 Graduate Student Life
Spouses, Partners and Children

"Our primary objective is to help students thrive during their graduate education experience at Virginia Tech."
~ Dr. Aimée Surprenant, Dean of the Graduate School
Spouses, Partners and Children

Spouses, Partners and Children

International Dependent

- Child Care
- Employment for Spouses and Partners
- International Dependents
- Pet Care
- Public Schools (grades PreK-12)
- Resources for Caregiving
- Social Groups
- Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

Bringing a Spouse or Children to the U.S.

International students in F-1 or J-1 visa status may request an I-20 or DS-2019 form for a dependent (spouse or unmarried minor child). Contact the Cranwell International Center to learn more.

https://international.vt.edu/dependents.html
Spouses, Partners and Children

Employment for Spouses and Partners (for those eligible to work in the US)

- Handshake [https://joinhandshake.com/]
- Virginia Tech Jobs [https://jobs.vt.edu]

Includes hourly wage and part-time positions at Virginia Tech. Some departments which hire frequently:
- Dining Services
- Blacksburg Transit Drivers

Other Employers:
- Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg
- Montgomery County Public Schools
- Local businesses, food service, Kroger, MOOG

Roanoke Times job search site (can filter by location): [https://jobs.roanoke.com/]
Spouses, Partners and Children

Social Groups and Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Accessibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment for Spouses and Partners</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Dependents</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pet Care</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Schools (grades PreK-12)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources for Caregiving</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Groups</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant Workers Fairness Act</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GLC Events bring your Spouse/Partner

- GLC Café
- Social Events – GPSS Welcome Barbecue, Pumpkinpalooza, Thanksgiving Lunch, Tie Dye and Tacos

Cultural & Community Centers  [https://ccc.vt.edu/](https://ccc.vt.edu/)

Gobbler Connect

Student Organizations – student can join, some may welcome spouses/partners at some of the events, just ask.  [https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu/](https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu/)
Spouses, Partners and Children

GLC Social Events

**Popsicles & Pups**
August 19, 3:00-5:00, GLC Lawn
Ice cream social for graduate students with children. Meet other graduate student families and the Virginia Tech therapy dogs and enjoy popsicles and ice cream treats!
Register here: https://forms.office.com/r/YsHeHbKgFK

**Parent Support Lunches**
Held the 3rd Wednesday of the month starting in September in the GLC.
Children are welcome!

Join other graduate student parents to hear a speaker and casual conversation!
Spouses, Partners and Children

Volunteer opportunities – just a few examples

Volunteer Montgomery  county government  
https://montva.com/1/departments-services/human-services/volunteer-montgomery

YMCA at Virginia Tech  
https://vtymca.org/volunteer/

Sustainable Blacksburg  
https://sustainableblacksburgva.org/category/volunteer/

Lyric Theater  
https://www.thelyric.com/volunteer/
Spouses, Partners and Children

YMCA at Virginia Tech --Support for International Students

The group offers newcomer and immigrant women the space for creating community through cultural exchange, introduction to life in the US and engagement with the broader community.

https://vtymca.org/international-programs/

Interested? Contact Dina at international@vtymca.org

Come make friends from around the world, visit local attractions, do crafts, and cook international foods.

For calendar and locations visit www.vtymca.org/international-programs/
For questions contact international@vtymca.org
Spouses, Partners and Children

English Language instruction – Virginia Tech Programs

Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute offers a variety of English language classes. [https://lci.vt.edu/Programs.html](https://lci.vt.edu/Programs.html)

- University Prep Programs – Undergraduate and Masters
- Intensive English
- English Essentials
- All of these programs charge tuition ranging from $5,000 - $22,000
Spouses, Partners and Children

English Language instruction – Community Programs
https://www.literacynrv.org/student-application

Literacy NRV Fall 2024 Class Schedule
https://www.literacynrv.org/programs

Low to intermediate level learners
Blacksburg: Mondays from 6-8 PM (childcare provided)
Christiansburg: Tuesdays from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Christiansburg: Sundays from 6:30-8 PM
Christiansburg: Sundays from 4:30-6:30 PM (Spanish only)

Intermediate to advanced level learners (conversation practice)
Zoom: Wednesday evenings (time TBD)
Zoom: Every other Sunday at 2:30 PM (Mandarin Chinese only)
Zoom: Fridays from 10:30-11:30 AM
Blacksburg: Mondays from 6:30-7:30 PM
Spouses, Partners and Children

English Language instruction – Community Programs – Literacy NRV

https://www.literacynrv.org/programs

English Language Learning
Learn English with supportive teachers so you can make friends, get a better job, and talk to people in your community.

