2024-2025 GCC Early Career Synergy Grants RFP
A Pilot Program to Foster Innovative Research Collaborations
and the Development of Early Career Researchers
THE GLOBAL CHANGE CENTER AT VIRGINIA TECH
WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM
THE FRALIN LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE

Introduction: In the Fall of 2024, the Global Change Center at Virginia Tech (GCC) welcomes proposals from GCC postdoctoral affiliates and later stage (3rd year or later) IGC IGEP Fellows for a pilot program aimed at fostering research collaborations among research programs of two or more GCC Faculty affiliates. Priority will be given to funding proposals that establish connections between research programs with limited previous collaboration -or- established collaborations pursuing completely new research directions. Proposals must focus on addressing global change issues, including but not limited to infectious disease, climate change, pollution, invasive species, habitat degradation, and loss of biodiversity.

Availability of Funds & Intended Use of Award Funds: We anticipate awarding up to a total of ~$30K spread across 1-3 successful proposals. Proposals may request funds for research-related expenses including but not limited to materials and supplies, research related travel, use of core services (e.g., genomic sequencing), and wages for undergraduate research assistants. Proposals may also request funding for a contribution towards postdoc salary or summer Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) stipend for an IGC Fellow. However, awarded funds cannot be utilized for Fall or Spring GRA stipends or tuition.

Eligibility: To be eligible for consideration, applicants must meet the following criteria:
- Applicants must be an active member of the GCC postdoctoral network, or a third-year or later PhD fellow in the Interfaces of Global Change IGEP.
  - Funds requested to support research led by postdoctoral researchers must not interfere with requirements of existing sponsored agreements
  - IGEP Fellows must be in good standing with the program, to include having completed all three IGC IGEP seminars and their approved Global Change Breadth Elective, as well as making clear progress towards completion of their IGC Capstone Project
- Proposed research must advance collaboration at the nexus of at least two GCC faculty affiliates' research programs, with new collaborations and new research directions being prioritized.
- Projects must have the stated support of all GCC faculty affiliates leading the research programs involved. One GCC Faculty affiliate should be designated as the Responsible PI for the project; this individual's department will be responsible for managing the project budget and will be the point person for reporting accomplishments after the PhD fellow or postdoc has left the University.

Timeline:
- *Deadline for Applications:* September 18, 2024. Incomplete, late, or incorrectly formatted applications will not be considered.
- *Notification of Awards:* by October 1, 2024.
- *Anticipated Start Date for Projects:* October 1, 2024.

- *Fund Disbursement:* Funds will be transferred to a single home department of one of the GCC faculty affiliates (the Responsible PI) ~ October 1, 2024.
- *Spending Deadline:* Award funds should be spent before July 1, 2025, to align with our annual budget cycle. Extension of unused funds beyond this date will require communication/ coordination with the GCC and written agreement by the home department to carryover funds (e.g., summer Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) stipend for an IGC fellow).

Application Procedure:
The application should adhere to the following guidelines:
- The application should be a **maximum of 3 pages** total, including integration of the enclosed application format.
- Text should be single-spaced in Arial 11**,** with one-inch margins.

Additionally, the following documents should be combined with the above application materials in a **single pdf** and will **not** count toward the 3-page limit:
- CV of the PhD Fellow or Postdoc Applicant (2 pages maximum)**.**
- A single (2-page maximum) Letter of Support from the Responsible PI and Collaborating PI(s) that:
  - outlines the benefit to the student/postdoc applicant's professional development
  - explains the novelty of the collaboration between GCC faculty affiliates
  - explains the importance of the proposed research
  - includes a statement outlining the mentoring plan for the applicant and planned support from the Faculty Affiliates
  - is signed by all collaborating GCC Faculty Affiliates [responsible PI and collaborating PI(s)]
- A list of references cited can be added as an additional page.

All files should be sent in a <u>single</u> pdf file by e-mail to Bri Wills; E-mail address: bmwills@vt.edu.
Label pdf as LAST NAME_GCC Synergy Grant_2024

Application Review Criteria for Proposals:
Applications will be reviewed and funding decisions will be based on the following criteria:
- Benefit of the activity to multiple GCC research groups, with an emphasis on forming new GCC collaborations or new research directions for existing GCC collaborators.
- Benefit of project to the professional development of the postdoc or PhD Fellow.
- Pertinence of global change research topic to the GCC.
- Feasibility of proposed research project.
- Strength, timeliness, and novelty of the research project.
- Expected benefits and outcomes of the research.
- Positive track record of engagement by the applicant (IGC Fellow or Postdoctoral Affiliate) and the faculty affiliates in GCC/IGC activities.

Please direct any further questions to William Hopkins (hopkinsw@vt.edu).

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(*excluding* CVs, letter of support & references cited)

1. Personal Information (provide this for each Postdoc/PhD Fellow team member):
Name: E-mail address:

College/Department:

Responsibilities on project and contribution to collaborative effort:

Eligibility Criteria (For PhD Fellows only): Please indicate progress towards completing IGC curriculum and capstone project.

2. PI Information GCC PI's (provide for each involved Faculty affiliate and designate one as the Responsible PI whose department will receive the funding if the grant is awarded):
Name: E-mail address:

College/Department:

3. Title of Proposed Project:

4. Brief description of Project (1,000 words max; refer to the review criteria for guidance on content):

5. Expected benefits and/or outcomes of project (e.g., manuscript, external grant proposal, translational benefit, etc.)

6. Budget (please also provide brief budget justification):

Equipment, Supplies, and Materials:	
	Total: $
Wages	
	Total: $
Other costs (list specific items)	
	Total: $
Total Project Costs:	$
Total Amount Requested:	$
Other sources of matching support, if applicable:	$

7. Timeline for project.