

# **BOVINE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
*GHENT UNIVERSITY*

Salisburylaan 133, B-9820 Merelbeke, Belgium

Organising department:

Department of Internal Medicine, Reproduction and Population Medicine,  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University

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Coordinator of the program:

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- **Start of the program:** First day of the academic year of UGent (around 20<sup>th</sup> 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, small ruminants and camelid 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 rotating between the ambulatory clinic, herd health service and the clinic for ruminants (animal hospital). Positions are either opened with a focus on the ambulatory clinic/herd health (outdoor clinic) or the clinic for ruminants (indoor clinic).

- The ambulatory clinic/herd health focus program provides 9 months in these clinics, and 3 months in the clinic for ruminants.
- The clinic for ruminants focus program provides 9 months in the clinic and 3 months in the ambulatory clinic or herd health service.

### 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:

- Clinical training in the ambulatory clinic: the intern will spend most of his/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.
- Herd health service: in this clinic the intern participates in routine herd health visits (reproduction, claw health, mastitis, youngstock) and farm visits in problem herds (problem herd analysis)
- Clinical training in the clinic for ruminants: 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.
- 3 weeks to work on a project of the intern's interest (e.g. research, case report writing)

## **Clinical Training**

During the clinical training the intern will be expected:

- To participate in the examination and treatment of ruminants and camelids.
- To participate in farm visits for herd health
- To keep an Internship Dossier with an overview of cases and activities
- To participate in the clinical education of undergraduate veterinary students

## **Education**

- Participation in the journal club of the ECBHM residency program. Pertinent articles from current veterinary journals will be discussed.
- Participation in the theoretical training of residents to develop problem herd solving skills in the area of reproduction, mastitis, young stock, lameness and metabolic diseases.
- Interns are encouraged to participate in post-academic courses (e.g. Academy for Veterinary Medicine, Flemish Buiatrics association, local lectures organized by veterinary organisations).

## **Evaluation of interns**

- A representative of the organizing department will perform one intermediate evaluation in January according to a standard evaluation document which will serve as the basis for a 360° feedback conversation. At the end of the internship (September) a final evaluation and feedback will be given. A positive evaluation results in a 'certificate of bovine internship', delivered by Ghent University.
- The organizing department reserves the right to cancel the participation of an intern to the program when the intern does not comply with the program as stipulated or after several negative evaluations.

## **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.
- A good knowledge (spoken and written) of Dutch is regarded as an asset. Proficiency of English is expected.

**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 1500 euro (tax-free)). On-site accommodation is only provided when on night duty. Interns are expected to find and arrange their own housing.

**Applications:**

- Internship position will be declared vacant in the months March-April.
- By the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Diplomat. 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/online 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.