



Discipline: Small Animal Internal Medicine
Summer Externship 2026

Goals

- Advancement of problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Enhancement of diagnostic and differential diagnosis skills
- Increased exposure to diagnostic and practical techniques
- Experience in the management of a variety of complicated medical cases, including intensive care

Externs working within Small Animal Internal Medicine are encouraged, under direct supervision, to be involved in all aspects of case management.

Responsibilities

The basic responsibilities of an Extern are similar to those of an Intern/Resident but under direct supervision of the hospital clinicians. There will be opportunities to evaluate and assist in the treatment of hospitalised cases, as well as assisting in the admission and assessment of out-patient and emergency cases. Under direct supervision, the Extern will be able to calculate medication and fluid requirements, clinically monitor cases, access and interpret diagnostic tests and observe any relevant procedures.

1. Active Learning

- To get the most out of your externship, it is important to get involved. Ask relevant questions, investigate and study the literature around the cases you are assigned and be prepared for discussion with senior clinicians.
- Decide on your learning objectives before you start. Discuss these with relevant staff and ensure you have time to complete them before you leave.

2. Animal care and case management

- Treat every single one of your cases as if you were the sole person responsible for it
 - do a thorough complete physical examination on all relevant cases in the hospital at least twice daily, try to make your own diagnostic and treatment plan to discuss with the clinicians and be active in the care and progression of the case.
- Do not enact any treatment or diagnostic procedure without direction and presence of the relevant clinician.

3. Case Admission

- You will accompany the relevant clinician to take a full history, complete a thorough physical examination (including body weight and body condition).
- On admission you will be invited to take an active part in diagnostic work-up and treatment planning for the case.

4. Hospital Rounds

- Each morning between 9:00 and 10:00 am (exact time varies depending on day of week) board rounds are held to update on cases in the hospital and schedule their diagnostic/treatment plan. Again, in the late afternoon around 4 pm, board rounds are held to discuss important findings of the day and to make a plan for overnight care.

5. Formal activities

- Twice weekly (9 am Tuesday and 8:30 am Thursday) formal Resident rounds are held for an hour where cases are presented and discussed with Senior Clinicians. You will be expected to present cases assigned to you in a problem-oriented manner.
- On Wednesday at 8:30 am, Resident Seminars are held over 30 minutes where Residents present short talks on topics of their choice.
- On Friday morning at 8:30 am Journal Club is held where original and review articles are critiqued. You will be expected to present at least once when on externship.
- Once a month, a visiting Cardiology Diplomate sees cases and reviews ultrasound images, ECGs and cardiac cases. You may also be interested in observing cases seen by our visiting Dermatologist, again on a monthly basis.

How to apply

Externships will be awarded on a first come, first served basis, prioritised as indicated below. To get the most out of your externship, a minimum duration of two consecutive weeks is suggested but a maximum of four weeks is allowed. If you cover two weeks you will start at 9 am on the first Monday and finish at 5 pm on the last Friday. You will be expected, but not obliged, to take part in weekend care between your two weeks. Please check the available dates below and submit your choice of dates via email, including the relevant documents (see below). If available, the space will be reserved, and you will receive a confirmation.

To qualify for this Small Animal Internal Medicine externship, you must:

- be either a Resident, Intern or other postgraduate veterinarian (priority assigned in this order).

You will be expected to have read the relevant literature regarding protocols and infection control within the UCD Veterinary Hospital before you start.

Note: This externship is not available to undergraduate students.

To apply: please email ucdvet@ucd.ie, with 'SAIM Externship Application' in the subject line. Your email should include:

- ❖ a current curriculum vitae
- ❖ a statement of pertinent experience
- ❖ [evidence of proficiency in English](#)
- ❖ a letter signed by your Supervisor supporting your externship and attesting to your good professional standing

You will get confirmation of the clinical experience, but no formal grades will apply. You will be expected to arrange travel and accommodation yourself and must ensure that you carry appropriate insurance.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email ucdvet@ucd.ie

Weeks available in 2025:

- **Monday May 18th 2026 to Monday July 20th 2026**
(Note: min 2 and max 4 weeks per externship)

We look forward to working with you!