Application Process

• What are the requirements to apply for the DI program?
  - Completed a Didactic Program in Dietetics that meets the Current Standards of Education for Dietetics education.
    A verification statement signed by the Program Director.
  - Complied with the application and screening procedures for the DI required by the UK Dietetics and Human Nutrition Department.

• What does the application package include?

  The applicant must have a baccalaureate degree in dietetics, food management or related field from an accredited college or university. The degree must include the minimum academic requirements of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

  ✓ Applicants must participate in the on-line Dietetic Internship Centralized Application System (DICAS), which may be accessed at https://portal.dicas.org/, email DICASinfo@DICAS.org. DICAS will be available in the fall for the spring match. The on-line application must be completed for the program by February 15. Pay the DICAS fee for the first application submitted and for each additional application.

  ✓ Applicants using DICAS will be asked to complete a personal statement. The statement for UK DHN DI application should express the following:
    - Expectations of the dietetic internship
    - Identifying reasons for choosing a broad general program in relation to your professional goals
    - What are your short-term and long-term goals?

  ✓ Three letters of reference will be submitted online to the DICAS reference system. References should be from professionals that are qualified to comment on the applicants academic and/or work ability, potential, personality and character. Two references should be from faculty members and one from an employer.
✓ Applicants must obtain verification by faculty advisor (or intent to complete) academic requirements for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Didactic Programs in Dietetics (DPD). Applicants can request Declaration of Intent or Verification Statement forms through DICAS to the DPD Director and electronically sign them to be part of the application.

✓ Applicants must also register online for computer matching from D & D Digital at http://www.dnddigital.com/. There is a computer matching fee.

✓ Applicants must submit an online application, which may be accessed at http://www.research.uky.edu/gs to the UK Graduate School (for students who apply for DI as well as those who apply for grad program) to the College of Agriculture, Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition Department, code HEHD program and pay a $65 (for domestic students) and $75 (for international students) nonrefundable graduate school application fee.

✓ Applicants must submit a nonrefundable $50 application fee (payable to: University of Kentucky). The payment must be postmarked by February 15. Mail to:

   Hazel Forsythe, PhD., RD., LD. CFCS  
   Director Dietetic Internship  
   Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition  
   202 Funkhouser Building  
   Lexington, KY 40506-0054  
   Ph: 859-257-4146  Fax: 859-257-3707

• What are the selection criteria?
  The selection criteria include:
  o Grades and GRE scores, GRE is mandatory for applicants who apply to the DI solely and applicants who apply for the Master’s program with the University of Kentucky Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition Letter of application: applicants must show a strong passion for the field of dietetics
  o Evidence of service and/or related work in the food and nutrition fields such as volunteering experience and employment

• How many applicants do you accept every year?
  The UK Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition Dietetic Internship program generally accepts 8 students per year.
Do you give preference to Kentucky residents or students who graduated from the University of Kentucky?
Each application is evaluated on its merits. The formula used for evaluating students does not have a category for University of Kentucky student. However, faculty evaluating applicants may have greater knowledge of a Kentucky student so it is best to talk with faculty if you are considering applying for the DI.

Do I still need to apply to graduate school if I am interested in the DI program?
Yes, even though you are not applying for a graduate program, you are required to submit an online application with the UK Graduate School.

How soon do I know whether I am accepted into the DI program?
Every student who enters the computer match learns that he or she has received a spot on the national release day.

If I am accepted into the Master’s program, does it guarantee I will get my DI internship?
Students, who are enrolled in the Master’s program, are required to apply for the DI internship electronically on the DICAS system just like any other applicants across the United States.

Are there any differences between the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition and the UK Hospital dietetic internships?
Yes, the DHN internship offers rotations at a wide range of facilities around the state of KY. The UK Hospital internship concentrates on the hospital and some community sites.

What do I have to consider when applying for the DI program?
Make sure that you have participated in work experiences or volunteer activities.

What if I do not get accepted into any DI program?
Improve your resume and try again. Try to be more involved in the community with food and nutrition volunteering work and professional meetings/conferences.
UK Dietetic Internship

The University of Kentucky Dietetics and Human Nutrition Department’s Dietetic Internship program is accredited by ACEND of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

- **How is the DI program set up?**
  
  The UK DHN DI program consists of didactic and hybrid on-line Education: A two credit hour graduate on-line class DHN 518 runs throughout the internship. The class also meets three weeks: at the beginning of the internship; the midpoint; and the end of the internship. Interns are expected to spend at least two hours weekly in the Blackboard on-line course. Three different rotations provide supervised practice experiences: Medical Nutrition Therapy (10 weeks), Food Service System Management (10 weeks), and Community Nutrition (7 weeks). Research is required across all rotations. Students will complete a minimum of 1200 hours of supervised practice and didactic course work.

- **How long is the program?**
  
  The program runs for 7+ months. The DI program begins in the January and ends the first week of August every year. Typically, the program covers a minimum of 1200 supervised practice hours.

- **How often do I have to come back to the UK campus throughout the internship?**
  
  Interns are required to attend three sessions. The sessions are mandatory and each will take 3-5 days.
  - One period in January, prior to the beginning of the internship
  - One period in May, during the mid-session of the internship, and
  - One period in August, for completion of the internship and exam review.

- **Where am I going to be placed? Can I choose where I want to go?**
  
  Interns can be placed anywhere in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Upon acceptance into the program, students will complete an interest inventory survey that informs the faculty of specific areas of interests, updated volunteer and work activities and any specific preference area across the Commonwealth that will expand the interns’ knowledge and skills. You can have input but cannot choose where to go.

- **What is the typical schedule of my internship like?**
  
  Interns are required to submit a time sheet that records hours and days spent on the rotations. The schedule greatly depends on the rotation, the site as well as the
preceptors with whom interns work. Days may begin at any time the preceptor arranges. Generally, interns will work at least 40 hours per week.

- **Can I work to earn tuition while doing my internship?**
  During the internship, interns are not allowed to work. It is against the DI policy and if interns are found working an outside job during their internship, the department has the right to enforce discipline procedures. Experience shows that interns with additional jobs are not as successful as those without additional jobs.

- **Does the DI prepare us for the RD exam?**
  Upon the completion of the internship, there will be a 3-day review workshop that prepares the students to sit for the RD exam. The cost of this national review is subsidized at an affordable rate.

- **Is there any other requirement prior to starting the internship?**
  Interns will be sent a list of requirements to prepare for starting the internship. These include review of laboratory values, parenteral nutrition and Serv Safe™ certification if you do not already hold the certification. The interns are required to be members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics throughout the entire internship.

- **Do I get a break at all throughout the internship?**
  Interns will have one week break throughout the 7-month period. However, there are assignments to cover during the break.

### Fees and Housing

- **How much does the DI cost?**
  Students in total will take 21 credit hours for the DI program. Students will have to pay the full-time (12-credit hours) for the Spring semester and two Summer sessions with 9 credits hours in total. Please refer to the [UK tuition fees website](#) for more information.

- **Does the DI pay?**
  The UK DHN DI program does not pay the interns during their DI program.

- **How much is the housing?**
  The university will locate a house or an apartment for students who are in the internship program and who are placed outside of Lexington and Louisville. A student located in Lexington, Frankfort or Louisville will pay their own housing.
• Is there any financial aid?
  Students can apply for student loans. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Association will have scholarships available.

If you have other questions, please contact:
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Lexington, KY 40506
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