Information and deadlines for Internship positions at the United States Postal Service Forensic Laboratory Services (FLS) in Dulles, VA (located approximately two miles from Dulles Airport in northern Virginia).

1. **PROJECT SELECTION**  
The FLS internship coordinator consults with the lab personnel to gather information about the types of internship projects proposed. A scientist at the laboratory must be willing and able to be the mentor for each project and intern chosen. Past projects have included studies in paint analysis, mineral paper, white powders, drug chemistry, quality control, instrumental method validation, latent fingerprint processing, and digital evidence. The final projects depend on the needs of the laboratory and the interests and qualifications of the interns applying for positions.

2. **INITIAL CONTACT**  
Students interested in applying for positions should, depending on the policies in place at their schools, contact either the internship coordinator at their school or the USPS FLS internship coordinators at LETollis@uspis.gov and EAZiolkowski@uspis.gov explaining their objectives in pursuing an internship and attaching a résumé and college transcript (the transcript(s) can be unofficial). **Internship applications for 2018 will be taken on a rolling basis starting October 16, 2017 until all positions are filled.** As information, internships can occur throughout the year, not just during the summer.

3. **RESPONSE TO INITIAL CONTACT**  
The information received is reviewed at FLS. Sometimes students are contacted for follow-up phone or in-person interviews. The student will receive a response within two weeks of the initial contact.

4. **COMPLETING AND PROCESSING THE FINAL APPLICATIONS**  
Successful individuals are sent the full application packet. The completed full applications are due at least three months before the start date of an internship. Selected applicants are forwarded for the security clearance and drug screening.

Additional practical information:
- Graduate students are preferred.
- The internship positions are unpaid.
- The laboratory is not readily accessible by mass transit; interns should have the use of a car to reach the laboratory.
- The start/end dates of internships are decided by mutual agreement between the prospective intern and laboratory prior to the submission of the final application. All interns must commit to working at least 120 hours at the laboratory, preferably longer. Additionally, although exceptions are possible, interns should be available to come in at least 3 full (8 hour) days a week.
- All internship applicants must have completed at least two years of higher education progressing toward a degree in a natural science.