2023 AVMA Government Relations Division externship application

Instructions: Complete this application and email it along with your resume, personal statement, and case study to externship@avma.org. All materials are due no later than October 7, 2022.

First name: _____   **Last name:** _____

Veterinary medical college: _____   **Year of expected graduation:** _____

Email address: _____

SAVMA ID: _____   **I am a U.S. citizen: ___ yes   ___ no**

How did you learn about the AVMA GRD externship? _____

Preferred time block in 2023: Externships run for four weeks. Please indicate your top two choices. Note that selecting only one choice may limit your options if you are selected for an externship and that date block is filled/unavailable. In 2023, Congress is expected to be in session during these times.

___ March 6-31   ___ May 1-26   ___ June 5-30

___ September 5-29   ___ October 2-27

My application is complete:

___ **Two-page resumé:** CVs **will not** be accepted. Your resumé should include only the most **relevant** information you want AVMA to consider **(strictly limited to two pages, single-sided)**.

___ **Letter of recommendation** from a veterinarian (professor, mentor, or supervisor) familiar with your academic record. Recommendation letters must be submitted in an envelope sealed by the recommender or emailed to the AVMA GRD directly from the recommender.
Note: If multiple letters are received for one applicant, only the first letter received will be considered.

___ **Personal statement** explaining your motivations to apply to the AVMA GRD externship program and what you would like to gain from the experience **(strictly limited to 300 words).**

___ **Case study:** See page 4 of this application for instructions **(strictly limited to 500 words).**

Interest and involvement in advocacy, policy and politics: Check all that apply. Your answers will provide a context for your interest in and involvement with AVMA's legislative agenda and the political process.

___ I have completed a policy-related externship sponsored by:

　　___ Federal/State/Local government

　　___ AVMA

　　___ State VMA or allied organization (please list):_____

___ I am familiar with the AVMA legislative agenda.

___ I subscribe to and regularly read the AVMA Advocate.

___ I subscribe to and am active in the AVMA Congressional Advocacy Network (grassroots network).

___ I have participated in an AVMA legislative fly-in.

___ I have participated in my state VMA's "Hill Day" at my state legislature.

___ I am registered to vote in U.S. elections and have voted in an election for state or national office.

___ I have attended a town hall meeting hosted by a candidate for state or federal elected office.

___ I have contacted an elected state or federal official via phone, email, fax or in-person meeting.

___ I have volunteered for a candidate for state or federal elected office and/or interned or worked for a federal or state lawmaker.

What areas of policy are you interested in? Check all that apply.

___Appropriations (federal funding and budget issues)

___Animal health and welfare

___Conservation and environmental issues

___Food-related issues

___One Health

___Pharmaceutical issues

___Research issues

___Small business issues

___Tax issues

___Veterinary professional and educational issues

___Other (please list):

_____

Personal statement: In 300 words or less, explain your motivations to apply to the AVMA GRD externship program and what you hope to gain from the experience.

Case study: Applicants are required to complete this case study assignment:

Interoffice Memorandum

TO: **AVMA extern**

FROM: **Legislative director**

SUBJECT: **S.2215, the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act**

DATE: **October 8, 2022**

Recently, Senator Crapo (R-ID) approached your boss, a progressive senator from Massachusetts, and asked her to cosponsor S.2215, the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act. The senator you work for sits on the Senate Armed Services Committee and Finance Committee. As the junior senator from Massachusetts with little background in agriculture, and as a skeptic of large-scale factory farming, she would like to learn more about the issue before she decides on a position on the legislation.

This legislation would exclude VMLRP awards from gross income, thus ending the federal taxation of these awards. Because the VMLRP is currently paying the withholding for the tax on behalf of recipients, ending the tax would allow more VMLRP funds to be used for awards and increase the number of veterinarians that could participate in the program.

Please write a brief memo of no more than 500 words summarizing the legislation and its possible impact. Point out any benefits or problems with the legislation, the impact on and repercussions the legislation would have on our constituents and congressional district, supporters and opposition, and recommend whether your boss should cosponsor it or not.

Your boss will have to make her decision soon, so you must work quickly with the time and resources that you can gather between now and then to ensure that she has the information she needs to make an informed decision on whether to cosponsor the legislation or not.

Please do not contact any member of Congress or their staff regarding this exercise. It is a theoretical scenario created solely for the purpose of evaluating AVMA GRD externship applicants.