

Animal Sciences

A man in a blue jacket and jeans is petting a sheep in a field. The sheep are brown and black. The background is a green field with a fence. The text 'Animal Sciences' is overlaid in a large white font, partially enclosed by a white circle.

Dreaming about your future?

Check out the careers of former Animal Sciences students in this booklet and see in which directions you can go!

Edition 5

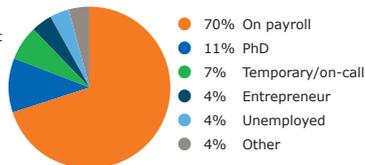


WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

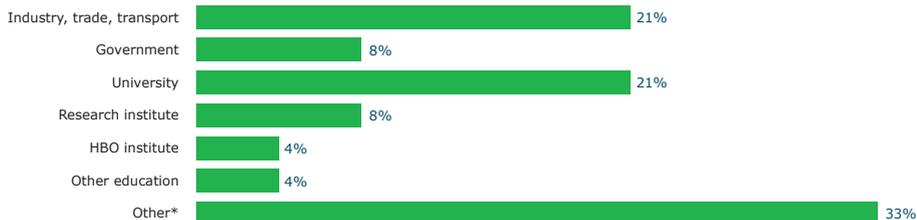
General information Animal Sciences

Employment

56%	had a job within 1 - 3 months	43%	had a permanent employment
4 months	was the average time a	39%	started internationally
graduate	needed to find a job	38.2	work hours / week
74%	started at an academic level	2527.60	gross C / month
83%	started in own/related direction		(after 1 year employment)



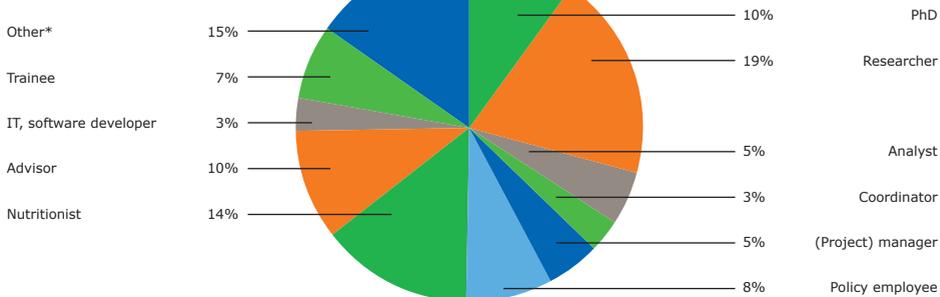
Branches



*E.g., consultancies, agricultural sector, financial services, (inter)national organisations, zoos, veterinary branch, ICT-branch

Source: NAE 2019 (Survey among alumni graduated in 2017 and 2018)

Functions



*E.g.: curator, zookeeper, agricultural entrepreneur, vet's assistant, teacher, account manager

Source: Survey among WUR Animal Sciences graduates of 2018 - 2020



Anna Dörper | 2019

Wageningen University and Research | PhD candidate

At the end of my master programme in 2019 I was looking for a new challenge. During that time, I haven't had a clear picture in my mind what to look for. While searching for a job and internship opportunities I realized that most advertisements that caught my attention were actually research related. So, although I hadn't realised it at the time being, subconsciously my heart had already taken a direction. At the end of my search, I found myself in the happy position of starting a PhD at the Laboratory of Entomology at Wageningen University. Funnily enough, the research topic I am working on now 'Insects for poultry feed' is a combination of the topics of my BSc (insects for livestock feed) and MSc (poultry nutrition) theses. As a PhD I have a nice variety of tasks: supervising students, communication with companies, expanding my own horizon at webinars/courses, diving into literature, preparing my own research, supporting other PhDs from time to time, and sometimes during breaks I just find myself in the coffee corner having one of the most inspiring discussions with colleagues. I enjoy being surrounded by such positive and innovative minds and feel grateful to contribute to a more sustainable future.



