

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Global Change Center Diversity Fellowships 2025-26

During the 2025-26 academic year, the Global Change Center (GCC) will award two graduate assistantships to new Ph.D. students from underrepresented groups focusing on the social and/or environmental challenges associated with rapid global changes such as pollution, invasive species, climate change, and habitat loss. Award funds will be used to support interdisciplinary training between August 2025 and August 2026.

Assistantships are valued at approximately \$50,000+, including 12 months of graduate stipend (GRA Step 17, FY23=\$33,720) paid by the Fralin Life Sciences Institute (FLSI), and in-state tuition, technology fee, library fee and mandatory program fees paid for by the Virginia Tech Graduate School. Graduate students who sign up for health insurance through the university are eligible for an additional health insurance subsidy of 88%, currently valued at ~\$2,880. 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 2025 term) from underrepresented groups are eligible to apply if **a)** they have identified a faculty mentor, preferably a [GCC affiliated faculty member](#), to supervise and financially support their graduate studies, **b)** have applied for admission to the Virginia Tech Graduate School and to their faculty mentor's home department and, **c)** intend to fully participate in the [Interfaces of Global Change Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program](#) (IGC IGEP) upon arrival at Virginia Tech.

Acceptance of a Diversity Fellowship will result in automatic acceptance into the IGC IGEP upon admission to Virginia Tech.

Deadline for applications is 5 pm EST on March 1st, 2025. 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 undergraduate GPA (and past graduate GPA if relevant)
3. An application letter, not to exceed 1 page (11-point font), that is divided into 2 sections that address these topics:
 - a. Personal Statement: Description of your personal and professional background, professional aspirations, and why a diversity fellowship and admission to the IGC IGEP will advance your professional goals.
 - b. Interdisciplinary Research Statement: Describe how your research interests are related to global change, interdisciplinary in nature, and how you see your research benefitting society and/or underserved communities.

4. A letter of support from the applicant's graduate mentor, not to exceed 1 page, that explains:
 - a. The applicant's suitability for a diversity fellowship and admission to the IGC IGEP, to include any notable past accomplishments that suggest they will succeed in a Ph.D. program.
 - b. A clear description of a multi-year funding plan for the student beyond the first year of support provided by the diversity fellowship. Students are not eligible for the fellowship or admission into the IGC IGEP without a clear funding plan. If departmental support (e.g., Graduate teaching assistantships) is part of the applicant's funding plan, the letter must be co-signed by an appropriate departmental representative (dept. head or graduate coordinator).

The letter of support should be sent as a PDF file directly to the GCC Program Coordinator, Steph McBride; E-mail address: stephmcbride@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, Steph McBride; E-mail address: stephmcbride@vt.edu

Label files as LAST NAME_DiversityFellowshipApplication_2025.

Application Review Criteria for Fellowship Awards:

- Applicant's professional credentials and alignment with purpose of fellowship
- Pertinence of student's proposed research to global change issues
- The interdisciplinary nature of the student's research interests and its relevance to society.
- Evidence that the IGC IGEP will help the student reach their professional goals.

Notes: After the 2025-26 academic year, students who receive one of these assistantships will return to their mentor's funding plan, to include a return to their mentor's pay *source* and *rate* as agreed upon with their academic mentor/department.

Please direct any further questions to the GCC Program Coordinator, Steph McBride; E-mail address: stephmcbride@vt.edu.

COVER SHEET

GCC Diversity Fellowship Application 2025

1. Personal Information:

Name:

E-mail address:

College:

Department:

Anticipated Start Date of Graduate School at
VT:

Faculty Mentor(s):

E-mail address Faculty Mentor(s):

2. Tentative Title of Proposed Dissertation or Research Topic Area: