

**International Veterinary Medicine Experiences**  
Information for Students Applying for Funding from  
Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

*What kind of trips are available?*

There are many opportunities available for a student to gain international veterinary experience, from MSU Study Abroad courses, such as the “Tropical Veterinary Medicine and One Health and Uganda” program, to less formalized trips. Veterinary students generally find opportunities of specific interest with the assistance of other students, the International Veterinary Student Association (IVSA), or faculty members in the area in which they are interested. The CVM Funding for International Student Travel committee and the Academic Affairs office can also provide information on previously funded trips and put you in touch with appropriate contacts.

Mississippi State University also has a unique agreement with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization to take up to 2 students per year (DVM and non-DVM) in one of their member country offices. Selected students may apply for a special stipend. More information can be found at <https://www.fao.org/employment/young-talent-programme/volunteer-programme/en>.

*When can I take a trip?*

Trips can be taken anytime that a student has availability outside of classes or clinics. Most experiences are a minimum of one week in order to provide the student with ample time to become familiar with the new country and culture. For Phase I students, this is mainly limited to winter, spring, and summer breaks.

*Am I guaranteed funding through the CVM?*

Funding for international travel is not guaranteed. The application process is competitive, and applications are evaluated on several criteria such as the educational goals of the trip, the cost of the program, and completeness of the application.

*How do I receive academic credit for international trips?*

Third and fourth-year veterinary students and dual-degree may be able to receive externship, elective, or Directed Individual Study (DIS) credit depending on the length and scope of their international experience. Students should consult with the Academic Affairs office or their faculty advisor to determine eligibility.

*Is there a limit to how many times I can apply for funding?*

Students may only apply for one international opportunity per time period, although students may apply multiple times throughout their professional study. In addition to the current application, applicants applying for additional funding will also be assessed by how well they communicated their previous trip experiences with others and the content of any post-travel surveys.

*What happens if I am awarded funding, but have to cancel my trip?*

If a trip has to be cancelled due to safety, weather, or other unforeseen reason, there are several options that can be made available to the student. Funding may be applied to another approved trip during the same time period, the student may elect to postpone the same trip until the next break, or a new trip and application may be submitted at a later time period. Each circumstance will be considered by the Committee on a case-by-case basis, and funding is not guaranteed beyond the initial approved trip.