Mandy de Jong | 2019

Achmea Agro | Staff Advisor

After graduation, I started as a trainee at Achmea Agro where I followed a two-year programme at the Agriculture department. During this time, I learned everything about insurances, prevention, policy development and more. After finishing this traineeship, I

continued working at Achmea, but now as a staff advisor for

the team Development and Innovation. Here, I divide my time between facilitating the team and working on subjects, such as our policy, difficulties in the agricultural sector or new opportunities that arise in this sector. During my studies, I noticed that I really liked working on improvement of animal welfare. One of the ways to do this is by prevention of disease and harm. Prevention is also a major component in insurances. Therefore this job provides me with the opportunity to educate farmers on how to keep their animals safe and healthy. For example, barn fires can lead to many dead or injured animals. At Achmea we work together with farmers who have plans on building a new barn. We provide them with knowledge on how to build a safe barn and how to keep it safe. I really enjoy my work, as my job is very versatile and it gives me the opportunity to improve welfare and safety in the agricultural sector.



Kars Hüsken | 2020

Sweco | Junior Advisor Ecology

I am working as a junior ecological consultant at Sweco. Sweco is an organisation that focusses on sustainable and conservational development in our modern world. Conservation of (marine and terrestrial) nature, increasing biodiversity and monitoring the effects of nitrogen on our nature are some of the aspects I get to cope with every day, which I find amazing. But how did I get to the point where I was hired by Sweco? During my BSc, I wasn't really focused on a specific profession I wanted to do in the future. However, during my MSc, I changed this attitude and decided to focus on aspects that vacancies ask you to have when applying. In the end this gave me a slight advantage against other applicants (in my case knowledge on geographic information systems). For my internship, I performed a literature study on the connectivity between tropical coastal ecosystems at Arcadis. Next to that, I learned the ins and outs for a consultancy profession which, I believe, gave me a head start for my application at Sweco. If you already know what you want, I would strongly recommend to start to look for these applications and mark the specific trades they are searching for. By adjusting your courses to these trades, you will enlarge the chance of you having the job you want in the (near) future!

"During my MSc I decided to focus on aspects that vacancies ask you to have when applying."



Stijn Broekhuis | 2018

Royal FrieslandCampina | Global Development Specialist

As a farmer's son and Animal Sciences alumnus (specialisation Global and Sustainable Production) the agriculture sector feels like solid ground. The first two years after graduation I worked as an agriculture policy advisor in the European Parliament. This was exciting, extraordinary and gave me a new perspective on agriculture worldwide. These two years led me to the next step in my carrier: Global Development Specialist at FrieslandCampina - Ingredients. The combination of new European insights on rules and regulations, plus in-depth knowledge from my studies, gave me a kick-start in this job. I am responsible for the development and implementation of (new) products from FrieslandCampina - Ingredient to the local sales support in Asia and Latin America. My daily activities are mainly located within the triangle of Product Development, Sales and Marketing. With my down-to-earth mentality, drive to develop and support healthy products for animals, my current job is a perfect match for me.

"The combination of new European insights on rules and regulations, plus in-depth knowledge from my studies, gave me a kick-start in this job."



Jelmer Rijnhart | 2020

Dairy farm and Data, Science & Technology Works |
(Co)owner and Data-Scientist

After my master (specialisation Adaptation, Health and Welfare), I ended up as a dairy farmer and part-time freelance data-scientist. During my master I started to get interested in data and programming. Therefore, I followed a basic programming course at day time and created Arduino

based systems (open-source software to control microcontrollers) in the evenings with friends whilst enjoying some beers. At the same time, I started the trajectory to take over our family dairy farm. It was therefore a logical choice to write my master thesis at Perkin Elmer (specialized in milk analysers) and to perform my internship at Lely Technologies (famous for the automatic milking robots). At both companies I worked with large datasets. I started as a rookie in data-science, but I learned a lot during my time at Perkin Elmer. This master thesis confirmed my choice of diving into data. During my internship at Lely, where I worked with sensor data in the research and development (R&D) phase, I got to put my new skills directly into practice. A fun fact of working with data in the R&D phase is that you need to be more aware than ever on the stability and quality of the gathered data. After my graduation, I started my own data-science, -engineering and software engineering company. The combination of a dairy farm and being a data-scientist is perfect. I can perfectly work remote and a large part of the work can be done when it suits me. Since I started as a freelance data-scientist I have not been without clients! The work that I am doing varies from creating data-pipelines, building models on datasets, to creating and programming control panels for electrical motors. Obviously, writing reports is another important part of the work.

