

David Lyerly Foundation Undergraduate Microbiology Research Fellowship

The Department of Biological Sciences is pleased to announce the call for applications for 2025 David Lyerly award. Dr. David Lyerly is a Fralin Biomedical Research Advisory Board member and co-founder and Chief Science Officer of TechLab, a Blacksburg-based company that focuses on diagnostics and research of the intestinal microbiome. This award will provide one student a \$6,000 stipend to pursue a research project in microbiological sciences.

Objectives:

- To provide a hands-on microbiology research experience to an undergraduate student.
- To prepare a student for a career in Biological Sciences or related fields.
- To foster creative problem solving and science communication skills.

Eligibility:

- Must be a Virginia Tech undergraduate student.
- Must have already identified a VT faculty member conducting microbiology research, to host the fellow during the fellowship period.
- Either the student, the faculty member, or both must be in the VT Department of Biological Sciences.
- Must be available for 10 weeks in the summer and able to commit a substantial amount of time each week. Specific time requirements or expectations should be discussed with faculty mentor when planning the application. Research projects taking place outside of the summer can be considered in exceptional circumstances—please contact by email ahead of submission.

Important dates:

- Applications are due **March 17, 2025**.
- Program runs from May 27 – August 1, 2025.

Application materials:

- The applicant must submit a brief cover letter (maximum one page) that describes why they are interested in participating in independent research and how this opportunity may contribute to their career goals. Past undergraduate research is not necessary, but such experience should be noted, if applicable.
- An up-to-date resume.
- A letter of commitment (maximum one page) from the Department of Biological Sciences faculty member that will host and mentor the awardee during the summer.

Applications must be submitted electronically as a single PDF (with the files in order listed above) to Dr. Richard Seyler (tad@vt.edu), Dr. Jeremy Draghi (jdraghi@vt.edu), or Dr. Joseph Hoyt (jrhoyt@vt.edu). Please contact any of the above with questions