Learn More

Be WELL NRV
Wellness for English Language Learners: improve your understanding of medical information, drug requirements, and family well-being.

Learn More

Driver’s License and Professional Certifications
Struggling to pass that important exam? Our tutors can help you study and master the skills you need to succeed.

Sign Up Now

Family READS
Improve your English, reading, or writing skills while your children participate in fun, educational activities.

Learn More
Spouses, Partners and Children

English Language instruction – Community Programs

**Church on Main – Blacksburg**
Adult English School

[https://churchonmain.church/missions/#esl](https://churchonmain.church/missions/#esl)
- Free
- All levels: beginners, conversation and culture, intermediate advanced and writing.
- Flexible enrollment.
- Classes held Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30AM to 11:30AM, from September – May.
  Summer schedule, varies.
Spouses, Partners and Children

English Language instruction – Community Programs

New River Community College

https://www.nr.edu/adulted/eslfaq.php

Adult Education ELA (English Language Acquisition Classes)
• Free
• Must take screening test
• Classes will start late August
• Held at Christiansburg Uptown Mall (on bus line)
• Contact the ELA department at (540) 674-3600, extension 4308 for more information.
Spouses, Partners and Children

And baby makes three!

- Child Care
- Employment for Spouses and Partners
- International Dependents
- Pet Care
- Public Schools (grades PreK-12)
- Resources for Caregiving
- Social Groups
- Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

Graduate School Work-Life Grant
https://graduateschool.vt.edu/funding/work-life-grants.html

Financial assistance for GAs, GRAs, GTAs, expecting or adopting children. Departments can request financial assistance equivalent to a graduate assistantship for 8 weeks.
Spouses, Partners and Children

And baby makes three!

- Donated items for babies and children - Free!
- Held in November 11-13, 2024
- Sponsored by GPSS, The Virginia Tech Women’s Center and the Graduate School
- Graduate students get first pick

Little Hokie Hand-Me-Down™

https://gpss.vt.edu/events/little-hokie-handmedown.html
Spouses, Partners and Children

**Childcare Centers**
- Age 0-5, and may offer afterschool care kids in elementary school
- Full time hours 7:00am -6:00pm (varies) usually year round
- Charge tuition some programs are subsidized
- Parents must provide transportation; drop off and pick up children

**Public Schools** – starts at Kindergarten, age 5 by September 30
- Full time school day 8:45-3:45 for elementary schools
- Free – do not charge tuition
- Provide transportation to and from school

**Private Schools** – ages served vary by school
- Charge tuition
- Some are religious schools
- Most do not provide transportation and parents must drop off and pick up children
Spouses, Partners and Children

Childcare – Little Hokie™ Hangout

- A flexible, subsidized early education program primarily for Graduate Student families for children age 2-5.
- Three daily sessions; morning, afternoon, evening between 8:30 and 5:30 pm – Monday-Friday
- Use this form to apply for a fall semester 2024 spot:
  https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLScrEk9kxZZzKwXXemPPNXXejnkF2blgMJDGBNN08xpwhxY_A/viewform

Little Hokie Hangout

Spouses, Partners and Children

Childcare

- Child Care
- Employment for Spouses and Partners
- International Dependents
- Pet Care
- Public Schools (grades PreK-12)
- Resources for Caregiving
- Social Groups
- Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

Preschool class at Children’s Nest Childcare center in Blacksburg
## Childcare Centers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care</th>
<th>+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment for Spouses and Partners</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Dependents</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pet Care</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Schools (grades PreK-12)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources for Caregiving</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Groups</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant Workers Fairness Act</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### New River Valley Based Childcare Partnerships with VT

Parents who need childcare for infants – prekindergarten (ages 0-5) are encouraged to contact these childcare partners and follow their specific enrollment protocols.