Xana Blaauw | 2019

NVWA | Inspector Animal Health, Directorate Enforcement



As final part of my master's Animal Sciences (specialisation Adaptation, Health and Behaviour) I did my internship at the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA). The NVWA is an independent agency in the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food that monitors animal and plant health, animal welfare, the safety of food and consumer products, as well as enforcing nature legislation. After my internship, I had the chance to apply for a vacancy within the team where I performed my internship and I got the job. Therefore, directly after graduation I could start as Inspector in the team Livestock of Department Expertise, Directorate Enforcement. Within my team there are different domains, each with its own focus in the animal husbandry and livestock sector, like animal health, animal welfare and veterinarian medicine. My position is focussed on animal health; concerning monitoring of animal diseases and, the identification and registration (I&R) of animals. My main task is to translate the tactical plans of the organisation into operational activities on topics related to animal health and food safety. Meaning I translate legislation into protocols, analyse and evaluate results of farm inspections, write reports and answer questions from both colleagues and citizens, all related to the subjects Q-fever and I&R of animals. As an employee of the NVWA there are many career opportunities to pursue, both within the organisation as well as in other governmental organisations like the ministry. During my studies I followed the courses I was eager to follow and that gave me the opportunity to gain a broad set of skills and knowledge, which brought me to where I am today.



Annick Spaans | 2018

ZLTO | Project Expert Food Security and Health

In 2018, I graduated from the studies MSc Animal Sciences (specialisation Adaptation, Health and Behaviour) and MSc Applied Communication, Health and Life Sciences (specialisation Communication and Innovation). It soon became clear to me that the combination of innovation in the field of animal welfare and health, and change management were important elements for me in finding the perfect job: Project Expert Food Security and Health at the Southern Agriculture and Horticulture Organisation (ZLTO). My work mainly involves the implementation of (European) projects in the field of antibiotic reduction and biosafety in the livestock sector. Given the large and growing problem of antibiotic resistance, I find it a grateful task to contribute to the solution. Together with farmers I am actively working on this solution by initiating coaching programmes in collaboration with veterinarians and feed consultants, as well as organising workshops and, collecting and disseminating new protocols in the field of animal health. All with the goal of reducing antibiotic usage. When searching for a job, determine the elements you want to find in a position, but also what you absolutely do not want. By giving this careful consideration, I was able to make the right decisions and find a suitable position.

"Given the large and growing problem of antibiotic resistance, I find it a grateful task to contribute to the solution."



Lisanne Matena | 2018

NEPLUVI | Policy Officer

Shortly after my graduation, I started to work at NEPLUVI as a policy officer. It was not the study programme in Wageningen that led to this job, but a colleague of a friend who forwarded this vacancy to me.

On a day-to-day basis NEPLUVI represents the interests of her members, the Dutch poultry processing industries, on

several subjects such as animal welfare, animal health, food safety, food quality and trade. Within the association, I work on animal welfare- and trade related subjects. Examples of my work are that I represent the interests of our members in our regular welfare meetings with the Dutch Veterinary Authorities, guide a delegation from non-EU countries to let them get acquainted to the Dutch poultry processing industries and am involved in research project meetings regarding poultry and slaughter. I especially like the variability of this job and the chances I get in learning new things. My advice in finding a new job is to let people know you are searching. You will never know who will put you into contact with the right person.



Vera van Engeland | 2019

Coöperatie Koninklijke CRV U.A. | Analyst Breeding Values

During my MSc Animal Sciences I specialised in Breeding and Genomics and wrote my thesis on resilience in dairy cattle. To finish my studies I performed an internship at the Animal Evaluation Unit of Cooperation CRV about longevity in dairy cattle. There, I got to expand both my network and my knowledge.

During this time, two positions for Analyst Breeding Values became available and I decided to apply right away. I got the job, graduated in December and started as a full time employee in January. The function of Analyst Breeding Values includes running programmes to estimate breeding values, analysing data, programming and maintaining contact with colleagues and (foreign) customers. The knowledge I gained during my studies was very useful, although I learned and am still learning a lot of new things, such as programming. I really enjoy my current job. It is varying, challenging and I am able to put what I've learned into practice. My advice would be to expand your network and to get to know people in the field. Doing an internship can be very valuable for this.

