

About Plum Island Animal Disease Center

Established in 1954, the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) is a unique, critical national asset for agro-defense, dedicated to the protection of the nation's livestock industry and advancement of knowledge related to the control and eradication of foreign animal diseases. The laboratory's mission is to train veterinary first responders on foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), provide diagnostics for FMD outbreaks, provide the nation's vaccine repository for FMD, as well as research for new biologic countermeasures and license vaccines. PIADC has recently been granted a license for the first molecular FMD vaccine that can be manufactured in the United States. This vaccine, which is considered the greatest achievement in 50 years of FMD research, was made possible through the inter-agency partnerships among the the DHS Science & Technology Directorate (S&T), the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

As PIADC is located on an island, the facility is largely self-sustaining, through the operation of its own electrical power plant, water supply and waste water treatment plants, IT infrastructure, transportation to and from island, as well as dedicated 24/7 law enforcement, fire, rescue and emergency services.

PIADC operations' role in support of the technology development for the broader Homeland Security Enterprise has and will continue to expand. For example, we are pursuing testing and validation of newer decontamination technologies for viruses which not only benefit biocontainment operations but can aid in the national response in the event of an FMD outbreak. We are also in the early stages of establishing partnerships within DHS S&T and the private sector for the development, testing and end-user training of technologies that will enhance perimeter monitoring of Plum Island, improve the capability, redundancy, and resiliency of our network connections, and communication systems, as well as other capabilities that may support the broader HSE. Finally, PIADC conducts on-Island training, drills and exercises to support the local, state and Federal first responder community as well as performs outreach within DHS, DoD, emergency management organizations and academic institutions. Strategic partnerships with our S&T colleagues and FEMA will facilitate the execution of the emergency management program plan.

PIADC is operated on Plum Island which is a federally owned 840-acre island off the northeastern tip of Long Island, New York. The island is approximately 1.5 miles from Orient Point, New York, and approximately 12 miles from New London, Connecticut, accessible by ferry service for research facility employees and approved visitors.

While at PIADC, the student will be a part of a unique facility that, for almost 60 years, has been dedicated to protecting the nation's agriculture, livestock, economy, and food supply. The student will be fully integrated into the PIADC community, and, while on-site, can participate in research-related seminars led by international-renowned scientists well as optional events such as cultural awareness days and employee association social functions. The student can live either in Connecticut or New York and access other nearby academic communities such as Stony Brook University on Long Island, Connecticut College or the University of Connecticut. Rail and ferry services are conveniently located to access both New York City and Boston easily.

DHS suitability will be required prior to the intern accessing detailed information at PIADC.

For more information about PIADC, visit: <http://www.dhs.gov/st-piadc> .