

Spring 2021 Grounds Engaged Learning for Sustainability (GELS) Grants

The University of Virginia Committee on Sustainability (CoS) announces its first round of grants to support Grounds engaged learning related to sustainability at UVA. These grants are intended to enable UVA faculty to develop new or improved opportunities for students to learn about sustainability by studying and engaging with our own operations and grounds. GELS grants could support exploration of social, environmental, and/or economic sustainability of the University.

We seek to support teaching and/or research projects that will use campus data, facilities, practices, and policies as raw material for learning about and proposing improvements in (for example): energy, water, or materials management; building performance; Grounds and environmental protection; transportation; food services; procurement; public awareness of climate, environmental, and sustainability issues; equity and inclusion; environmental justice; and/or fiscal sustainability of UVA's operations.

Eligibility: The primary applicant may be any full-time faculty member from any UVA school or department at any academic rank who will be at UVA for the next two years. Faculty may partner to submit a single proposal and split the funding.

Funds: Total GELS budget for this round will not exceed \$25,000. Applicants may request \$500-\$5,000 for their projects, and grants will be paid as transfers into PI's research or teaching accounts. Priority may be given to projects whose funding will directly benefit students in some way, but funds may be used to cover (for example):

- faculty time to plan a new course or capstone project,
- faculty time to redesign an existing course or capstone project to include Grounds engaged learning,
- costs to develop and implement a new research project, survey, etc.,
- new student research or teaching assistant hires,
- billable hours for UVA Facilities staff or community members collaborating on the project,
- materials needed for a Grounds engaged research or teaching project,
- transportation costs for a student field trip,
- costs to host interdisciplinary seminars or symposia,
- or faculty development costs, including trainings or workshops.

Expectations:

- Grant recipients will be expected to:
 - Attend at least one virtual meeting in Summer 2021.
 - Complete their project and spend all funds within 2 calendar years.
 - Submit a one page or less report on the project and its results, a final spending log, and 1-5 photos of the project (ideally featuring participating students) by September 2023.
- Grant recipients may be asked to present once at a sustainability-related event, meeting, or UVA symposium.

Application materials:

- Brief proposal (no more than 1 page) including, in this order:
 - Project title, PI(s), description of the new or improved Grounds engaged learning opportunity, list of potential collaborators/stakeholders, budget outline, description of final outcomes or deliverables and how those outcomes/deliverables relate to sustainability (especially [UVA's 2030 Sustainability Goals](#)).
- If proposing a research project: Abbreviated curriculum vitae (must limit to three pages)
- If proposing a teaching project: Summaries of teaching evaluations from the last year (must limit to three pages)

Combine all application materials into **a single pdf file** and email to Dana Schroeder, ds8nh@virginia.edu

Selection process: Peer review by the Sustainability Teaching & Research Subcommittee

Application deadline: 11:59pm on Sunday, May 2, 2021 **potential for follow-up questions in May**

Announcement of fellowship recipients: By May 28, 2021