



VirginiaTech®

College of Natural Resources  
and Environment

**Department of Forest Resources and  
Environmental Conservation**

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**2017 Sustainable Water Undergraduate Research Fellowship**

**Request for Applications**

An endowed fund, the Sustainable Water Undergraduate Research Fellowship, has been established to provide support for the Bachelor of Science undergraduate degree program in Water: Resources, Policy and Management within the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation in the College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech.

The interdisciplinary requirements for the Water: Resources, Policy, and Management degree will prepare students well for employment or graduate school in the rapidly growing field of water resources. Scientific and policy analysis of water resources, quality, and conservation are essential for development of sustainability plans in both the public and private sectors. Sustainable Water Undergraduate Research Fellows will have a genuine opportunity to invent the future through active engagement in undergraduate research experiences.

Undergraduate research involves and empowers students in hands-on learning, enhances student learning experience by building relationships with faculty, provides effective career preparation, and stimulates interest in graduate education. In addition to personal benefits such as growth in analytical and critical thinking skills, undergraduate research can be fun, creative, and rewarding and can help students find their passion.

The fellowship will provide competitive research funding each year for one to two undergraduate students enrolled in the Water: Resources, Policy, and Management degree program. Applications are invited for all areas of water resources-related research including science, policy, and management aspects of water. Interdisciplinary work is highly encouraged. The maximum funding amount is about \$3,000. Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student in the Water degree program.

A faculty member acting as the main research supervisor and mentor must sponsor the student. The faculty member does not have to be directly affiliated with the Water degree program and can be from any college at Virginia Tech. By sponsoring a student and serving as a research mentor for the student's project, the faculty member is committing to working with the student. The expected time commitment from the faculty mentor and student is 6 to 10 hours per week for a minimum of 10 to 12 weeks. The research can take place during fall, spring, or summer sessions, or span the entire academic year.

All fellowships should culminate in a final product (e.g., poster, report, contribution to a manuscript) to be determined by the faculty mentor and student fellow. Students who receive fellowships are strongly encouraged

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to present their final project at Virginia Tech's Undergraduate Research Conference. Information about the conference can be found on the University Undergraduate Research website:

<http://www.research.undergraduate.vt.edu>.

Applications will be evaluated based on innovation, intellectual merit, and likelihood of success. Factors such as how well conceived and organized the proposed activity is and clarity of writing will be strongly considered in evaluation of the application. The student will be also evaluated on past academic performance and suitability of the student for the project.

Reporting requirements are to be determined, but are likely to include an abstract for submission to the Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research Conference, a final report, contribution to blogs or newsletters, and an interim progress report if the approved project is more than one semester.

To apply for Sustainable Water Undergraduate Research Fellowship, ask a faculty member to sponsor you, agree on a project, complete the application, and submit a short research project description following the guidelines below. The deadline for applications is November 18, 2016, at 5:00 PM and the anticipated start date is January 5th. The application materials (cover page, résumé, project description, and budget/timeline) should be compiled into one PDF document and submitted as an attachment to [waterdegree@vt.edu](mailto:waterdegree@vt.edu). The subject line of the email must read: Sustainable Water Undergraduate Research Fellowship – 2017.

For questions, please contact Dr. Stephen Schoenholtz ([stephen.schoenholtz@vt.edu](mailto:stephen.schoenholtz@vt.edu)) or Dr. Kevin McGuire ([kevin.mcguire@vt.edu](mailto:kevin.mcguire@vt.edu)).

# Sustainable Water Undergraduate Research Fellowship

## Application Cover Page

### *Personal Information*

First name:	Last name:
Email:	

### *Academic Information*

Date enrolled in Water Degree:
Month & Year of Expected Graduation:
Cumulative GPA:
GPA for last 30 credits:
Advisor:

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty sponsor signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty sponsor name: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty sponsor department: \_\_\_\_\_

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*On a separate page (limited to one page), provide the following information in résumé format:*

- Awards/honors you have received,
- Relevant coursework or experience,
- Descriptions of extracurricular activities and leadership roles/activities you have participated in, and
- Descriptions of professional work-related experiences including co-op work, internships, hourly-wage positions, and undergraduate research.

## Sustainable Water Undergraduate Research Fellowship

### Project Description

The project description should be written clearly and in non-technical, jargon-free language appropriate for a general audience. Reviewers may not be familiar with specific aspects of the research area within water resources. The description should include a title, background, goals/objectives of project, purpose and methods, and expected outcomes. The description is limited to one single-spaced page using 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins and standard page dimensions (8.5" by 11"). References are not included in the page limit.

On a separate page following the same formatting criteria as described above, provide a proposed budget and project timeline. The budget cannot exceed \$3,000. It is important to note that the maximum award amount may be less than \$3,000 and thus, if awarded the budget will require adjustment. Budget items may include hourly wages (e.g., \$10/h for specified total hours), materials/supplies, travel, conference registration, laboratory analysis, field equipment, software, etc. Purchasing of supplies and travel must follow university-purchasing procedures. The award will be made available in a fund in the faculty sponsor's department. The award period should be specified, but can be one or two semesters and include the summer if appropriate.