

**SUMMARY****Faculty Research Leaves (90)****2025-26**

<b>College</b>	<b>Study-Research</b>	<b>Research Assignment</b>	<b>Total</b>
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences	0	6	<b>6</b>
College of Architecture, Arts, and Design	3	4	<b>7</b>
College of Engineering	9	14	<b>23</b>
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences	5	17	<b>22</b>
College of Natural Resources and Environment	1	4	<b>5</b>
College of Science	3	16	<b>19</b>
Pamplin College of Business	1	5	<b>6</b>
University Libraries	0	1	<b>1</b>
Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine	0	1	<b>1</b>
Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>90</b>

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above study-research and research assignment leaves be approved as requested.

March 25, 2025

## **FACULTY RESEARCH LEAVES**

**2025-26**

Virginia Tech provides tenured faculty, and faculty on continued appointment, with opportunities that include paid leave for intensive study or research that advances the individual's profession and contributions to the university.

### **Study-Research Leave**

Study-research leave may be granted to faculty members for research and/or advanced study necessary to enhance the competencies of those faculty members to carry out their obligations to the university. (at other universities this program is often called "sabbatical.")

Full-time tenured faculty members with the rank of associate professor or higher, or faculty members holding continued appointment with significant responsibility for instruction and scholarly productivity, with the rank of assistant professor or higher, having accrued a minimum of six years of service, are eligible for study-research leaves. Following a period of study-research leave, an additional six years of full-time service are necessary before a faculty member is eligible for another leave. Requests may be submitted prior to completion of six years of service, but faculty members must have tenure and have completed the sixth year before the leave period begins. Study-research leave may be granted to faculty members for research and/or advanced study necessary to enhance the competencies of those faculty members to carry out their obligations to the university.

### **Research Assignment**

Research assignment is a special category of study-research leave that is awarded to a tenured or continued-appointment academic faculty member for one semester of intensive study or research that increases the quality of the individual's professional stature and future contributions to the university. It may be taken in lieu of an ordinary yearlong study-research leave.

Full-time tenured faculty members with the rank of associate professor or higher, or holding continued appointment with the rank of assistant professor or higher, having accrued a minimum of six years of service, are eligible for research assignment leave. Following such a leave, an additional six years of full-time service is necessary before a faculty member may be considered for another research assignment. Requests may be submitted prior to completion of six years of service, but faculty members must have completed the sixth year before the leave period begins. Faculty members on calendar year appointments may take research assignment leave for up to six months.

**The following faculty members are requesting study-research leave (one-half salary for up to one year) for the period of time specified:**

### College of Architecture, Arts, and Design (3)

Faculty Name	Rank	Department	Leave dates
Edward Becker	associate professor	School of Architecture	academic year 2025-26
Margarita McGrath	associate professor	School of Architecture	academic year 2025-26
Scotty Hardwig	associate professor	School of Performing Arts	academic year 2025-26

### College of Engineering (9)

Faculty Name	Rank	Department	Leave dates
Hongliang Xin	associate professor	Chemical Engineering	academic year 2025-26
Erich Hester	professor	Civil and Environmental Engineering	academic year 2025-26
John Little	professor	Civil and Environmental Engineering	academic year 2025-26
Alba Yerro-Colom	associate professor	Civil and Environmental Engineering	academic year 2025-26
Vinod Lohani	professor	Engineering Education	academic year 2025-26
Manisha Bansal	associate professor	Industrial and Systems Engineering	academic year 2025-26
Myounghoon Jeon	professor	Industrial and Systems Engineering	academic year 2025-26
Pinhas Ben-Tzvi	professor	Mechanical Engineering	academic year 2025-26
Changmin Son	professor	Mechanical Engineering	academic year 2025-26

### College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (5)

Faculty Name	Rank	Department	Leave dates
Jeffrey Mann	associate professor	English	academic year 2025-26
Cynthia Smith	professor	Human Development and Family Science	academic year 2025-26
Priya Dixit	associate professor	Political Science	academic year 2025-26
Patrick Roberts	professor	School of Public and International Affairs	academic year 2025-26
Barbara Allen	professor	Science, Technology, and Society	fall semester 2025

**College of Natural Resources and Environment (1)**

<b>Faculty Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Leave dates</b>
John McGee	professor	Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation	academic year 2025-26

**College of Science (3)**

<b>Faculty Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Leave dates</b>
Bryan Brown	associate professor	Biological Sciences	academic year 2025-26
Maria Iuliana Lazar	professor	Biological Sciences	academic year 2025-26
Vito Scarola	professor	Physics	academic year 2025-26

**Pamplin College of Business (1)**

<b>Faculty Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Leave dates</b>
Idris Adjerid	associate professor	Business Information Technology	academic year 2024-25

**The following faculty member is requesting a research assignment (full salary for one semester) for the period of time specified:**

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (6)			
Faculty Name	Rank	Department	Leave dates
Eric Kaufman	professor	Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education	fall semester 2025
Chloe Lahondere	associate professor	Biochemistry	spring semester 2026
Clement Vinauger	associate professor	Biochemistry	spring semester 2026
W. Cully Hession	professor	Biological Systems Engineering	fall semester 2025
Honglin Jiang	professor	School of Animal Sciences	fall semester 2025
Xiaofeng Wang	associate professor	School of Plant & Environmental Sciences	spring semester 2026

