



United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
INTERNSHIPS



**FOREIGN DISEASE-WEED SCIENCE RESEARCH UNIT (FDWSRU)
FT. DETRICK, MD**

Student Internships and Appointments

MISSION

The USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit has two distinct missions united by a common relationship to plant pathology and the unit's unique BSL-3 plant pathogen laboratory and greenhouse containment facilities at Ft. Detrick, MD.

The mission of the Foreign Disease Program is to develop techniques for the rapid detection and identification of new and emerging crop pathogens, and to provide fundamental information on emerging pathogens for risk assessment and the development of practical phytosanitary regulations for the import and export of agricultural commodities and germplasm.

The mission of the Weed Biocontrol Program is to collect, evaluate, characterize and assure the safety of foreign pathogens released in the U.S. for biological control of introduced weeds, as an alternative to chemical herbicides.

BIODEFENSE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

- Characterization of and molecular diagnostics for USDA-APHIS-Listed "Select Agents" (7 CFR part 331)
- Biology of Host-Pathogen interactions
- Molecular genetics of threatening and emerging crop pathogens
- Partnering with DHS-NBACC, US Army-USAMRIID and HHS-NIH-NAIAD in the National Interagency Biodefense Campus (NIBC) at Ft. Detrick

DETAILS

Students will be working in a research laboratory, learning how a lab works while getting hands on experience with research applications and techniques.

Program dates are flexible.

May – August



Applicants must be at least 17 years old, US Citizens and currently enrolled in high school or an accredited college or university and will be continuing their education into the Fall semester. Selected candidates will be STEP appointees and receive pay from the GS 1- 4 levels (\$10.60-14.59/hr depending on education and experience). Dorm rooms at nearby Hood College are available for out of town students on a first come, first served basis.

Please send the following by March 1:

- Resume
- Transcript
- 1-2 Letters of Recommendation
- 1 page personal statement describing qualifications and reason for interest in the program.

Selected candidates must complete a government application and pre-employment background check prior to entrance-on-duty.

For additional information contact:

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