



POLICY DESTINATION AREA
+Policy Research Fellow
Call for 2021-2022 Applications
Application Due: **December 10, 2021**

The Policy Destination Area (PDA) solicits applications from Virginia Tech faculty who wish to pursue research projects with policy relevance. The overarching goal of the PDA is to integrate, connect, and expand policy knowledge - broadly defined - across disciplines. The 2021-2022 +Policy Fellow support is designed to help researchers add a policy dimension to their work or expand a policy expert's content knowledge into a new area for future collaborations.

The +Policy Fellow award will support either collaboration between a policy scholar (the Fellow) and members of a research project, or an individual policy researcher seeking to expand their expertise in a new area. Priority will be given to applications from interdisciplinary fellow/teams or, if an individual researcher, interdisciplinary research and clear plans for future directions. All proposals are expected to contribute to eventual external funding proposals.

Proposals that advance initiatives of the Policy Destination Area will be given priority. These include research related to one of our four research pillars (health, cyber, environmental or energy policy) or the COVID Impacts and Influences Database of Databases <https://sites.google.com/vt.edu/covid-19-data-lake/home>

Funding is available for up to two research proposals. The program is open to all faculty members at Virginia Tech with continuous or multi-year appointments (tenure-track/tenured, collegiate, research). Maximum awards are \$10,500.

Application Guidelines

Applications must include: (a) signed cover sheet, including approval of fellow's department head/chair regarding summer stipend or an internal buy-out for spring 2022 if requested (attached); (b) title of team project, team members, and research narrative of 1- 2 pages; and 1 page budget and budget narrative. Proposals should address:

- Brief overview and significance of the issue, problem, or situation under study;
- Goal of the research and an explanation of how the +Policy Fellowship will either strengthen or enhance the extant research project or a researcher's ability to become competitive in a novel research area;
- Plans for securing external funds in support of research with a policy dimension;
- Anticipated outcomes (examples could include team publication or presentations; grant proposal; policy outreach; or for individual policy scholars expanding into new areas, expected plans for new mastery, extent of outreach to potential collaborators for future work).
- Budget request and brief justification (separate page).

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Clearly described, reasonable and attainable goal and approach
- Policy distinctive content
- Expertise of policy fellow and team members
- Deliverables with potential impact, including translation to policy-decision contributions
- Potential for securing external funds

Budget Guidelines: Maximum grant award is \$10,500.

Funds can be used for

- Summer stipend for Fellows, not to exceed \$8,000 inclusive of fringe benefits (<http://www.policies.vt.edu/4296.pdf>), with up to \$2,500 for the research team;
- Spring 2022 course release up to \$8,000 for Fellows, with amount determined by home department buy-out rates; to and up to \$2,500 for the collaborating research team;
- Research assistant support;
- Collaborating research team activities that promote the team and + Policy Fellow collaboration are acceptable, such as coordination expenses, research assistant support, consultation with funding agencies, external consultants/speakers, and so on.
- If two faculty members plan to collaborate on the proposed research, the applicant for +Policy Fellow and the partnering content expert should submit a budget appropriate for the proposed project

Submission Requirements and Deadline

Applications are to be prepared using 1-inch margins and Arial 11 font or larger. Submit an e-copy of the complete application and signed cover sheet to Isabel Bradburn (isbrad@vt.edu). Applications are due by December 10, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Acknowledgement of receipt of applications will be made within 48 hours and decisions communicated by noon on December 15, 2021.

Visit the PDA webpage on the ISCE website at <https://www.isce.vt.edu/policysga/research.html> to download an electronic copy of the application form.

Notification of Award/Availability of Funds

Funds will be dispersed upon approval of the +Policy Fellow project. Any unencumbered funds as of June 1, 2022 are to be returned to PDA.

Expectations and deliverables

Participants selected for the PDA +Policy Research Fellowship are expected to:

- Devote time during spring/summer 2022 to the planned activities;
- Submit a progress and budget report by July 2022, with follow up progress reporting annually for the following two years so that the PDA can track research investments (3 progress reports total);
- Submit a 1-3 page policy brief describing project outcomes upon project completion or by the end of 2024, whichever is earliest, for posting on the Policy DA website;
- Present a seminar of the funded work to the Science, Technology and Engineering in Policy (STEP) seminar series.

Questions? We encourage questions or discussions about ideas. Please contact the PDA Program Director Isabel Bradburn (isbrad@vt.edu) or PDA Research Committee Chairperson Susan E. Chen (ecsusan@vt.edu)

POLICY DESTINATION AREA +Policy Fellow Research Application Application Cover Sheet (please print or type)		Leave blank-for internal use only
Name of proposed +Policy Fellow:		Campus Address:
Rank/Title:		Email Address:
College:		Telephone Number:
Department:		
Description of the research project and goal of the fellowship (one sentence each):		
Support requested for: <input type="checkbox"/> Summer stipend 2022 <input type="checkbox"/> Course buyout spring 2022 <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Student <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list)		Total Amount Requested:
Signature of proposed Fellow		Date
When relying on internal funds, the cost of release time to allow faculty members in my department to pursue research/scholarly activities ranges from: \$ to \$ per course. The department is willing to accept funds within this range should the applicant receive the fellowship. The department understands that the Policy Destination Area cannot carryover unspent funds from this award. If allowable within their college, the department may carry over any remaining funds for the faculty's use in the next fiscal year in order to complete their PDA research.		
Name of Department Head/Chair (print)		Signature
		Date