

## David Lyerly Foundation Undergraduate Microbiology Research Fellowship

The Department of Biological Sciences is pleased to announce the call for applications for 2026 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 the faculty mentor when planning the application. The fellowship is designed to run concurrently with the Office of Undergraduate Research's SURF program so that the fellow may participate in its workshops and symposia. Other summer timelines may be arranged by the faculty sponsor to align with field work, student needs, *etc.*

### Important dates:

- Applications are due **April 16, 2026**.
- Program runs from May 26 – July 31, 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 should be submitted electronically as a PDF containing the cover letter and resume from the student. A letter of commitment from the supporting faculty member should be submitted separately. Application materials may be sent to Dr. Richard Seyler ([tad@vt.edu](mailto:tad@vt.edu)), Dr. Jeremy Draghi ([jdraghi@vt.edu](mailto:jdraghi@vt.edu)), or Dr. Joseph Hoyt ([jrhoyt@vt.edu](mailto:jrhoyt@vt.edu)). Please contact any of the above with questions.**