

Bridge Undergraduate Research Student Grant Program Application

Application Deadline: Rolling through May 1, 2024 at noon or until funding runs out

Thank you for your interest in the ***Bridge Undergraduate Research Student Grant Program***, designed to increase access to *Bridge* undergraduate research experiences for VT students across majors by providing funding to support student research activities which are typically unpaid. Up to ten (10) grants of up to \$3,000 each will be awarded in the 2023-24 academic year, to fund research activities conducted for a duration of 6-15 weeks through June 30, 2024 (grants funds expire at the end of June). Applications will be considered and grants awarded on a rolling basis up until noon on May 1, 2024 or until funding runs out.

Eligibility

- Undergraduate students in any major seeking a paid Bridge undergraduate research experience at Virginia Tech.
- Special consideration for students staying in Blacksburg for the summer, who may also be taking classes during Summer I session.
- Preference for students with demonstrated financial need or those working in an underfunded area of research.
- Preference for students without other source of research funding.
- To count as a Bridge Experience, students must secure prior approval from their home department and register for the 3900 Bridge Experience course.

Program Description and Expectations

- This program provides individual student research grants up to \$3,000 per student to support a new or continuing research project in any discipline.
- Students will receive financial support for up to 15 weeks of research activities (equivalent of one semester). The timing of the research period is flexible and may occur during the academic year, Summer session I, or some combination of the two, based on agreement with the research mentor and/or approval of student's home

department (3900 plan) for their Bridge experience.

- Research activities may continue beyond the end of Summer I, however this funding will expire on June 30.
- Funded students will engage in research activities under the guidance of their research mentor based on the timeline and details provided in their proposal. To fulfill the Bridge experience requirements, this must match the student's approved 3900 plan.
- Students must present their research results at VT's spring or summer symposium. This may count as the final deliverable to fulfill the 3900 course requirements, if included in the student's approved 3900 plan.

Application Requirements

- Students should get the commitment of a research faculty mentor who agrees to supervise their research *prior* to applying for this grant. If a student does not have a mentor secured, the Office of Undergraduate Research can help guide them through the process of finding one. Students should develop their proposal with the mentor and/or verify mentor agrees to the proposal. The mentor listed on this application form will be contacted to confirm their commitment to supervise the student's work.
- Application for the grant includes providing a budget, i.e. an estimate of expenditures to be covered by the grant, including, but not limited to:
 - Student wages (at an approved rate of \$15/hr)
 - Supplies/equipment/database costs
 - Travel for research activities

Please direct any questions about the program or this application to Keri Swaby, Director for the Office of Undergraduate Research (email: kswaby@vt.edu).

Personal Information

1. Your Last Name

2. Your First Name

3. Your VT Email Address

4. Your home college

- Agriculture and Life Sciences
- Arts and Design
- Engineering
- Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Pamplin College of Business
- Science
- Vet Med

5. Your Primary Major

6. When did you start at Virginia Tech? Semester, Year (eg Fall, 2022)

7. When do you plan to graduate from Virginia Tech? Semester, Year (eg Spring, 2026)

8. Optional: Do you self-identify with any of the following underrepresented groups? Please select any that apply.

- First generation college student
- International student
- Low income or Pell eligible
- Ethnic minority
- Transfer student

9. Please verify that you meet the program's eligibility criteria by checking each statement that applies to you.

- I am currently a junior or senior enrolled full time at Virginia Tech.
- I have financial need to support my proposed research activities.
- The area of my research is traditionally underfunded.
- I do not have any other source of funding for the proposed research activity.
- I will be using this research to satisfy my Bridge experience requirement for graduation and have already received approval from my department (signed up for 3900).
- I am planning to be in Blacksburg this summer and would like to engage in research activities.

Prior Research Experience

10. Do you have any prior undergraduate research experience, either related to your proposed project or something else? Note: this is not a requirement.

Yes

No

11. If yes, please *briefly* describe your research experience(s)- when you did it, what was your project, etc.

Research Proposal

Please complete each section to fully describe the research project activities for which you are seeking funding.

12. Please describe your proposed research project (no more than 300 words):

This should include the following:

- 1) Statement of the research question(s) or overarching goal(s) of project
- 2) Purpose of the study or creative works (i.e. big picture and where it fits in)
- 3) Methods or description of creative/analytic processes used
- 4) Summary of results (actual or anticipated) or description of project outcome(s)

13. What are the key goals and/or milestones for this research project within the funding period (no more than 50 words)?

14. When are you proposing to do this research? Describe the time period, duration, and roughly how many hours per day or week you plan to engage in the project during this period (no more than 50 words). Please note that your research project may continue beyond the grant funding period, however grant funds will be available and must be used by June 30.

15. Name of the VT faculty research mentor who has agreed to supervise your research. We will contact this faculty member to confirm that they have agreed to mentor you during this research project.

16. Research mentor's VT email address:

17. Research mentor's home department:

Proposal Budget

Please provide an estimate of the expenses you anticipate incurring for this research project, for which you are seeking funding through this grant. Only list expenses you plan to cover with the grant. In most cases, this will only include student wages (i.e. payment to you). Note that not all expenses may be eligible under the grant and grant funds expire on June 30 so only include expenses/activities up to this date.

18. **Student wages:** indicate how many hours of your time per week and over what period will be paid from the grant at \$15/hr. Include a total for this section.

19. **Supplies/equipment/database costs:** List and describe any supplies, equipment, or other research activity costs you anticipate paying for using this grant. Include a total for this section.

20. **Travel:** List and describe any anticipated travel expenses related to your proposed research project. Include a total for this section.

21. **Other expenses:** Use this space to list any other costs you anticipate needing to pay for with this grant. Include a total for this section.

22. **Total amount requested for this grant.** Provide a sum total of all above categories, which equals the total amount you are requesting for this grant to support your described research activities. This must not exceed \$3,000.

Personal Statements

23. In 1-5 sentences, please explain what will make this a *Bridge* undergraduate research experience for you? You may wish to consider describing what you hope to gain from participating in this research experience and how this experience could impact you future plans and career goals, etc.

24. In 1-5 sentences, please explain why you should be provided with this grant. You may discuss your personal financial situation, the general lack of funding for your area of research, or any relevant information that may help the selection committee assess your need for this grant.

Application certification

25. By typing your name here you agree to the expectations of this program and, should you be awarded a grant, commit to engaging in undergraduate research activities as described in this proposal.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Microsoft. The data you submit will be sent to the form owner.