"I really enjoy my current job. It is varying, challenging and I am able to put what I've learned into practice."



Lars Bovenkamp | 2018

De Heus voeders | Liquid Feeding Nutritionist

I graduated at the end of 2018 in the specialisation Nutrition and Metabolism. Before the master Animal Sciences I studied Animal and Livestock Management (Dier- en Veehouderij) at the HAS, university of applied sciences. As a liquid feeding nutritionist I formulate feed

rations for pigs and give advice to farmers. Farmers buy

their own raw materials and co-products from the food industry and we formulate a specific concentrate for their farm. What I really like about this job is the interaction between nutrition and practice. The best feed ration can still go wrong on a farm if the right advice is not given properly. What helped me during my study in determining where I wanted to work was my involvement in study association "De Veetelers" and writing my thesis at a company. My advice would be to start your network early and use it to determine what kind of jobs interest you the most.

"What I really like about this job is the interaction between nutrition and practice. The best feed ration can still go wrong on a farm if the right advice is not given properly."



Tara de Haan | 2019

Royal GD | Project Manager Small Ruminants and Horse

After an amazing time studying Animal Sciences in Wageningen, I've found a job at Royal GD in Deventer. GD is a large veterinary laboratory that aims to improve the health of animals. I have heard about the vacancy of 'project manager in the department of Small Ruminants and Horse' during my internship there. Even though I did my internship on pig vitality, the vacancy in this department appealed to me. I talked about the vacancy with some colleagues of this department and my colleagues from the Pig department, which gave me good references, and decided I wanted to apply for this job. Immediately after my graduation I started working there. Although looking back I would recommend taking a few weeks holiday in between. GD has good experiences with Wageningen students, which was one of the reasons they hired me. My main task is managing and organizing projects. We do many projects at GD, both for innovation and product improvement, as well as external projects with/for other companies. In addition, I also manage multiple products within this department and organize lectures for example. What I like most about my job is being involved in innovation and the variety of my tasks!



Ewaoluwabemiga Esther Oluwada | 2019

Agroscope Switzerland and ETH Zurich | PhD candidate

After my BSc graduation from the Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta (FUNAAB) Nigeria, I got the Netherlands Fellowship Programmes scholarship to continue my study at MSc level. I chose the master of Animal Sciences with the specialisation Genetics and Biodiversity. Both my theses were in the same field: 'Genetic Analysis of growth in Holstein cattle' and 'Differential weighting of single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNPs) in genomic prediction'. The knowledge I gained from these theses provided me the basis for my current doctoral research, as my research is a combination of these two theses but at a higher level. Currently, I work at Agroscope Switzerland as a doctoral candidate on 'Genetic and Genomic bases of protein efficiency in Pigs'. The aim is to understand the contribution of genetics (such as heritability, SNPs) to protein efficiency, and turn this knowledge in a selection on protein efficient pigs in the future. I really enjoy my research, but of course, learning comes with its own challenges. In acquiring a PhD, I would advise you to make this intention known to your teachers in the department. Teachers are up to date on research positions both within and outside their department, even in other countries. Otherwise, Google comes in handy.



PROTIX INGREDIENTS

PROTIX INGREDIENTS

PROTIX INGREDIENTS

PROTIX INGREDIENTS

Michel van Spankeren | 2018

Protix | Application Technologist

“You are what you eat, so to know what you eat is to know what you are. But how do you know what you eat, or even deeper, what your food has been eating?” During my studies in Wageningen this question culminated in my MSc Animal Sciences where I learned what animal feed is made of. At the moment, many ingredients for animal feed comes from detrimental agrosystems and that while large quantities of food by-products brimming with nutritious ingredients are rendered as ‘useless’ for traditional livestock and therefore converted into energy sources such as biodiesel. At Protix, I help to turn the tide by upcycling those local nutrients back into the food chain via mother nature’s evolutionary answer to by-products: insects. As application technologist I apply my knowledge of animal nutrition to support our commercial staff and customers in the translation of insect-based ingredients into new nutritional solutions for a growing market. Thereby, I also oversee our animal research portfolio. Ultimately, my aim is to empower progressive feed producers and consumers by bringing the food system back in balance with nature. My advice: use the world of social media to your advantage, reach out to the people that work in the teams that you would like to join and get them excited! If they have no place for you today you still have broadened your network for tomorrow.

