

A Q & A with Vicky Knutson about her USDA scholarship

Vicky graduated from the Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine in 2015, She received substantial help with tuition through a USDA program.

In exactly which program did you participate?

USDA Pathways Program, Saul T Wilson Jr Scholarship

When did you apply (in relation to your graduation from CCVM)?

I applied shortly after I found out I was admitted to the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Any tips for others who want to apply?

Keep your eye on the USA jobs website because the application period is short. Create a profile and resume in USA jobs ahead of time.

Did they pay all your tuition?

No, they paid about half of my tuition costs - \$10,000/year. They have since increased the scholarship to \$15,000/year. In exchange, I must work one year full time for the agency for each year they gave me tuition assistance. A job is guaranteed upon graduation without going through the normal competitive application process. You must start work within 4 months of graduation. The location of the job is undetermined until shortly before graduation. In addition, the scholarship requires that the recipient work 640 hours during their time as a vet student (paid work). There is also travel funds available for students to work in other offices throughout the country to increase their breadth of experience while in vet school. Lastly, if a recipient turns down the job or quits before their commitment is up, they must pay back the money that the scholarship provided.