



ZOOLOGICAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY VETERINARY STUDENT EXTERNSHIP

The Wildlife Health Center (WHC) provides medical, surgical, and pathology services to the Bronx Zoo, New York Aquarium, Central Park Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo, and Queens Zoo. The clinical caseload is heavy and diverse and provides the student with broad exposure to zoo animal medicine. The student's responsibilities will include morning review of cases and assisting the attending veterinarian with medical/surgical cases and daily park rounds. The student may be invited to prepare and present a topic to the WHC staff, and assist with ongoing projects at the WHC. Opportunities for new research or presentation may be considered. Weekend attendance may be required.

Applications are accepted for clinical year externships from July 1-October 15 of your JUNIOR year. These applications will then be reviewed and students will be notified of the results in November of the current year. Our application form will be posted the first week of July each year at <https://oneworldonehealth.wcs.org/Training/Student-Externships.aspx>. Our application includes:

- General form, including 3 choices of 6-8 week periods for your externship rotation
- Veterinary school transcript through the last completed semester
- Current resume/CV
- Short personal statement describing your interests, experience, and future plans in veterinary medicine, and zoological medicine in particular
- One letter of recommendation

All of the above components must be submitted via our online application form *except* the letter of recommendation, which can be emailed directly to Ms. Meredith Barton at mbarton@wcs.org by the recommender, if preferred. Electronic materials must be received by 11:59 EDT on October 15.

The Wildlife Conservation Society's (WCS's) Zoological Health Program has agreements with several educational organizations to cooperate with them for their students to participate in our Externship Programs on an ongoing basis. However, as of 17 November 2022, WCS's Zoological Health Externship Programs made a decision not to enter into new externships, internships, placements, training or similar agreements with any university, college or other educational institution with which it didn't already have a pre-existing agreement or with which we will not be establishing an ongoing cooperation. Before applying for/accepting an Externship with WCS, please confirm your eligibility by checking to see whether your educational institution requires a written agreement with WCS, since such a requirement will, if the agreement was submitted after this date, result in your ineligibility to participate in an Externship at WCS. The two foregoing sentences do not apply where a pre-existing written agreement exists between your educational institution and WCS or where a new ongoing cooperation will be developed. If you believe your school has an existing agreement with WCS, please contact WCS by sending an email to Meredith Barton (mbarton@wcs.org) before applying for a WCS Externship so that WCS can confirm that an agreement is in effect.

To fully participate in our program, once accepted (please do not send these materials until *after* you have been accepted into our program), you must submit the following:

- Proof of up-to-date tetanus and rabies vaccine (valid through your externship rotation period)
- Proof of negative TB test (within one year of your start date)

- Proof of health insurance
- Proof of COVID-19 vaccination
- Signed Release and Confidentiality Agreement

Although not required as a condition of participation, we highly recommend participants in this program have an up-to-date TB test and current vaccinations for rabies, tetanus, and COVID. If documentation of receiving these tests/vaccinations is not provided, there will be limitations in participants' ability to fully take part in the experience, including not being able to have close contact or work with some species that we care for.

This program is competitive, but we try to accommodate as many qualified applicants as possible. We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely yours,

Robert P. Moore, PE, DVM, DABVP-Avian
Senior Veterinarian
Zoological Health Program, Wildlife Conservation Society

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. When should I apply for your externship program?
Students should apply in their junior year to be placed in a rotation their senior year. Each cohort covers rotational periods from June-May.
2. What is your application due date?
Applications for each cohort will be posted on our website the first week of July (<https://oneworldonehealth.wcs.org/Training/Student-Externships.aspx>). All application materials are due by October 15 of your junior year. Notifications/offers for rotational periods are sent out by the end of the year.
3. How long are your rotational periods?
Our rotations are six to eight weeks long and preference will be given to students able to rotate with us for a minimum of six weeks. If you are looking to rotate with us for shorter or longer periods, please indicate that in your application materials, though only in special circumstances are we able to accommodate shorter rotation periods.
4. Do you accept students from non-U.S. veterinary schools?
Our program has historically limited itself to students from AVMA-accredited institutions regardless of country. However, we have recently opened our program up to students from other veterinary schools. Students' participation from non-AVMA accredited institutions will be limited to observation only. Note that all training, presentations and instructions are in English, so students should be able to effectively communicate verbally and in writing in English.
5. Do you provide housing, board and/or transportation for your externs?
No. Students are required to provide their own housing, food, transportation, and rubber boots/work shoes. We will provide coveralls. Accepted students who have questions about which neighborhoods are convenient to the zoo can reach out to the program administrator for suggestions.
6. Do you provide stipends for your externs?
Externs who are eligible to work in the United States and who successfully complete their externship with us will be eligible to receive a stipend of \$600-\$1,200, depending on rotation duration.
7. How competitive is your program?
Our program is competitive, but we try to accommodate as many qualified applicants as possible. Preference is given to those applicants who intend to pursue some aspect of zoological, wildlife, or conservation medicine in their career.
8. Where can I go if I have more questions?
You can check out our general website (<https://oneworldonehealth.wcs.org/>) to see more about the work we do. For externship program specific questions, please contact the program administrator or supervisor.
Program Supervisor: Dr. Robert Moore (he/him/his), rmoores@wcs.org
Program Administrator: Ms. Meredith Barton (she/her/hers), mbarton@wcs.org