

Veterinary Scholars Program

Roadmap for European Students from France, The Netherlands and Germany

European Students participating in research training at a North American vet school

1. Formalities to be carried out in the context of the stay:

Students' contact persons are the following:

- At the European home school: the local faculty member in charge of veterinary students participating to the BIVSP, the school's office of international affairs, or the respective **Boehringer Ingelheim Veterinary Scholars Program (BIVSP) Program Director** for the home country concerned:

For French vet schools:	For Utrecht Faculty of Veterinary Medicine:	For German vet schools:
Dr. Philippe Berny Tel. +33 4 78 87 26 31 philippe.berny@vetagro-sup.fr	Dr. Cornélie Westermann Tel: +316-22776727 (mobile) c.m.westermann@uu.nl	Dr. Suzanne Müller-Berger Tel. +49 511 953-8004 suzanne.mueller-berger@tiho-hannover.de

- At the North American host university: the mentor for the research project you have chosen, once identified, **must inform the school's BIVSP Program Director** and bring the student into contact with the school's International Relations Department.
It is important that both the BIVSP Program Director at your North American host school as well as the BIVSP Program Director for your home country are kept informed about your choice of topic and vet school for the summer research training since both can help facilitating the application process at the school, the VISA process and other aspects, which have occasionally caused difficulties in the past.
- You can obtain the names of the students in the other European countries participating to the BIVSP in 2024 as well as those of past participants from your home countries via the three BIVSP Program Directors listed above.

1.1 Personal and health insurance

Students are expected to have personal insurance for activities outside the research training, e.g. civil liability, and to ensure international health coverage (including repatriation).

Students must have an international credit card that will allow him/her to pay their expenses, make withdrawals, etc. in the United States (NB: check what is covered by your credit card insurance (ex: repatriation)).

1.2 VISA

Since the VISA process can take up to 10 weeks, we strongly advise to initiate it at the earliest moment. European students participating to the BIVSP research training at a North American vet school will need to obtain the appropriate visa for their stay in the US. We strongly advise students to **get in touch with the Office for International Affairs at their host school as soon as possible** after they will have identified their research project and mentor.

The responsible persons there are well acquainted with the most recent requirements for the visa process. They will explain which documentation is needed to initiate the process. Students are advised to use only the J-1 VISA process (visiting scientists up to 6 months duration).

Further reading on VISA is available at the following links: [Exchange Visitor Visas, About DS-2019 | Participants | J-1 Visa](#). The university, through the international service, will have to complete the DS-2019 form and send it to you.

1.3 Internship Agreement

Students from France must have an international mobility internship agreement signed between the American host University and the French school (VetAgro Sup). Take care to ask for an internship agreement compatible with US regulations (must include the paragraphs concerning the French regulation regarding the compulsory remuneration of long traineeships). This convention must cover the students in terms of insurance (accidents incurred or caused during the research training, including civil liability...).

2. Answers to some practical questions students might have

2.1 Identifying a suitable research project and applying to the corresponding US vet school(s)

By early December 2024 BI will provide the above-mentioned program directors with the list of North American vet schools accepting international BIVSP students.

In early January 2025 Boehringer Ingelheim (Dr. Dr. Monica Figueiredo) will send a letter with the names of the selected international BIVSP students to the BIVSP Program Directors at those North American vet schools accepting international students. In this letter she will point out that only the international vet students listed in the letter will receive funding from Boehringer Ingelheim to participate in the program for 2025.

The list of North American vet schools participating to the BIVSP program is provided on the [BIVSP website](#), together with a link to the [individual schools' websites](#). The research projects offered by the different schools are described on their respective websites. Due to the difficulties caused by the length of the VISA process in previous years, BI has agreed with the North American vet schools that their websites will be updated by 6th January 2025. This way the school and research selection process can be finalized during January already and the VISA process initiated as soon as possible.

It is recommended that **at maximum two international BIVSP students select the same North American vet school**. Therefore, the students are requested to stay in close exchange with their BIVSP Program Director at the home school during the selection process for the host school. Exceptions are possible for very big schools such as for example University of California – Davis.

