UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine: Office for Global Programs

First Steps:

A guide to exploring veterinary educational

At this point in time, you have probably heard a little bit about the international opportunities afforded to you through the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Whether this was through emails, friends who have done it previously, or through our Global Programs Film Festival and the Research Round-up, you might be thinking – where do I even begin? It may seem daunting at first, but this guide is here to help you in the process.

Where to Begin?

Brainstorm

A good first step is to ruminate on any current ideas you have related to going abroad. Is there a particular country you have always wanted to visit but have never had the chance? Alternatively, is there a specific type of research you want to do with a specific professor or type of clinical work you would like to pursue? It is good to have an idea of <u>at least one</u> of these things, but if you don't know, it's all right! There are a few ways you can get some ideas.

Do some research!

General Info: The Office for Global Programs website is a wealth of information and will be referred to several times in this guide. Start to peruse it to learn more: https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/global- programs

Faculty Engaged Globally and Who Shares Your Interests: If you have an idea of where you would like to go, you can look at the faculty engagement page on the Office for Global Programs website https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/global-programs/faculty-staff.
You can use the search function on this database to find SVM faculty, and faculty throughout the campus who are working internationally: https://ucdavis.moveonca.com/publisher/1/eng. Also, go to the *SVM faculty directory* and search for faculty by name or by focus (interest/expertise): https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/faculty_directory. When you 'View Listing' or click on the faculty member's name, you will be taken to their webpage where most faculty have a 'Research Profile' and where you can learn more about their research activities. If you go to 'Network' and then to 'Map', you can see all the countries and institutions in the world where that faculty has research collaborations.

Previous Students: Look at videos of what previous students have done abroad and see if anything inspires you (example below)! Whether that be the country they visited, or the type of work they did. Check-out the short (3 min) videos and reports by students who traveled globally with funded projects and activities from 2015-2022: https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/global-programs/students.
2023 videos can be found here. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in some international travel restrictions in 2020-2022. However, on the website you can see the remote and/or domestic projects that were also conducted. We encourage you to plan a globally engaged project/externship and apply for Global Programs funding.

STAR Program and Mentors: You should also investigate the STAR (Students Training in Advanced Research) program and consider applying if you are interested in exploring the possibility of research locally or globally: https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/research/student-research/star. As you are considering mentors for STAR or Global Programs funding, check-out the STAR Mentors webpage. Just click on a topic you are interested in and up will pop several faculty with expertise in those fields and current projects students can work on/research the faculty are doing: https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/research/student-research/star/how-select-mentor.

Talk to the Experts

Talking to some experts can be a helpful way to find out about some opportunities you may not have thought of - though we do recommend you try the steps above before doing so. Dr. Smith and the Office for Global Programs team are happy to meet with you and can help to point you in the right direction. They can work with you to develop your ideas, find the best potential faculty mentors and make connections. To schedule an appointment with our office, please email Carolyn Forlee at cforlee@ucdavis.edu who can arrange the appointment.

Then What?

Reach out!

Reach out to UC Davis or International mentors to get questions answered and start figuring out possible summer projects and experience (our office can help you with these contacts as busy people often fail to respond). Then keep an eye out for emails from the Office for Global Programs for when applications are being accepted for International Externship/Global Fellowship funding (and also STAR if you are planning on doing a globally-engaged research!). You can view the current guidelines and applications and the next call will be similar and we will post it this Fall.

Funding

There are several funding opportunities for international summer experiences. These include:

- Office for Global Programs Funding
  https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/global- programs/resources/funding
  - International Summer Externship
  - Global Feline Health Fellowship
  - Global Underserved Communities Fellowship
  - Cheetah Conservation Fund Internship

- Office of Research
  - STAR funding for research https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/research/student-research/star/star-program-funding-opportunities
  - Please be aware that you can apply for **ALL** of the above funding opportunities. HOWEVER, if you receive funding from both STAR and one of the Fellowships, you may only accept ONE of those funding sources. If you are awarded the International Summer Externship, you may accept that funding no matter what other funding sources you receive.

For example:

Leah Streb applied for funding to conduct an international research project working on Rift Valley fever virus (she did her project before joining the Rx One Health course in Tanzania). She applied for the International Summer Externship ($2,500), the Global Underserved Communities Fellowship (~$6,000), and STAR funding (~$6,000). She was selected for all funding sources. However, she had to choose between the Fellowship and STAR as she could only receive one of those awards. She chose the Global Fellowship and was able to receive that funding in addition to the International Summer Externship totaling about $8,500.

Created by Leah Streb, Global Health Fellow
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