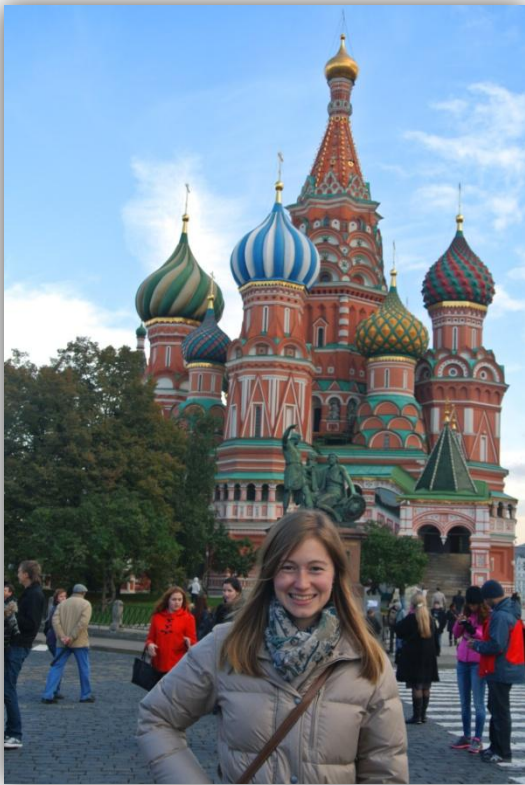


## **An interview with ANSC Masters Graduate Student, Genevieve Flock, regarding her “USDA Foreign Agricultural Service” Internship**

*(Russia, Fall 2013)*



**Q: Where did you intern, and when? What was your status? (i.e. sophomore, junior, etc...)**

I interned at the United States Embassy in Moscow, Russia for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). The internship was for 12 weeks during Fall 2013. I am currently a second year Masters student in the Department of Animal Science focusing in Food Microbiology and Safety.

**Q: Was it a paid internship? What did you do there?**

During this paid internship I was able to learn about all the responsibilities of FAS. The office does weekly reporting about agriculture in Russia involving current information on production, animal diseases, trade, etc. I co-wrote a report on the state of African Swine Fever in Russia and surrounding countries. In addition, I read the FAS reports each week which educated me about all

sectors of Agriculture in Russia. I was also involved in analyzing trade data, writing blogs about FAS events and creating Russian commodity graphs and maps. I attended meetings with my mentors to learn about how they represent trade missions from the US and connect them to Russian companies. Also, I attended trade shows where FAS represented US companies that want to export to Russia.

**Q: When did you apply for this internship?**

I applied for the internship in June on the USAjobs.gov website. To be eligible to apply you must be a Masters or PhD student (pursuing a degree related to agriculture) and a citizen of the United States.

**Q: How long did the internship last?**

The internship was a little over 12 weeks from September 13<sup>th</sup> to December 13<sup>th</sup>. The length of the internship can be between 12 to 16 weeks.

**Q: How did you learn about this opportunity?**

Information about this internship was provided to me by my advisor Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan.

**Q: Anything else you'd like to add about your experience?**

The internship was a once in a lifetime experience. I visited a beef cattle ranch that raised Black Angus cattle imported from the US. I met the US Ambassador to Russia, Ambassador McFaul and attended his speaking events. In my free time I visited famous museums, churches and historical sites all over Moscow. But the best part of all was working with the wonderful people in the FAS office who mentored me throughout the internship.

**Q: So, what are your plans when you graduate?**

I will go on to pursue a PhD in Food Microbiology and Safety. Later on in my career I may want to join the foreign service and work for FAS.

**Q: If someone has questions, can they contact you regarding your internship experience?**

Please feel free to ask me any questions about the internship at [Genevieve.Flock@uconn.edu](mailto:Genevieve.Flock@uconn.edu).