Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI)
Internship in Phytosanitation and Biosecurity

The FABI Internship Programme provides interns with a period of experiential learning during which previously acquired knowledge and theory are integrated with practical application and skills development in the plant health research environment or professional setting. It thus provide interns with the opportunity to gain applied experience, while affording their mentors/supervisors the opportunity to guide their development. Our vision is that the initiative prepare interns for careers in the forestry and agricultural sectors.

The internship draws from the expertise of multiple stakeholders and the training is coordinated with the needs of relevant industries, organizations and government. The outcomes of the training will provide additional technical support to improve the updating of outdated import requirements; assist with a higher turnover of completed pest risk information packages and pest risk assessments. This all will contribute positively to increased market access of SA commodities, and help with a positive trade balance. Interns will also contribute to pest and disease diagnostic and extension, surveillance and biological control programs.

By the end of this one-year internship, successful candidates will be acquainted with and able to practically apply the knowledge gained on the following:

- *Plant health and pest/disease threats*
  Global trade; Pathways of introduction and spread; Examples and case studies; Biosecurity; Quarantine and exclusion
- *Phytosanitary concepts*
  International Plant Protection Convention; International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures; Pest and disease risk analysis; Phytosanitary certification; Phytosanitary import/export regulatory systems
- *Pest and disease diagnostics*
  Identification of insects, fungi, bacteria and viruses; Field- and laboratory-based identifications; Pest and disease reporting and communication
- *Disease and pest surveillance*
  Importance of surveillance; How and why surveillance is implemented; Strategies and methodologies
- *Pest and disease risk analysis and management*
  Assessing risk; Commodity-specific management options; Pre- and postharvest practices; Integrated management systems; Biological Control; Systems approaches
- *Agricultural/Forestry extension*
  Concept and practice of extension; Target groups and their needs; Stakeholder engagement and awareness; Communication media

Eligibility and stipends

- South African graduates with a **minimum of a BSc Hons degree or a four-year BSc Agric degree**. These may include specialization in a range of fields in the biological and agricultural sciences (e.g., genetics, entomology, microbiology, plant pathology, plant breeding, plant production, agricultural extension, etc.).
- Preferred applicants are those whose appointment would contribute towards achieving demographic representation in FABI.
- Applicants with a driver's licence and experience in driving off-road will receive strong consideration.
- This is a one-year internship with a monthly stipend at a competitive scale, depending on academic qualifications.

How to apply

Applicants should email their detailed CV (please include driving experience), copy of their South African ID and full academic record to heidi.roos@fabi.up.ac.za

Only applications received **by 11 August 2021** will be considered.