



## PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE M<sup>2</sup>

### **2015 FELLOWSHIPS FOR TRAINING ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY**

#### **Introduction**

The One Health concept recognizes that animal and public health, along with the environment, are interconnected. Hence, multidisciplinary teams that take into account the complex nature of interactions in the interfaces between and among animal, public, and environmental health are critically important. Many pathogens, referred to as “zoonotic”, may be transmitted from animals to human and vice versa and their impact is most important in some particular social groups and geographical regions, such as certain Asian, African, and Latin American countries. The need for securing a sufficient amount of safe food to the human population is aggravated by the inescapable fact that human populations grow at a global scale.

There is an urgent need for supporting primary production of safe food, and social development in developing economies, with the ultimately goal of supporting the goal of feeding the world and promoting sustainability. Towards that end, there is also a need for generating knowledge, developing skills, and implementing tools to prevent, control, and eradicate animal diseases that impair production, prevent international trade, and affect human populations.

The objective of the program of excellence introduced here is to take advantage of capacities and promote synergies that go beyond those expected by the simple sum of existing capacities and resources in Minnesota and Madrid ( $M \times M = M^2$ ). The cultural and geographical proximity with Latin American countries will also be considered in the implementation of this program.

#### **Goals and objectives**

One of the objectives of the M<sup>2</sup> program is to facilitate the generation of knowledge and development of skills for young professionals in the areas of human, public, and animal

health to promote the prevention, control, and eradication of diseases. Scientists trained on this program are expected to play a leading role in the development and implementation of future epidemiological programs in the US, and Ibero-America (Spain, Latin America), and to facilitate primary production and trade through those economies.

### **2005 Fellowships for training on epidemiology**

Three fellowships will be offered to support recent students graduated from Spanish universities on Health-related areas.

#### **1. Requirements**

- Acceptable knowledge of English language (to be evaluated on a video conference).
- Bachelor or professional degree on a health-related area obtained in 2013 or later
- Career-wide academic grades > 2,5.
- Acceptable knowledge of IT tools, software, and interest on mathematics and quantitative epidemiology in the fields of animal Health and food safety
- Willingness and availability to travel and spend time in Minnesota

#### **2. Program**

The training program will be supervised by University of Minnesota faculty and staff, including:

**Phase 1** – six months in Madrid (September 2015 – February 2016);

**Phase 2** – three months in Minnesota (March 2016 – June 2016);

**Phase 3** – three months in Madrid (July 2016 – September 2016).

Phase 1 will be conducted by three pre-selected, best qualified students. Those students will be based in Madrid and supervised by faculty, post doctoral fellows, and graduate students of the University of Minnesota to obtain base knowledge on quantitative epidemiology, including study design, data analysis, and data collection. This training will include participating (through virtual means) of the DVM courses on basic and applied epidemiology lectured at the University of Minnesota. At the end of phase 1, students will take an exam and two of them will be selected to move to the next phase.

In phase 2, the two selected students will travel to Minnesota, where they will audit the graduate course on quantitative methods in food animals. They will be supervised by a post-doc or graduate student from Minnesota in the analysis of data

collected in phase 1. They will present two seminars, one in Madrid (in Spanish) and one in Minnesota (in English) with the preliminary findings of their research results.

In phase 3, the candidates will write and submit for publication a scientific paper and will prepare applications for fellowships to conduct graduate studies in Minnesota or Madrid, co-supervised by faculty from both institutions. Students that are successful in securing funds will conduct their graduate studies in Madrid or Minnesota.

### **3. Stipends**

Selected students will receive 3.600 euros for phase 1 and 5.400 euros for phase 2 and 3. Funding sources is equally divided between Minnesota and Madrid.

### **4. Applications**

Interested candidates shall submit their CV and academic grading along with a letter describing their motivation and interest to [formacion@visavet.es](mailto:formacion@visavet.es) by September 4, 2015.

### **5. Evaluation and selection**

A Committee from Minnesota and Madrid will select the candidates, based on CV, academic degree and history, and results of an interview. Candidates will be selected by September 11, 2015.

### **6. Next calls**

Pending on the evaluation of the results of the present call, future calls may be opened in subsequent years.

For more information please visit [www.m2program.org](http://www.m2program.org)

