

# REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

## Rural Environmental Health Fellowships 2021-22

During the 2021-22 academic year, the Global Change Center (GCC) will award two graduate fellowships to Ph.D. students pursuing research focused on rural environmental health. Priority will be given to students that will use the funding (assistantship + tuition) during the 2021-22 academic year to engage in interdisciplinary activities that advance research at the nexus of environmental and health sciences in rural settings. Examples include but are not limited to: characterization of environmental exposures in rural settings; examination of environmental interventions to improve rural health and well-being; investigations of socio-political underpinnings of environmental health management; etc. Award funds must be used to support interdisciplinary training between August 2021 and August 2022.

Assistantships are valued at approximately \$41,481, including 12 months of graduate stipend paid by the Virginia Tech Graduate School (GRA Step 17; \$27,360) and in-state tuition, technology fee, library fee and mandatory program fees (currently \$13,485). Graduate students who sign up for health insurance through the university are eligible for an additional health insurance subsidy of 88%, currently valued at \$2,794. Comprehensive fees, research, travel, and associated expenses will remain the responsibility of the student and mentor.

**Eligibility:** Incoming (first-year PhD student to begin in the Fall 2021 term) or current PhD students are eligible to apply. **For incoming (i.e. new) graduate students**, eligibility is contingent on: **a)** identifying a potential faculty mentor/s, preferably [GCC affiliated faculty member/s](#), to supervise and financially support their graduate studies, **b)** application for admission to the Virginia Tech Graduate School and to their potential mentor's home department or program and, **c)** intention to enroll in the [Interfaces of Global Change Interdisciplinary Graduate Education](#) Program (IGC IGEP) upon arrival at Virginia Tech. **Current graduate students** are eligible to apply if: **a)** they are in good academic standing with their mentor(s), home department or graduate program and the Virginia Tech Graduate School and **b)** intend to enroll (or are enrolled) in the Interfaces of Global Change Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program.

**Deadline for applications is 5 pm EST on March 1st, 2021. Incomplete, late, or incorrectly formatted applications will not be considered. Notification of awards will be made by the end of March.**

**Application procedure:** All applications must include (in this order):

1. The one-page Cover Sheet (see below)
2. The applicant's CV, including cumulative graduate GPA (currently enrolled students) or undergraduate/masters-level GPA (new PhD applicants)
3. An application letter, not to exceed 2 pages (11 point font), that is divided into 3 sections that addresses these topics:
  - a. Research Statement: Description of your research plan, specifically how it relates to rural landscapes and populations and is relevant to (or informs) both environmental and health-related sciences. Describe how your research is related to global change.

- b. Interdisciplinary and Policy Relevance Statement: Describe how your research is interdisciplinary and describe how your training and research is related to the science-policy interface.
      - c. Plans for Fellowship Use: How will you use the one-year fellowship to advance your professional development to become a leader in rural environmental health?
  4. A letter of support from the applicant's graduate mentor, not to exceed 1 page, that explains:
    - a. For current PhD students: the applicant's progress towards her/his Ph.D. and any notable accomplishments OR for new PhD applicants: the applicant's potential for success at Virginia Tech;
    - b. The applicant's contributions to outreach or other service-related activities;
    - c. How the applicant's training will benefit from the one-year fellowship;
    - d. Post fellowship funding plans (i.e. graduate research or teaching assistantship; project funding; etc).

The letter of support should be sent as a PDF file directly to the GCC Program Coordinator, Jess Zielske; E-mail address: [jcoker@vt.edu](mailto:jcoker@vt.edu).

The student's application (Items 1-3 above) should be submitted as a single pdf file by e-mail to GCC Program Coordinator, Jess Zielske; E-mail address: [jcoker@vt.edu](mailto:jcoker@vt.edu).

Label files as LAST NAME\_REH\_FellowshipApplication2021.

***Application Review Criteria for Fellowship Awards:***

- Applicant's professional credentials
- Pertinence of student's research to rural environmental health and global change
- The interdisciplinary nature of the work and its potential to advance the field of environmental health sciences
- Evidence that the IGC IGEP will help the student reach their professional goals

*Notes: 1) After the 2021-22 academic year, students who receive one of these assistantships will return to their former funding plan, to include a return to their former pay *source* and *rate* as agreed upon with their academic mentor/department. 2) We anticipate having enough funding to announce another RFA next (2022-2023) academic year.*

Please direct any further questions to the GCC Program Coordinator, Jess Zielske; E-mail address: [jcoker@vt.edu](mailto:jcoker@vt.edu).

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## COVER SHEET

### Rural Environmental Health Fellowship Application 2021

#### 1. ***Personal Information***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

College: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Ph.D. Enrollment at Virginia Tech: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Mentor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address Faculty Mentor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Title of Proposed Dissertation or Rural Environmental Health Project:**