



Graduate Assistantship Center for Packaging and Unit Load Design

Virginia Tech

Dedicated to its motto, Ut Prosim (That I May Serve), Virginia Tech (www.vt.edu) takes a hands-on, engaging approach to education, preparing scholars to be leaders in their fields and communities.

As the commonwealth's most comprehensive university and its leading research institution, Virginia Tech offers more than 250 undergraduate and graduate degree programs to more than 33,000 students and manages a research portfolio of \$504 million.

The university fulfills its land-grant mission of transforming knowledge to practice through technological leadership and by fueling economic growth and job creation locally, regionally, and across Virginia.

Founded in 1872, Virginia Tech has approximately 135 buildings on its 2,600-acre main campus, educational and research facilities across the state, a study-abroad site in Switzerland, and a 1,800-acre agriculture research farm near the main campus. The campus proper is located in the Town of Blacksburg in Montgomery County in the New River Valley and is 38 miles southwest of Roanoke.





Center for Packaging and Unit Load Design

The graduate student selected for this assistantship will be working in the Center for Packaging and Unit Load Design (unitload.vt.edu) at Virginia Tech. The Center is one of the most experienced research centers in the area of package, pallet and unit load design. The Center was established in 1976, and since then, it has been focusing on the development of systems-based technologies to optimize the relationship between the design and performance of unit loads, and maximize the efficiency of the complete system.



Description: Graduate Assistantships usually provide a \$22,000 annual stipend in addition to fully covering Virginia Tech tuition. This is a two-year, graduate assistantship that is available through the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials at Virginia Tech.

Selected graduate students will pursue their graduate degree through the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials and will research how to improve the sustainability of the global supply chain through the better designing of pallets, unit loads, and distribution packaging.

Historical research focused on the interaction between corrugated packages and wooden pallets, the effects of load bridging on the strength and stiffness of pallets, Life-Cycle analysis of the pallet recycling process, and understanding how the properties of wood affects the strength and stiffness of pallets. The assistantship's research is financially sponsored by the members of Center for Packaging and Unit Load Design.



Responsibilities:

- Conduct scientific research, independently.
- Work 16 hours per week for the Center for Packaging and Unit Load Design as a Graduate Laboratory Manager.
- Present research at scientific conferences.
- Represent the Center at national tradeshow.

Requirements:

- Already have completed a BS in Packaging Science, Wood Science, Mechanical Engineering, or another related field.
- Be experienced with statics, mechanics, scientific research, and advanced mathematics.
- Possess good interpersonal communication skills.
- Must be accepted into a M.S. or Ph.D. program within the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials at Virginia Tech

Timeframe:

The position is available starting from the 2019 Fall semester.

Application information: <http://graduateschool.vt.edu/admissions/how-to-apply.html>

Application deadlines are listed at:

<https://graduateschool.vt.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/deadlines.html>

Contact Us:

For more information, please contact Laszlo Horvath, Director of the Center and Associate Professor, at (540) 231-7107 or lhorvat@vt.edu