

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Interfaces of Global Change IGEP 2025-26

Global Change Interdisciplinary Graduate Assistantships

During the 2025-26 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 2025-26 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 2025 and May 2026.

Assistantships will be valued at approximately \$40,717, to include 9 months of graduate stipend paid by the Virginia Tech Graduate School (GRA Step 17) and in-state tuition, technology fee, library fee and mandatory program fees. Graduate students who sign up for health insurance through the university are eligible for an additional health insurance subsidy of 88%. Comprehensive fees, research, travel, and associated expenses will remain the responsibility of the student and mentor.

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 the IGC program, their mentor(s), home department, and the Virginia Tech Graduate School. *Priority will be given to funding students who have completed all coursework and are making significant progress towards completing their capstone.*

Deadline for applications is 5 pm April 1, 2025. 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 addresses 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 community in the IGC IGEP and/or at Virginia Tech? Also briefly mention how far you have progressed in the IGC IGEP curriculum, to include progress on your capstone project.
 - 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 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 fellowship

The letter of support from your mentor should be sent as a PDF file directly to the GCC Program Coordinator, Steph McBride, 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, stephmcbride@vt.edu. Label files as LAST NAME_GlobalChangeFellowshipApplication2025.

Application Review Criteria for Fellowship Awards:

- Applicant's professional credentials
- Applicant's level of engagement in the IGC IGEP, progress in the curriculum and capstone, 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 fellowship
- Strength of faculty mentor's endorsement

Notes: 1) After the 2025-26 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 (2026-2027) academic year.

Please direct any further questions to the IGC Program Coordinator, Steph McBride, stephmcbride@vt.edu.

COVER SHEET
Global Change IGEP Fellowship Application 2025

1. Personal Information:

Name:
E-mail address:
College:
Department:
Date of Acceptance into the IGC IGEP:
Anticipated Date of Graduation:
Faculty Mentor(s):
E-mail address Faculty Mentor(s):

2. Title of Dissertation or Research Topic Area:

3. Curriculum Completion Chart (*delete all that don't apply*):

Seminar 1: Have not taken Registered this semester Completed
Seminar 2: Have not taken Registered this semester Completed
Seminar 3: Have not taken Registered this semester Completed
Science Communication: Have not taken Taking now Completed
Breadth Elective: Not yet approved Approved, but not yet taken Taking now Completed
Capstone Project: Not yet approved Approved, but not yet started Project started Presenting 2025 Spring Semester Presented, but must submit summary report and advisor statement Complete Other (briefly explain):