

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Interfaces of Global Change IGEP 2021-22**  
**Global Change Interdisciplinary Graduate Assistantships**

During the 2021-22 academic year, the Interfaces of Global Change IGEP will be awarding 4 graduate assistantships to Ph.D. students currently enrolled in the program. Priority will be given to students that will use the funding during the 2021-22 academic year to engage in activities that advance the collaborative, interdisciplinary mission of our group. Award funds must be used to support interdisciplinary training between August 2021 and August 2022.

Assistantships will be valued at approximately \$41,481, to include 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.

*Due to the impact of COVID-19 on University budgets, it is possible that assistantships will be reduced by the graduate school from 12 to 9 months as many of them were in 2020. While we are hopeful this will not occur, applicants should note that it is a possibility. We will share updated information as it becomes available.*

**Eligibility:** Graduate students are eligible to apply if they **a)** have been enrolled in the IGC IGEP for at least 12 months **b)** have not received an IGC IGEP assistantship in the past and **c)** are in good academic standing with their mentor(s), home department, and the Virginia Tech Graduate School.

**Deadline for applications is 5 pm April 15th, 2021. Incomplete, late, or incorrectly formatted applications will not be considered. Notification of awards will be made by no later than June.**

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

1. The one-page Cover Sheet (see below)
2. The applicant's CV, including graduate GPA
3. An application letter, not to exceed 2 pages (12 point font), that is divided into 3 sections that address these topics:
  - a. IGC IGEP Engagement: How has the IGC IGEP advanced your professional development to date, and how have you contributed to the program? How have you contributed to fostering an inclusive and diverse IGC IGEP community?
  - b. Research & Policy/Science Communication Statement: What kind of interdisciplinary research are you conducting and how does it relate to global change? How are you employing your IGC IGEP training related to the science-policy interface and/or science communication in your work?
  - c. Plans for Fellowship Use: How will you use the one-year fellowship to advance your professional development?
4. A letter of support from the applicant's graduate mentor, not to exceed 1 page, that explains:

- a. The applicant's progress towards their Ph.D. and notable accomplishments
- b. The applicant's contributions to the IGC IGEP and/or other service-related activities
- c. How the applicant's training will benefit from the one-year fellowship

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\_GlobalChangeFellowshipApplication2021.

**Application Review Criteria for Fellowship Awards:**

- Applicant's professional credentials
- Applicant's level of engagement in the IGC IGEP and contributions to inclusion and diversity
- Pertinence of student's research to global change
- The interdisciplinary nature of the work
- Applicant's plan for using the one-year fellowship

*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 RFP next (2022-2023) academic year.

Please direct any further questions to the IGC Director, Dr. William Hopkins ([hopkinsw@vt.edu](mailto:hopkinsw@vt.edu)).

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**COVER SHEET**

**Global Change IGEP Fellowship Application 2021**

**1. Personal Information**

Name:

E-mail address:

College & Department:

Date of Ph.D. Enrollment at Virginia Tech:

Date of Acceptance into the IGC IGEP:

Anticipated Date of Graduation:

Faculty Mentor(s):

E-mail address Faculty Mentor(s):

**2. Title of Proposed Dissertation or Project:**