

2021-22 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH GRANTS
THE GLOBAL CHANGE CENTER AT VIRGINIA TECH
FRALIN LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE

The Global Change Center (GCC) at Virginia Tech is accepting proposals from undergraduate students and their GCC-affiliated faculty mentor(s) to support undergraduate research that will advance the mission of the GCC. Only one RFP will be released this academic year.

Award requests may include itemized supply and analytical costs, as well as travel costs to research sites. Stipends/tuition/conference fees/conference travel costs will not be supported by these awards. Hourly wages for the student are discouraged, but will be considered in well-justified circumstances that explain how the wages will alleviate barriers to conducting research. Such requests should be accompanied by a justification statement from the GCC faculty mentor (see below).

Proposed research plans must follow up-to-date CDC and University requirements regarding health and safety procedures pertinent to COVID-19. Consult <https://www.research.undergraduate.vt.edu> for the most recent Virginia Tech guidelines.

Proposals will only be considered if they include a clear endorsement by a GCC-affiliated faculty mentor. Proposals addressing basic and/or applied aspects of global change science, engineering, social science, and humanities will be considered. Priority will be given to funding proposals that advance the collaborative, interdisciplinary mission of our GCC community. Preference will be given to proposals from students working with GCC faculty members who have a demonstrated track record of participation in GCC and/or IGC IGEP activities. Priority will also be given to sophomore and junior applicants (but all years are eligible).

Award requests can range from \$250 to \$1,000.

Eligibility: Current Virginia Tech undergraduate students from any department will be considered as long as they are mentored and endorsed by an active GCC faculty member.

The deadline for applications is Friday, October 1, 2021. Incomplete, late, or incorrectly formatted applications will not be considered. Notification of awards will be made by November 1, 2021.

Because these are E&G funds **they must be spent by June, 2022.** No exceptions. However, the research project can extend as late as April 2023, long after the funds have been spent on supplies, etc. See reporting requirement #2 below.

Award funds will be transferred to an E&G account in the faculty mentor's home department. Consult with your home dept. for their specific rules and guidelines for annual budget cycles.

If you receive a Global Change Center award:

- 1) The student must present their research findings as a poster at either the VT Summer Undergraduate Research Virtual Symposium (Summer 2022) or the Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Conference (Spring 2022 or 2023),

- 2) The GCC faculty mentor must provide follow-up outcomes in their annual reports in future years (e.g., if a manuscript is published or grant proposal submitted based on the work), and
- 3) The student and faculty mentor must acknowledge the Global Change Center at Virginia Tech and the Fralin Life Sciences Institute for support on your poster (see item #1 above), as well as any other products/presentations benefitting from funding.

Application procedure

All applications must include the following 4 items in a single pdf file (3 pages total):

Page 1. The undergraduate must complete the Application Form contained in 1 page, with one-inch margins and single-spaced text in fonts no smaller than Arial 11.

Page 2. The undergraduate's 1 page CV, to include list of any relevant past coursework and research experience (e.g., lab and/or field experiences, presentations).

Page 3. A signed statement of support from GCC faculty mentor(s) on letterhead, not to exceed 1 page. This letter must include:

- a) an endorsement of the student's ability to excel in a research environment
- b) a statement describing the mentorship plan for the student
- c) information describing how the research experience will advance the development of the student and the mission of the GCC
- d) if the student is to receive any wages, provide a statement justifying the need for wages and why other sources of stipend/wage funding will not suffice
- e) a brief statement assuring *Project Feasibility During the Pandemic*. Because the COVID-19 pandemic has affected research operation at Virginia Tech, we ask that the student and faculty member work together to include a brief statement to demonstrate that your project will be feasible this fiscal year. Please consider all aspects of your work, including potential limitations on travel, lab work, and the use of human subjects in research. Please also indicate whether the undergraduate researcher is paid from other sources or receiving academic credit for their research, as volunteers may be subjected to different COVID restrictions than those being paid or receiving credit.

**The single pdf file (which includes the support letter) should be submitted by the faculty mentor by e-mail to Lara Hopkins; E-mail address: hopkinsl@vt.edu.
Label files as **STUDENT LAST NAME_GCC-URG2021****

Application Review Criteria for Proposals:

Funding decisions will be based on the above criteria as well as:

- Likelihood that the research experience will advance the student's development
- Strength of faculty endorsement
- Pertinence of basic or applied research topic to the GCC
- Benefit of the activity to facilitating collaboration among multiple GCC lab groups or other aspects of the GCC's mission
- Positive track record of engagement by the faculty mentor in IGC/GCC activities
- Project feasibility during the pandemic

Please direct any further questions regarding eligibility or expectations to Dr. William Hopkins (hopkinsw@vt.edu).

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION FORM (Max 1 pg)
Attach student's 1 pg CV and 1 pg letter from faculty mentor in a single pdf doc

1. Personal Information

Name: _____ Major(s): _____ Minor(s): _____
Year (Fresh, Soph, Junior, Senior): _____ Current GPA: _____
E-mail address: _____
Faculty Mentor(s): _____

2. Title of Proposed Project:

3. Description of Project (max. 200 words):

4. Budget (please provide very brief statement of budget justification):

Supplies and Materials (itemized): _____
Travel (itemized): _____
Other: _____
Total Amount Requested from GCC: _____

Matching (if applicable): _____
Total Project Cost: _____

Budget Justification: _____

5. Brief timeline for project to completion:

6. Anticipated venue & date for poster presentation (see 3 options above):

7. Briefly explain why you are interested in independent research (max 100 words)