

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS AND ASSISTANTSHIPS

Students who apply for financial aid in their application to the Graduate School at Virginia Tech (for admission into the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering) are automatically considered for the awards listed below. Faculty members nominate students for these awards based on their application. No special application form is necessary. Awards are typically made in February or March for the following Fall semester, and in October or November for the following Spring semester.

VIA FELLOWSHIPS

The Via Endowment Program is the result of a gift from Mrs. Marion Via to the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Its objective is to recruit outstanding Ph.D. and M.S. students into the department's graduate program. The Via fellowships are to be the premier awards in the Department in terms of level of support, and should be competitive with those at any of our peer institutions. Only U.S. citizens or permanent residents are eligible for Via graduate funding.

1. Via Doctoral Fellowships

This fellowship is awarded to the very top Ph.D. applicants. Candidates who qualify for this award will either have completed their M.S. degree, or will be currently enrolled in an M.S. degree program. The four-year award consists of: (1) a stipend at an annual rate of \$40,000; (2) tuition and incidental fees, including summers (three credits in each summer session, if on plan of study); (3) an annual professional enhancement fund of \$1,000 per year to be used for travel to professional conferences, and (4) student health insurance.

2. Via Direct-Doctoral Fellowships

This fellowship is awarded to the very top Ph.D. applicants. Candidates who qualify for this award have a bachelor's degree (some students may obtain an M.S. along the way to the PhD). The four-year award consists of: (1) a stipend at an annual rate of \$32,000 for 16.5 months and then \$40,000 for the next 31.5 months; (2) tuition and incidental fees, including summers (three credits in each summer session, if on plan of study); (3) an annual professional enhancement fund of \$1,000 for three years to be used for travel to professional conferences, and (4) student health insurance.

3. Via Master's Fellowships

This fellowship is intended for the very top M.S. applicants. During the first three semesters and first summer, the student will receive: (1) a stipend at an annual rate of \$32,000 which includes a full-time (20 hours per week) M.S.-level graduate assistantship; (2) tuition and incidental fees; and (3) student health insurance. During the first three semesters, at least three-quarters of the assistantship and tuition fees will be funded from the program area in which he or she is pursuing the Master's degree, and the remaining funds will be provided by the Via Endowment. All recipients of Via Master's Fellowships are required to write a thesis or a paper/report suitable for publication.

ICTAS/Via Fellowships

These fellowships are similar to the Marion Via Ph.D. Fellowships described above, but the stipend is \$44,000. They combine an assistantship, Via Endowment funds, and

funds from the ICTAS Program of Virginia Tech. The number of these fellowships available to applicants in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department is very limited.

OTHER FELLOWSHIPS

There are many other fellowship opportunities. The Pratt, Curry, Hunnicut, Beale, Davenport, Sussman, Vecellio, Fugro, Bluhm and others are available through our department. Some fellowships are offered alone but several fellowships are added to a partial Graduate Research Assistantship or Graduate Teaching Assistantship. They are provided to support research activities which will be part of a student's thesis or dissertation. Some are available to all students and some are available only to U.S. citizens or permanent residents. These fellowships are nominated by our faculty. Students should also check with the Graduate School office about other fellowship opportunities offered through their office.

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS (GRA'S)

Graduate Research Assistantships are awarded by individual faculty members who have received research projects (e.g., from government agencies). The availability of GRA's and the amount of the award varies, depending on the projects that have been obtained and the funds allotted for GRA's in those projects. Typically, research carried out by a graduate student on a GRA becomes part or all of the research for the student's thesis or dissertation.

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS (GTA'S)

Each program area in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is allotted a number of GTA's to award to graduate students. The amount of the assistantship varies, depending on the duties and number of hours associated with it. The duties may involve grading of homework for courses or supervising an undergraduate laboratory course.

