



EXPAND Fellowship Application

Fellowship Details and Criteria for Applicant Selection

EXPAND is a research training program supported by the National Science Foundation (<https://expand.virginia.edu/>). This program offers a full fellowship (tuition plus stipend) for one year (non-renewable) to graduate students in the life sciences at UVA, with a priority to support students conducting integrative research on the phenotype. Fellowship support is intended, in part, to allow PhD students 1) the opportunity to conduct integrative research with a co-mentor, and 2) the time and flexibility to participate in an internship with the goal of exploring career options.

Fellowship recipients are required to be...

- *Conducting integrative PhD research at UVA*
- *US Citizens or Permanent Residents (this is an NSF requirement)*
- *Supervised by a co-advisor for the term of the Fellowship*

Preference for fellowships will be given to students who...

- *Are entering their 4th year in the PhD program at the start of the Fellowship*
- *Conduct research that integrates across disciplines/tools/levels of investigation*
- *Have proposed co-advisors across different disciplines*
- *Have participated in EXPAND offerings (courses, professional development, open houses)*
- *Demonstrate commitment to an accessible and inclusive STEM community*

Instructions

Applicants must submit all parts of the application as a **single PDF document**. Please label each portion of the application with the headings listed under 'Application Materials' and include your last name on the header for every page. Your final application should be sent to expand@virginia.edu by **March 29, 2024**.

Application Materials

1) Program Information

- Your PhD Program (EXPAND welcomes applications from across the life sciences at UVA)
- Your year in the Program (EXPAND fellowships are targeted for students entering their 4th year)
- Are you a US Citizen or a Permanent Resident? (this is an NSF requirement)

2) Inclusive Community

In one paragraph, describe how you will join EXPAND in our commitment to fostering an accessible and inclusive STEM community.

3) Past EXPAND Activities

Indicate your participation in any of the following EXPAND program offerings:

- BIOL 8300, Integrative Studies of the Phenotype (formerly GSCI 8500-001)
- BIOL 8310, Career Design for the Life Sciences (formerly GSCI 8500-003)
- BIOL 8240, Professional Skills for the Life Sciences I
- BIOL 8250, Professional Skills for the Life Sciences II
- Professional development via UVA's PhD+ program

- Internships (priority will be given to students who have **not** yet participated in an internship)
- Other EXPAND-sponsored activities/events (e.g., presenting a poster at EXPAND open house)

4) *Research Program*

Write a narrative, maximum of two pages (single-spaced including citations and any figures, 12-point font, 1" margins), describing your research, with a focus on how it integrates across multiple disciplines in the Life Sciences in the study of phenotype. Make sure there is a clear statement of the conceptual problem, hypotheses, and how an integrative research approach is (or will be) applied.

5) *Career Development*

Write one paragraph detailing why an EXPAND fellowship will be beneficial to your development as a scientist and how you will use the opportunity provided by the fellowship to develop your career. Specific internship plans are not expected at this stage, but you should indicate your commitment to engaging in the internship during the fellowship and your motivations for pursuing an internship.

6) *Advisors' Mentoring Plan*

The applicant, their advisor, and their proposed co-advisor(s) should work collaboratively to develop, write, and sign a one-page plan for the fellowship year that describes the mentoring plan and how co-mentoring will be conducted. Advisors should explicitly detail how they will conduct co-mentoring to facilitate integrative research training of the applicant.

Timeline

- Information session with EXPAND leadership and past/present Fellows on **February 28, 2024**
- Application is due by email to expand@virginia.edu by **March 29, 2024**
- Recipients and their advisors/DGS/department Chairs will be notified by email by **April 12, 2024**

Questions?

Please email expand@virginia.edu