

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 achieved by formal request for approved Study-Research Leave (see section 3.8 of the Faculty Handbook), or by approval for “special leave” (see section 2.10 of the Faculty Handbook). If using “special leave,” similar conditions related to the timing of leaves, as defined in the Study-Research Leave policy, will be part of the agreement.

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 (capped at a max of \$10,000 per grant month). The Provost’s Office works with department heads and faculty members on a case-by-case basis to manage salary considerations and be sure that full benefits continue during the fellowship.

How do I find out what opportunities are available?

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) manages the opportunities available as part of the Fulbright Scholar Program. Their website can be searched for a variety of opportunities: <http://www.cies.org/programs>. 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 CIES Program Officer. Their contact information and areas of expertise are listed on the CIES Program website as well. They can assist you with understanding what makes for a strong application for different types of programs or host countries.

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. The Office of Global Education can assist in making connections with Program Officers, returned Fulbright Scholars, and available reviewers.