When you submit your interest for a research project to one or more vet schools, **please ensure you inform the school (not only your mentor but also the school's BIVSP Program Director)** that you are one of the international students selected under the BIVSP program already by the vet school(s) in their home country. Please also let the school know that **you do not need to undergo the host school's formal application process** since your selection has already been done in your home country and since you are already fully funded through the international BIVSP.

Please try to **identify your research project/US vet school during January 2025** and please also **inform the BIVSP Director of your home country** (see names under item 1.) of the status of your selection process. This early selection will allow you to immediately start your VISA process as soon as you have confirmation from the selected vet school.

2.2 Stipend

Each international veterinary student, who has been selected by his/her school/faculty to participate in the BIVSP, receives a stipend of \$US 6,500 and an additional \$US 1,200 as travel stipend. The totality of the stipend of \$US 7,700 will be provided to the student by the BIVSP Program Director of the home country or directly transferred to the student's bank account before he/she leaves for North America. Those funds are normally paid out in April.

The students are expected to pay for all travel required in the context of their summer research training, including travel to and registration for the National Veterinary Scholars Symposium, housing, meals, transportation, visa fees, trip to the embassy and other day to day expenses.

The host school may assist the students in finding appropriate accommodation for the period of their stay in the US. The expenses for that and the daily life must be covered by the student from the stipend he/she has received directly or through his/her home school prior to leaving for the US.

2.3 Integration into the established local summer training programs at the host school

Most of the North American vet schools have established summer training programs for their research students with regular extracurricular activities. When matching up with your local mentor at the host school, please make sure you **ask to be included in the school's summer training program**. During the past years we had situations where individual students were informed/included late or not at all, and we would like to avoid that in the future by informing students beforehand of that possibility and also by asking you to **ensure that the host school's BIVSP Program Director is aware of your upcoming training** at his/her school.

2.4 Organizing the travel from Europe to North America

Students are expected to arrange for their air travels to and from North America as soon as they have received their funds (see under 2.2) and once they have received the confirmation from the International Office at the host school in North America confirming the completion of the VISA process. Each student oversees the complete organization of his/her trip (air tickets, correspondence, hotel, food during the trip...).

In case students wish to already go ahead and purchase the ticket with their private funds prior to receiving the official BIVSP stipend, they are of course free to do.

2.5 Arrival at the host vet school and start of research training

The recommended start dates vary from one US vet school to the other and can be found on the websites of the vet schools participating to the BIVSP. The latter are listed on the [BIVSP website](#), together with a link to the individual school's websites.

2.6 Travel from the North American host vet school to the symposium

The National Veterinary Scholars Symposium (NVSS) will be hosted in Spokane, Washington, United States, from 7th to 9th August 2025. You should plan for arriving in the afternoon of 7th August and plan for a departure on 10th August 2025.

The travel to the NVSS and the registration to the Symposium must be organized by the student from his/her stipend. The logistical and program details in relation to the Symposium will become available around May/June 2025. Transport from the airport to the location of the symposium is usually handled by the organizers of the event.

Philippe Berny (VetAgro Sup, Lyon, France) - philippe.berny@vetagro-sup.fr
Cornélie Westermann (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine | Utrecht University | Veterinary Medicine) - c.m.westermann@uu.nl
Inge Hordijk (Coordinator International Office | Utrecht University | Veterinary Medicine) - I.L.Hordijk@uu.nl
Suzanne Mueller-Berger (University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover) - suzanne.mueller-berger@tiho-hannover.de
Brigitte Boenisch (BI International Program Director, BI France) - Brigitte.BOENISCH@boehringer-ingelheim.com
Marianne Curet (BI International Program Director, BI France) - Marianne.CURET@boehringer-ingelheim.com
Catherine Charuet (Boehringer Ingelheim France) - Catherine.CHARUET@boehringer-ingelheim.com



Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH
Binger Strasse 173
55216 Ingelheim am Rhein
Germany
T +49 6132 770

More information
[boehringer-ingelheim.com/animal-health](https://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com/animal-health)

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