The Pathways Programs offer clear paths to federal internships for students from high school through post-graduate school and to careers for recent graduates. You can begin your career in the federal government by choosing the path that best describes you and where you are in your academics.

The Pathways Programs consist of three components: the Internship Program, the Recent Graduates Program, and the Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program.

The Internship Program

This program is designed to provide students enrolled in a wide variety of educational institutions, from high school to graduate level, with opportunities to work in agencies and explore federal careers while still in school.

To be eligible, students must be:

- Currently enrolled in an accredited high school or approved home school curriculum; college (including 4-year colleges/universities, community colleges, and junior colleges); professional, technical, vocational, and trade school; advanced degree programs; or other qualifying educational institution if pursuing a qualifying degree or certificate.

- In good academic standing as defined by the educational institution.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) requires all students appointed under the Internship Program to be U.S. citizens. This is not required under Office of Personnel Management (OPM) regulations, but is an agency requirement for all of our employees.

FSIS may hire interns on a temporary basis for up to one year to complete a specific project or assignment or for an indefinite period while they remain a student and until the educational requirements are met. Interns may work either part- or full-time. FSIS must sign a Participant Agreement with each intern that sets forth the expectations for the internship.

How to apply for internships

All FSIS Internship Program opportunities will be posted on USA Jobs (www.usajobs.gov). Students are encouraged to visit USA Jobs and should submit applications following the instructions on the “how to apply” section of the vacancy announcement. Applications will not be accepted after the closing date listed on the announcement. For updates on when the announcement will be available, applicants may visit www.fsis.usda.gov/Careers/Application_Process/index.asp.

For information on internship opportunities within U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies, please visit www.usda.gov.