"My aim is to empower progressive feed producers and consumers by bringing the food system back in balance with nature."

Margriet Faber | 2019

Olmix Asia | Technical Support for Feed Asia



During my Master's (specialisation Nutrition and Metabolism), I participated in the EURAMA (European Animal Management) programme. This was my first experience abroad. My second experience was during my master thesis in Vietnam. To finalize my studies, I performed an internship for Olmix in the Netherlands. Olmix supplies feed additives based on seaweed to feed mills, integrators and farms. All additives have the purpose to improve immunity, gut health, digestibility and performances of animals. During my internship I met my current boss in an international event organized by Olmix. He asked me if I was interested in a position within Olmix, and I was, knowing that I would be stationed in Vietnam. I share the company's vision, so I took this opportunity and moved to Vietnam directly after graduation. Currently, I am part of a technical team to support our sales team and clients. Next to that, I am product manager for several products in Asia. This means I am responsible for the sales and development of those products. For my profession I have to travel a lot within the area (pre-covid around 50% of my time), from India to the Philippines and everything in between. The job is very diverse, you get to see a lot and I am learning every day. Due to the current pandemic situation, we organize a lot of webinars in which we educate clients and our internal team. For future students I would recommend to always keep your eyes and ears open. Dare to ask, dare to do, there are opportunities everywhere!



Tim van der Zee | 2020

RIVM | Researcher agricultural emissions

During my studies I was interested in all aspects of agriculture. Therefore, I followed a BSc minor in plant sciences, chose the MSc specialisation Global and Sustainable Production and took courses in economics and policy. After graduation, I got a job at the National Institute for Public Health and Environment (RIVM). Here

I am responsible for the national inventory of emission of greenhouse gasses and air pollutants from the agricultural sector. My job mainly involves to find ways to improve the model that we use, to describe the implemented changes and to answer questions from reviewers. These task do I perform in collaboration with people from different institutes (WUR, CBS, PBL and RVO), who all have their own expertise. During my theses at the chair groups Animal Production Systems and the Animal Breeding and Genomics I got experience in building and using models, which comes in very useful in my current job. Besides the things you learn during the courses, different organisations in Wageningen offer you the opportunity to learn and develop yourself, so make sure to use them!



Sanne Kalsbeek | 2020

CowManager | Technical Support Engineer

From a very young age I knew I wanted to do 'something' with animals. As I got older, I also gained interest in technology and software. During my time at Wageningen University I worked in a veterinary clinic. This job was the reason I started working for a veterinary software company directly after my graduation. Even though I learned a lot in the year I worked there, I could not fully express my passion for what I love most: animals, especially in combination with technology. I decided to follow my heart and change course. A friend of mine heard I was looking for a job and she introduced me to her manager. As a result, I recently started a new and very exciting job as Technical Support Engineer at CowManager. CowManager produces ear sensors and software for cows to analyse the collected data in order to give customers useful insights in the heat and health state of their cows. My tasks are very broad, but mostly focus on assisting dealers and customers when they run into problems or have questions, and translating customers wishes to the research and development team. I really like my job because I get to work with animals, technology, an amazing team of people and even a very good friend. So, my advice to all of you would be to follow your instincts and take a risk every now and then. It does not have to be perfect from the first time. Every experience contributes to your personal and professional growth. Even though it may not feel like it sometimes, the world is at your feet!

A silhouette of a person climbing a rock face against a blue sky. The person is wearing a backpack and is positioned on the right side of the frame. A large white circle is overlaid on the image, partially covering the text and the climber. The text is white and reads: "The way to your top starts with Animal Sciences".

The way to your top starts with Animal Sciences

BSc Animal Sciences: www.wur.nl/bas

MSc Animal Sciences: www.wur.nl/mas