

FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



FAQs for Virginia Tech Faculty

What do I need to know before I begin looking into fellowship opportunities?

Talk with your leadership

Before you begin looking at potential opportunities, talk with your leadership about your goals. Together you can begin exploring the best options for timing, and plans for coverage of university duties can be considered.

Understand the options for leave

Time away from Virginia Tech for fellowships can be arranged in a number of ways to accommodate both the length of the Fulbright and the needs of the faculty member and department. Usually, leaves for Fulbrights will be accommodated through a formal request for a “special leave” (see Chapter 2 of the Faculty Handbook).

Salary and benefits

Fellowship grant benefits vary by country and type of award. Generally speaking, Fulbright grants are budgeted to cover travel and living costs in-country for the grantee and their accompanying dependents. Many also include a salary supplement to raise the grant amount to the level of the individual’s salary for a comparable period (this amount may be limited to a maximum amount determined by the organization). The Provost’s Office works with department heads and faculty members on a case-by-case basis to manage salary considerations and to be sure that full benefits continue during the fellowship.

How do I find out what opportunities are available?

The Institute of International Education (IIE) administers the Fulbright Scholar Program on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Their website can be searched for a variety of opportunities: <https://fulbrightscholars.org/>. Fulbright opportunities cover a very wide range of disciplinary and interest areas and span the globe. A large number of opportunities offer a range of flexible time commitments and scheduling.

How do I begin the process of making an application?

One of the best things you can do is reach out to a Fulbright Program Officer. Their contact information and areas of expertise are listed with each award listed on the Fulbright website. They can assist you with understanding what makes for a strong application for different types of programs or host countries, and answer any questions.

What resources are available locally to help with an application?

There are a number of faculty and administrative resources available on campus to assist with looking for researching opportunities and preparing an application. For advice and resources on the application process, please contact Virginia Tech’s Fulbright Liaison, [Dr. Nicole Sanderlin](#), Director of Global Engagement in the College of Engineering. The [Provost’s Office](#) assists department, college or division leadership in facilitating leave for Fulbright fellowships. The [Global Education Office](#) is also available for additional support and resources.