

CULTIVATING KNOWLEDGE

DEVELOPING LEADERS



U.S. Department of Agriculture's Public Service Leaders Scholarship Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for the USDA Public Service Leaders Scholarship Program. The program is designed to promote public service and create access to higher education and provides combined scholarship and internship opportunities to college and university students leading to permanent employment with USDA upon completion of their degree. The sponsoring agency, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) www.nass.usda.gov is the statistical and data collection arm of the USDA. More than 300 official reports issued by NASS help maintain an orderly association among the output, supply and marketing sectors in agriculture. In addition, NASS is responsible for conducting the Census of Agriculture every 5 years. A combination of rapidly changing agriculture, new statistical methods, and state-of-the-art computer technology makes this an exciting era for NASS professionals.

Students selected into the program will receive:

- * **Full-tuition scholarship**
- * **Paid internship leading to permanent employment**
- * **Employee benefits, mentoring, career development, and leadership training**

Successful applicants are leaders in their community and committed to public service. Selectees will intern during the summer and return to their home institution to complete degree requirements. Airfare is paid for by agency. Upon graduation, scholarship recipients become permanent employees of the USDA and must be prepared to work for USDA for one year for each year of educational assistance received. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://www.hsi.usda.gov/Students/PSLS.htm>.

Duty Location:

TBD (will be placed in one of the 45 field offices in the United States)

Length of Scholarship:

2 Years

Desired Majors:

Math, Statistics, Agriculture, Ag Business, Ag Economics/Management/Marketing, Ag Production and Technology, Agronomy, Animal Science or related field.

Required to take 15 semester credits of math and statistics, of which 6 must be in statistics, plus 9 additional semester credits in other physical or social sciences.

Academic Level:

Student beginning their college Junior/Senior year or Master's degree in Fall 2012 preferred

Position Title:

Statistician

Position Description:

Assists USDA officials in providing recommendations concerning mathematical techniques and methodology employed in planning and conducting statistical surveys. Assignments involve the application of statistical theories, techniques and methods used to obtain and analyze agricultural data and prepare estimates, forecasts and reports. Working with NASS includes extensive training programs and new job assignments at regular intervals to help improve statistical and data processing skills and knowledge about agriculture in various areas of the country. New techniques, particularly those related to emerging technologies, are important segments of training and everyday performance on the job.

Desired Skills:

Training or experience in agriculture is desirable.

The application deadline is March 19, 2012 11:59PM Eastern Time.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 720-6506 or Sandra.cortez@osec.usda.gov.