

RESEARCH

2024-2025

COMMUNICATIONS



Office of the Vice President
for Research

FELLOWS

Each semester, a group of 20 Research Communications Fellows are chosen from the UVA faculty to attend trainings to help them learn how to be better communicators, improve their websites, talk to the media, improve their presentations, and more. The fellowship lasts for six months, and events are held monthly. Additionally, these 40 fellows will receive a research communications training certificate by attending at least 4 of the 5 events.



It is a great program. They provide resources that you can use even after the program is finished. These are valuable resources that help in improving the visibility of your research through videos and interviews. The program helps with relevant public speaking skills needed for teaching, and communication with larger audiences and program managers.”



– 2022-2023 Research Communications Fellow

Great research does not speak for itself. We need to train our faculty with skills to tell the story behind their work.

UVA is doing groundbreaking research, and it is increasingly important to convey the results of that research clearly and concisely to a broad variety of audiences—from expert to general. Not only are these communication skills a vital component of conveying one’s message, but they also require diligent practice in order to become second nature.

The goals of the program are to increase awareness for the urgent need for excellent research communicators and to coach faculty to improve their skills. The program focuses on building confidence in all communication roles, enhancing the clarity of the message, and forming a connection with any audience.



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FALL FELLOWS AT A GLANCE (20 FACULTY)

AUGUST	1:1 Welcome Meetings	SEPTEMBER	Alan Alda Training	OCTOBER	Websites / Public Speaking
NOVEMBER	Pitch to the Conversation	JANUARY	Media Training & Headshots		

2024

SPRING FELLOWS AT A GLANCE (20 FACULTY)

JANUARY	1:1 Welcome Meetings	FEBRUARY	Alan Alda Training	MARCH	Social Media/ Public Speaking
APRIL	Pitch to the Conversation	JUNE	Media Training & Headshots		

2025

**Dates for specific events may change, schedule will be set by August for the year.

1:1 Meeting with Research Communications Director

Zoom, 45 min | A meeting to learn more about the research of each fellow and find out where they would like to strengthen their communications skills.

Public Speaking Coaching

Zoom, 60 min | Fellows will have the opportunity to be evaluated by a public speaking coach (with an appointment that suits their schedule) who can help identify both their strengths and bad habits.

Alan Alda Training

Zoom, ½ day session | Faculty will learn how to speak about their research more clearly and effectively. The trainers will help them learn what is the right amount of information to share, how to better understand their audience, and how the length of a presentation can affect the impact.

Pitch to The Conversation

Zoom, 60 min | Fellows will learn about writing for The Conversation and will have an opportunity to pitch a story idea to their editors.

Media Training & New Headshots

In Person, ½ day | Fellows will learn how to incorporate storytelling into their presentations, and how to put their best foot forward in an interview situation. After on-camera interview practice (by appointment), they will receive constructive feedback from a trainer and get tips on how to improve. Headshots will also be taken that week (by appointment).

A short video about their research will be created from their interview and can be used to help showcase their research on their website or on social media.

For questions please contact: Meredith Cole meredith-vpr@virginia.edu

RESEARCH.VIRGINIA.EDU | VARSITY HALL BOX 400301 CHARLOTTESVILLE VA 22904