The Policy Destination Area (PDA) solicits applications from VT 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 2020-2021 +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. Maximum awards are $12,000.

Funding is available for up to three research proposals. The program is open to all faculty members at Virginia Tech with continuous or multi-year appointments (tenure-track/tenured, collegiate, research).

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 2021 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
- Links to other Destination Areas (http://provost.vt.edu/destination-areas.html)

Budget Guidelines: Maximum grant award is $12,000.
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 $4000 for the research team;
- Spring 2021 course release up to $8,000 for Fellows, with amount determined by home department buy-out rates; and up to $4000 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 coversheet to Yancey Crawford (yanceyc3@vt.edu). Applications are due by Monday, November 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Acknowledgement of receipt of applications will be made within 48 hours and decisions communicated by noon on December 7, 2020.

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 project. Any unallocated funds as of June 1, 2021 are to be returned to PDA.

Expectations and deliverables

Participants selected for the PDA +Policy Research Fellowship are expected to:
- Devote significant time during spring/summer 2021 to the planned activities;
- Submit a progress and budget report by July 2021, with follow up progress reporting annually for the next two years so that the PDA can track research investments;
- 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 STRATEGIC GROWTH AREA

### +Policy Fellow Research Application

**Application Cover Sheet**  
(please print or type)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of proposed +Policy Fellow:</th>
<th>Campus Address:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rank/Title:</td>
<td>Email Address:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College:</td>
<td>Telephone Number:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description of the research project and goal of the fellowship (one sentence each):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Support requested for:**

- ☐ Summer stipend 2021  
- ☐ Course buyout spring 2021  
- ☐ Graduate Student  
- ☐ Other (list)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Amount Requested:</th>
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**Signature of proposed Fellow**

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<th>Date</th>
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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.

**Name of Department Head/Chair (print)**

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<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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