- Children’s Nest [https://childrensnest.com/](https://childrensnest.com/)
- Giles Health & Family Center [https://gileshealthandfamily.org/](https://gileshealthandfamily.org/)
- Rainbow Riders [https://rainbow-riders.org/](https://rainbow-riders.org/)
- Valley Interfaith Child Care Center [https://www.valleyinterfaithchildcarecenter.org/](https://www.valleyinterfaithchildcarecenter.org/)
Spouses, Partners and Children

Childcare Centers

- Employment for Spouses and Partners
- International Dependents
- Pet Care
- Public Schools (grades PreK-12)
- Resources for Caregiving
- Social Groups
- Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

Child Care

Other Childcare Centers:

Kindercare: https://www.kindercare.com/our-centers
Me Mine & Us Montessori: https://www.mmums.com/

Head Start, Early Head Start & Virginia Preschool Initiative. All are accessed through 1 application: https://newrivercommunityaction.org/head-start-2/#1620328499938-0f5f2e17-b8c9
Currently full for 2024/2025 but still taking applications
Spouses, Partners and Children

Other Childcare

- Child Care
- Employment for Spouses and Partners
- International Dependents
- Pet Care
- Public Schools (grades PreK-12)
- Resources for Caregiving
- Social Groups
- Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

Part time preschool programs

Babysitters VT Student List—Hokie Wellness maintains a list of students who are interested in providing part-time child care elder care, tutoring, pet sitting, house sitting, and more. All those with Virginia Tech single sign-on access have access to the list found here:

https://hokiewellness.vt.edu/employees/caregiving.html
Spouses, Partners and Children

VT Childcare Resources page

Virginia Tech General On Campus Child Care Resources

https://caregiving.vt.edu/ChildCareResources.html

• Early Childhood Education Initiatives Lunch & Learn On the 4th Wednesday of the month, noon-1pm. Variety of topics with conversations facilitated in partnership with NRV CARES. Recordings of past lunch & learn topics are available on the website.

• Choosing Quality - during the 2024-2025 academic year, Kim Thomason, Program Manager for Early childhood Education Initiatives, will host a discussion-based seminar to support parents in choosing high quality early care and education that is a good fit for their family.
Spouses, Partners and Children

Free Babysitting!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care</th>
<th>+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment for Spouses and Partners</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Dependents</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pet Care</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Schools (grades PreK-12)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources for Caregiving</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Groups</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant Workers Fairness Act</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Free Weekly Babysitting:

- **Kids' Night Out**
  - Virginia Tech Women’s Center  206 Washington Street
  - Fall/Spring Semesters while classes are in session
  - Thursdays  6:30-8:00 p.m
  - Kids ages 2-12 (must be toilet trained)
  - Must sign up each week a link will be posted on [womenscenter.vt.edu](http://womenscenter.vt.edu) every Monday
Spouses, Partners and Children

Montgomery County Public Schools  https://www.mcps.org/

In general:

**Elementary Schools**: Kindergarten - 5th grade (age 5-10)
**Middle Schools**: 6th – 8th grade (age 10-13)
**High Schools**: 9th-12th grade (age 14-18)

Free – do not charge tuition

School year runs mid August – End of May

Schools provide bus transportation; or parents may drop off and pick up children.

Elementary offers after school care for school age children and charges fees for this
Spouses, Partners and Children

Montgomery County Public Schools  https://www.mcps.org/

Children are assigned to the school according to which school zone they live in. You can search for your school zone here:

https://www.mcps.org/departments/transportation/find-your-school-zone

List of MCPS schools – links to each school’s website
https://www.mcps.org/our-schools
Spouses, Partners and Children

Montgomery County Public Schools  https://www.mcps.org/

Enrollment
You will need to enroll your child in MCPS schools

Online forms:  
https://www.mcps.org/about-us/enroll-at-mcps

The final step of enrollment requires you to visit the school in-person and provide documents:

• Child's Birth Certificate (Original)
• Two Proofs of Address (utility bill, deed/lease, tax return, voter registration card)
• Photo ID for parent registering student
Spouses, Partners and Children

Montgomery County Public Schools  https://www.mcps.org/

Transportation

MCPS provides bus transportation for all students.

You may also drop off and pick up your child from school if you prefer.

