

# Virginia Tech's Research and Extension Experiential Learning (VT-REEL) program on Securing Our Food



## 2020 APPLICATION

Please check boxes to indicate eligibility – candidates must meet all eligibility requirements

*Candidates for this summer research experience:*

- must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States
- must be enrolled in a degree program (part-time or full-time) leading to a baccalaureate or associates degree
- must be entering his/her sophomore, junior or senior year in Fall 2020
- must be able to work at least 40 hours per week for the entire 10-week term (May 26 –July 31, 2020) and attend some mandatory weekend events

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current address (if different then permanent address):

School: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

This address is good until: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate email: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated date of graduation (month, year):

Cell number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Permanent address (not your temporary college address):

In Fall 2020 I will be a:

- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years of college completed by summer 2020:

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Letter of recommendation information:

Name of reference: \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you hear about the VT-REEL program?**

Reference's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic advisor

**Primary career goal (check ONE):**

Internet search

Medicine/allied health professions

Professor/In a class

Graduate school/research

VT's Office of Undergraduate Research webpage

Education

Internship fair

Industry/corporate

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Government

Undecided/other (please explain in Essay 1; see below)

**Demographic information:**

(Providing this information is optional. Our funding agency, the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, seeks to track applicant demographics; information is only provided as a summary and no individual information is reported. Please check as many as apply.)

- Black or African American
- Asian
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Hispanic or Latino(a)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White / Caucasian

**Gender:**

- Male
- Female
- Nonbinary
- Prefer not to disclose

**Special Consideration:**

- First-generation college student
- Veteran or service member

Of the four general research areas (i.e. Genomics and abiotic stress; Genomics and biotic stress; Nutrient regulation and management; Plant Communication), **please list the two you are most interested in.** (Note that we will try our best to honor your request, but cannot guarantee placement within a particular lab or research area.)

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**Please provide the following materials, along with this form, for your application to be complete:**

**Resume:** Submit a brief (1-2 page) resume of your academic and work history. Be sure to include any research or field experience, laboratory skills, relevant courses, awards / honors, presentations, or extracurricular activities you would like us to know about. *Note that previous research experience is NOT necessary for consideration for this fellowship.*

**Essay 1:** In a 1-page personal statement, tell us about yourself. Describe your interest in plant science or the general research areas you selected above, your career goals, and how/why you think participation in VT-REEL would help you achieve those goals. Be sure to discuss any prior research or field experience, including techniques used. If you do not have prior research or field experience, discuss what laboratory skills you would like to acquire through this program.

**Essay 2:** In 250 words or less, describe what unique qualities and/or strengths (academic and non-academic) you would bring to VT-REEL. Be sure to discuss how these characteristics would contribute to your success in the program.

**Academic transcript:** Obtain an official or unofficial transcript from your current college and from any previous school(s) if you are a transfer student. Transcripts may be emailed with your application in pdf form, or they can be sent directly by your institution. *Note: If your school is mailing your transcript, please inform us so we know to look for it.*

**Letter of recommendation:** Please have a letter of recommendation sent directly from a current or former teacher, mentor, or employer; someone who can comment on your academic achievements, lab experience, or work ethic is best. The letter of recommendation should be emailed to [scmarine@vt.edu](mailto:scmarine@vt.edu).

***To be considered for a fellowship, ALL materials must be received by mail or email by February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020!***  
Applicants are responsible for ensuring all materials, including the letter of recommendation, are received by the deadline.

**Mailing address:**

Department of Biochemistry  
c/o Dr. Sasha Marine  
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Blacksburg, VA 24061