

USDA OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS



USDA Office of Tribal Relations

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1. What types of careers are there in agriculture?

Agriculture offers a diverse range of job opportunities in almost every field of study. Some of these fields include, but are not limited to: electrical engineering, veterinary science, conservation, forestry, agribusiness, and finance management. More information on specific careers and their responsibilities, qualifications, and job outlook can be found on the AgCareers.com Career Profiles portal.

2. What internships and programs are available to tribal students through USDA?

USDA offers a variety of internships and programs available to tribal students. In addition to searching [USDA's Tribal Youth](#) page and the [USAJobs Students and Recent Grad Page](#), other opportunities include:

- a. **The Pathways Program**
- b. Agency Specific Programs
- c. Opportunities Through Partners

3. What is the Pathways Program?

The Pathways Program provides internship opportunities to current students and recent graduates. Pathways interns get to work with Federal agencies while still in school and get paid for doing so. Students who successfully complete the program may be eligible for conversion to a permanent job in the civil service. Some specific opportunities include:

a. **OneUSDA Internship Program**

The OneUSDA Internship Program offers opportunities to students currently enrolled in qualifying educational programs or institutions. It is a comprehensive developmental program intended to provide students with experience in a dynamic work environment that will enhance their educational goals and help shape their career choices. An internship with USDA will involve various components of on-the-job experience, mentorship, and training tailored to the student's education, experience, and interests.

b. **Saul T. Wilson, Jr., Internship**

This internship provides opportunities to aspiring veterinarians. Some field work includes: assisting with veterinary technician duties, attaching animal identification tags, and drawing blood samples for laboratory testing.

c. **William F. Helms Internship Program**

This internship provides opportunities for students interested in botany, plant pathology, and other biological sciences. Some field work includes: inspecting plants for pests or disease, conducting crop and commodity surveys, and assisting in plant health emergency response efforts.

d. **Adel A. Malak Scholarship**

This opportunity is for students interested in food inspection and safety. Some field work includes: assisting with the examining of livestock for diseases that make it not fit for consumption, assisting in ensuring that animals are handled and treated humanely, and observing conditions in meat processing plants to ensure that they follow sanitary condition requirements.

4. What are some agency specific programs?

a. APHIS AgDiscovery Program

This is a two-to-four week summer outreach program for high school students who are interested in learning about plants, animals, and agribusiness. Students chosen to participate in AgDiscovery will gain experience through hands-on labs, workshops, and field trips.

b. APHIS Safeguarding Natural Heritage

This two-week summer outreach program helps students ages 14 to 17 explore careers in plant and animal science, wildlife management, and agribusiness within and outside a tribal community. Participating students live on a college campus and learn about agriculture from university professors, scientists, and administrative professionals who work for the U.S. Government in a variety of fields. They also participate in character- and team-building activities, and a variety of workshops.

5. What are some partners USDA works with to offer internships for tribal students?

a. Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)

HACU represents more than 470 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America, and Spain. HACU maintains more than 30 formal Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Partnership Agreements with federal agencies, offices, and business organizations.

b. First American Land-Grant Consortium (FALCON)

FALCON is a nonprofit, professional association, sanctioned by motion of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium's Board of Directors, that represents administrators, faculty, and staff at 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (Tribal Colleges and Universities). The FALCON portal shares information, fosters partnerships, promotes professional development, and serves as a resource center for its members. First American Land-Grant Consortium (FALCON).

c. Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS)

MANRRS is a national leadership training and education organization that empowers students of under-represented and diverse backgrounds to engage in agriculture, natural resources, and related science careers. MANRRS accomplishes this by providing personal and professional development, leadership experiences, mentorship, and educational enrichment opportunities in early education. MANRRS currently partners with multiple federal agencies and offices, including USDA, to provide internship opportunities for its members.

d. USDA Wallace-Carver Fellowship

USDA and the World Food Prize Foundation partnered to create the Wallace-Carver Fellowship to inspire the next generation of American scientific and humanitarian leaders. The prestigious Wallace-Carver Fellowship offers exceptional college students the opportunity to collaborate with world-renowned scientists and policymakers through paid fellowships at leading USDA research centers and offices across the United States.

6. What are opportunities for students at 1994 tribal colleges?

The USDA 1994 Tribal Scholars Program provides tuition, tutoring, paid internship opportunities, and career opportunities for students entering or graduating from 1994 Tribal Colleges or Universities.

For more information, email 1994@usda.gov.

7. Where can I go for more information about financial planning for college?

USDA's **National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA)** recommends the **High School Financial Planning Program (HSFPP)** run through the **National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE)**.

For more information, contact the Office of Tribal Relations at 202-205-2249 or tribal.relations@usda.gov.