College of Architecture, Arts, and Design (4)			
Faculty Name	Rank	Department	Leave dates
Mehdi Setareh	professor	School of Architecture	fall semester 2025
Sharone Tomer	associate professor	School of Architecture	spring semester 2026
Meredith Drum	associate professor	School of Visual Arts	fall semester 2025
Travis Head	associate professor	School of Visual Arts	spring semester 2026

College of Engineering (14)			
Faculty Name	Rank	Department	Leave dates
Mazen Farhood	professor	Aerospace and Ocean Engineering	spring semester 2026
Rong Tong	associate professor	Chemical Engineering	spring semester 2026
Matthew Eatherton	professor	Civil and Environmental Engineering	spring semester 2026
Eric Jacques	associate professor	Civil and Environmental Engineering	fall semester 2025
Linsey Marr	professor	Civil and Environmental Engineering	fall semester 2025
Anuj Karpante	associate professor	Computer Science	fall semester 2025
Wenjing Lou	professor	Computer Science	fall semester 2025
Dimitrios Nikolopoulos	professor	Computer Science	fall semester 2025
Liqing Zhang	professor	Computer Science	fall semester 2025

**College of Engineering (14) continued**

<b>Faculty Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Leave dates</b>
Tam Chantem	associate professor	Electrical and Computer Engineering	fall semester 2025
Wei Zhou	associate professor	Electrical and Computer Engineering	fall semester 2025
Walter Lee	associate professor	Engineering Education	spring semester 2026
Blake Johnson	associate professor	Industrial and Systems Engineering	spring semester 2026
Ranga Pitchumani	professor	Mechanical Engineering	spring semester 2026

**College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (17)**

<b>Faculty Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Leave dates</b>
Katharine Cleland	associate professor	English	fall semester 2025
Matthew Vollmer	professor	English	fall semester 2025
Ed Gitre	associate professor	History	spring semester 2026
Marian Mollin	associate professor	History	spring semester 2026
Kee Jeong Kim	associate professor	Human Development and Family Science	fall semester 2025
Jody Russon	associate professor	Human Development and Family Science	spring semester 2026
Esther Bauer	associate professor	Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures	spring semester 2026
Robert Efird	associate professor	Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures	fall semester 2025
Gonzalo Montero	associate professor	Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures	fall semester 2025
Patrick Ridge	associate professor	Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures	spring semester 2026
Janell Watson	professor	Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures	fall semester 2025
Edward Weisband	professor	Political Science	fall semester 2025
Matthew Gabriele	professor	Religion and Culture	fall semester 2025
Matthew Fullen	associate professor	School of Education	fall semester 2025
Brett Jones	professor	School of Education	fall semester 2025
Lee Vinsel	associate professor	Science, Technology, and Society	fall semester 2025
Bonnie Zare	professor	Sociology	spring semester 2026

**College of Natural Resources and Environment (4)**

<b>Faculty Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Leave dates</b>
Valerie Thomas	professor	Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation	spring semester 2026
Randolph Wynne	professor	Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation	spring semester 2026
Robert Oliver	associate professor	Geography	spring semester 2026
Yang Shao	associate professor	Geography	fall semester 2025

**College of Science (16)**

<b>Faculty Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Leave dates</b>
Liwu Li	professor	Biological Sciences	fall semester 2025
Stephen Melville	professor	Biological Sciences	fall semester 2025
Josef Uyeda	associate professor	Biological Sciences	spring semester 2026
Zhaomin Yang	professor	Biological Sciences	spring semester 2026
Suqin Ge	professor	Economics	spring semester 2026
Xu Lin	associate professor	Economics	spring semester 2026
Alexander Smith	associate professor	Economics	fall semester 2025
Steve Holbrook	professor	Geosciences	spring semester 2026
Eric de Sturler	professor	Mathematics	spring semester 2026
Mark Embree	professor	Mathematics	fall semester 2025
Megan Wawro	professor	Mathematics	fall semester 2025
Ian Shoemaker	associate professor	Physics	fall semester 2025
Martha Ann Bell	University Distinguished Professor	Psychology	fall semester 2025
Jorge Hernandez	associate professor	Psychology	fall semester 2025
Xinwei Deng	professor	Statistics	fall semester 2025
Marco Ferreira	professor	Statistics	fall semester 2025

**Pamplin College of Business (5)**

<b>Faculty Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Leave dates</b>
Marshall Vance	associate professor	Accounting and Information Systems	fall semester 2025
Tabitha James	professor	Business Information Technology	fall semester 2025

**Pamplin College of Business (5) continued**

<b>Faculty Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Leave dates</b>
Alan Wang	professor	Business Information Technology	spring semester 2026
Bradley Paye	associate professor	Finance, Insurance, and Business Law	fall semester 2025
Pankaj Kumar	associate professor	Management	fall semester 2025

**University Libraries (1)**

<b>Faculty Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Leave dates</b>
Virginia Pannabecker	associate professor	University Libraries	spring semester 2026

**Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (1)**

<b>Faculty Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Leave dates</b>
Andrea Bertke	associate professor	Population Health Sciences	spring semester 2026