You can look up the bus routes and bus stops by school here:
https://www.mcps.org/departments/transportation
Spouses, Partners and Children

Montgomery County Public Schools  https://www.mcps.org/

School Nutrition
https://www.mcps.org/departments/school-nutrition

Schools offer optional breakfast and lunch or students may eat breakfast at home and bring their own lunch.

Application for Free and Reduced lunch – income restrictions
https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application

The following schools provide free lunch and breakfast school-wide for the 2024-2025 school year:
Eastern Montgomery Elementary, Eastern Montgomery High, Falling Branch Elementary, Montgomery Central, Price's Fork Elementary, and Shawsville Middle
Spouses, Partners and Children

Montgomery County Public Schools  https://www.mcps.org/

Curriculum Information

https://www.mcps.org/departments/curriculum

In addition to main academic subjects MCPS offers:

- Fine Arts
- Physical Education
- English as a Second Language
- Gifted Education
- Special Education
Spouses, Partners and Children

Private Schools
There are several private schools in Blacksburg/the New River Valley
• May have a religious affiliation
• Charge tuition

Blacksburg New School (Montgomery County | K-8)
New River Valley Montessori (Floyd County | 6-12 yrs)
Springhouse Community School (Floyd County | 7-12)
St. John Neumann Academy (Montgomery County | PK-8)
Tall Oaks Montessori (Montgomery County | PK-6)
Valley Classical School (Montgomery County | PK-9)
Mountain View Christian School (Montgomery County | PK-12)
Mine, Me, and Us Montessori (Montgomery County | 6 wks-9 yrs)

Blue Mountain School (Floyd County | 3.5 – 12 yrs)
Jefferson Christian Academy (Giles County | K-7)
Dayspring Christian Academy (Montgomery County | K-12)
Little River Outdoor School (Floyd County | 5-12 yrs)
Tall Oaks Montessori (Montgomery County | PK-6)
Valley Classical School (Montgomery County | PK-9)

Source: https://www.newrivervalleyva.org/live-here/education/#privateschools
Spouses, Partners and Children

Recreation for Kids and Adults

Parks and Recreation Departments

Town of Blacksburg
https://www.blacksburg.gov/departments/departments-l-z/parks-and-recreation
Town of Christiansburg
https://www.christiansburg.org/177/Parks-Recreation
Montgomery County VA
https://montva.com/1/departments-services/parks-recreation

• Recreational Sports teams
• Aquatic Centers
• Summer Camps
• Other Activities
Spouses, Partners and Children

Recreation for Kids - Sports

**Soccer**
New River United: [https://www.newriverunited.com/](https://www.newriverunited.com/)

**Lacrosse**
New River Valley Lacrosse: [https://www.nrvlc.org/](https://www.nrvlc.org/)

**Swimming**
Virginia Tech Recreational Sports swimming lessons: [https://recsports.vt.edu/aquatics/youthswim.html](https://recsports.vt.edu/aquatics/youthswim.html)
H2okies competitive swim team [https://www.gomotionapp.com/team/vah2oa/page/home](https://www.gomotionapp.com/team/vah2oa/page/home)

**Dance**
Little Leapers [https://www.thelittleleapers.com/](https://www.thelittleleapers.com/)
Dance-tech [https://dance-tech.com/](https://dance-tech.com/)
NRV Academy of Dance [https://nrvacademyofdance.org/](https://nrvacademyofdance.org/)

**Gymnastics:** [https://www.vatechniques.com/](https://www.vatechniques.com/)
Spouses, Partners and Children

VT Athletics

Hokie Kids Club
https://hokiesports.com/hokie-kids-club
Spouses, Partners and Children

Whats up? Resources to find activities

Macaroni Kid – (kid/family events)
https://nrv.macaronikid.com.guides

Next Three Days (not kid/family specific)
http://www.nextthreedays.com/
Spouses, Partners and Children

Caregiving Resources & Summer Camps

VT Summer Camps 2024
New River Valley Summer Camps 2024
Roanoke Area Summer Camps 2024

Parks and Recreation Departments offer summer camp programs

Macaroni Kid NRV Summer Camp Guide
https://nrv.macaronikid.com/guides/5c4e093a5c1b5749a67bf029/new-river-valley-summer-camps-and-programs-guide