishments. Projects can cover **any topic (basic or clinical research)**. Up to two slots will be reserved for students from other schools.

National Institutes of Health: (8 slots on CSU Campus, 2 slots on UAF-Fairbanks campus). NIH funding comes from an NIH T35 training grant. Projects are focused on **molecular, mechanistic, applied and translational biomedical research**.

USDA-NIFA Animal Health and Disease Fellowships: (up to 8 slots) CVMBS receives Animal Health and Disease Capacity funds through an annual application to USDA-NIFA. Funds are distributed to eligible schools via a pre-set formula. Projects are focused on **animal health and disease research involving livestock, poultry, and equine species**.

Morris Animal Foundation: (1 slot) The Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Fellow is typically the most qualified applicant in the general application pool with a project focused on the **health and well-being of dogs, cats, horses, or wildlife**. The CVMBS Dean's Office assists the mentor and student in preparing a full MAF application following selection.

Program Commitments

- Complete a 3-month research project during the summer term under the guidance of an approved CVMBS faculty member
- Complete an Institutional Responsible Conduct of Research Training Class (offered as part of the program)
- Participate in program activities (approximately weekly seminars and tours)
- Produce a final poster presenting research findings
- Present in the CVMBS Science Slam
- Attend the national Veterinary Scholars Symposium (Aug 3-6, 2022, San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- Present at CVMBS research day Jan 2024 (for CSU students only)

Students must certify that they understand this is a full-time commitment (40 hours/week) over the summer and that they can devote the required time if they accept an offer. Students must agree to **not hold any other employment positions** that require more than a few hours per month over the summer. For example, continuing a position as a VTH tour guide. Working hours on a VTH service is not.

Mentor Commitments

- Provide mentorship for a 3-month research project during the summer term
- Provide travel funds for your trainee to attend the National Veterinary Scholar Symposium (est. cost \$1500/trainee)
- Ensure that the student's funding source is cited on all presentation materials and in any resulting publications
- Note: **Only 1 student per mentor can be funded with VSSP program funds. Please ensure that only 1 student applies to the program with you listed as mentor. The committee is not responsible for making that selection if more than 1 submits.**

Stipends

- \$6,588 total stipend for summer. Pay dates are the last working day of the month.
- Taxes, Medicare and mandatory retirement contributions (in lieu of social security contributions) are automatically deducted by payroll
- Travel allowances are not provided for non-local students or students travelling to UAF

Required Application Components

- Login with your CSU ename at <https://colostate.infoready4.com> (outside students should create an account using their .edu email) and locate the application for Veterinary Summer Scholars program 2023.
- Complete online application questions

- Have your research mentor and your character reference directly email Theresa Rulon (theresa.rulon@colostate.edu) with their final letters of reference. She will then upload them into the system *after* you have finalized your application.
 - One reference should provide a letter attesting to your motivation, independence, reliability, and other character attributes.
 - The second reference should be provided by your CSU CVMBS or UAF faculty mentor who has agreed to support your research program. This letter should contain a short description of the research you will undertake as part of the summer program, willingness to provide mentorship and assurances that the mentor has the ability to provide the financial support needed (travel/research supplies).
- Complete an online demographics survey (link will be sent). Specific information collected will not be provided to the committee, but a list of underrepresented students will be made available during application review. This information is collected as an NIH reporting requirement. You can choose not to self-report without penalty.

Application Review Information

Overall impact/merit: Reviewers will assess applications for completeness, enthusiasm for program, mentor identification, project type, and mentor qualifications/support.

Scored criteria: Each category is worth 5 points

1. Participation as it relates to career goals
2. Relationship of prior research experience to motivation to participate
3. Mentor identification/proposed research project
4. Letters of support (4 pts each)

UAF Program Criteria

1. Rationale for application to these research programs
2. Prior research experience that provides confidence that the exchange will be successful
3. Prior externship experience that provides confidence that the exchange will be successful
4. Evidence of investigation of research opportunities at site of choice.

Timeline

Online application and Letters of Reference Due: February 6, 2023, 11:59 pm

Review by Selection Committee: February 2022

Award Notices sent: Mid-March

Hiring Paperwork: Early April