2020 Fralin Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program
Sample Application

Application Deadline: February 24, 2020 at noon

Program dates: May 26 - July 31, 2020

Program Information

The Fralin Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program is a 10-week training program designed to give motivated Virginia Tech undergraduates the opportunity to engage in full-time (~40 hrs/week) research and related professional development activities that mirror graduate training. The goal is to offer students experiences that will help them determine if they want to pursue a career in research while they develop skills for graduate school. The program includes weekly research and professional development seminars, periodic social events, and a final symposium during which students will present their research. At least 15 students will be selected to participate in this training program. Each fellow will receive a $4,000 stipend. Housing is NOT provided as part of this program.

Program Eligibility and Expectations

Any Virginia Tech undergraduate considering a career in life sciences research AND who will be registered as a full-time student in Fall 2020 is encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to rising second and third year undergraduates, students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, and students who have yet to engage in a full-time summer research experience.

 SURF fellows must commit at least 40 hrs/wk to the training program, therefore fellows are **not permitted to enroll in summer classes, participate in MCAT prep courses, engage in activities for pay, or engage in other activities that may interfere with program activities**.

 SURF fellows commit to participating in the full 10-week program. Students may **not** take vacation during this training period.

Students must have the commitment of a faculty mentor before they apply to this program. Please note that there is NO list of available mentors. Students will need to find a suitable mentor (conducting research in a life science or related field) and gain their support prior to applying. If you need some help, OUR student ambassadors are available:
https://www.research.undergraduate.vt.edu/AboutUs/Ambassadors1.html

Application Instructions

Only complete applications will be reviewed. A complete application must include:
1. Complete e-application form (this form).
2. Submission of your unofficial transcript uploaded to this e-application.
3. A faculty letter of support. Your faculty mentor must provide a letter of support and a brief

description of the project. The deadline for faculty support letters is 5:00 pm on February 26, 2020. Please provide your faculty mentor with this link for letter submission:

https://tinyurl.com/SURF2020faculty

Applicants will be notified about the decisions no later than March 18. Please contact Keri Swaby (email: kswaby@vt.edu) with questions.

Application Questions

Biographical Information
Applicant Name
Virginia Tech E-mail address
Anticipated graduation date
Are you a transfer student?
How long have you been at VT?

Academic Information
College of your primary major
Major (s)
Minor(s)
Cumulative GPA

You will need to upload a copy of your unofficial transcript in pdf format. When you pull up your unofficial transcript online, select all, copy and then paste into a Microsoft Word document. Then print to .pdf or save as .pdf. **IMPORTANT**: All submitted transcripts will be downloaded as a batch and will not be tied to your application form. Therefore, <mark>in order for your transcript to be reviewed as part of YOUR application you must use the following file naming convention: **LastName_FirstName_transcript.pdf**</mark>.

Faculty Mentor(s) Information
Faculty mentor name(s) (first and last)
Faculty mentor E-mail(s)
Faculty mentor primary department(s)

Project Information
Title of proposed research project
Project Description (2,000 character, ~300 words, max):

In your own words, describe your proposed research project. The description should include the following:

1) Statement of the research question(s) or goals of project
2) Purpose of the study (i.e. big picture and where it fits in)
3) Methods or description of analytic processes to be used

Why is this area of research of particular interest to you and how do you think it might influence your future plans (max 100 words)?

Research Experience
Have you had any research experience outside of your lab courses?
If yes, describe what you learned from the experience(s). (max 200 words) Include techniques as well as other elements of your personal, academic, and professional development.

For up to two research experiences, provide:
Project title, mentor name, and institution where the research was conducted
How much time did you commit to this research?

Personal Statements
1. Why are you interested in the Fralin SURF program? (max 100 words)
2. What three strengths can you bring to the Fralin SURF program and your specific research project? Please explain. (max 150 words)
3. What are your top three areas for improvement that you think the SURF program can help you improve and describe how? (max 150 words)
4. How do you think the Fralin SURF program might contribute to your career plans and related decisions? (max 100 words)
5. List recent jobs, academic achievements, and other highlights from your resume. Please note that you are NOT required to submit your resume. (max 150 words)

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Don't forget to ask your faculty mentor to submit a letter of support at:

https://tinyurl.com/SURF2020faculty

The letter should include the following:
 -->outline of the project in-brief and its potential for completion in 10-weeks
 -->description of your abilities and potential as a future researcher
 -->mentoring statement to include a commitment to mentor you over the 10-week summer fellowship period

If you have questions, please contact Keri Swaby (email: kswaby@vt.edu).