

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT**



**U. S. Department of Energy
Idaho Operations Office**

**Nuclear Energy University Programs – Fellowship and Scholarship
Support**

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Section I - FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Description

The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to award 5-year cooperative agreements (which may run up to 8 years – see Section II, paragraph F of this funding opportunity announcement) to accredited U.S. Colleges and Universities (hereafter referred to as “Universities”) to allow two- and four-year Universities to receive and administer fellowship and scholarship funding awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE) to selected students who will be attending their Universities. Universities will be allocated the money for specific students selected by a separate DOE-NE program.

These cooperative agreements will allow students from recipient Universities to apply for DOE-NE fellowships and scholarships through **separate competitive Requests for Applications**. This vehicle establishes a mechanism for the scholarship and/or fellowship funding to be transferred to the Universities and establishes the allowable costs for the program. The fellowships and scholarships are focused on two-, four-year, and graduate programs in science and engineering disciplines related to nuclear energy, such as Nuclear Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Chemistry, Health Physics, Nuclear Materials Science, Radiochemistry, Applied Nuclear Physics, Nuclear Policy, Radiation Protection Technology, Nuclear Power Technology, Nuclear Maintenance Technology, and Nuclear Engineering Technology at Universities and Colleges located in the United States (U.S.).

The DOE-NE mission is to lead the DOE investment in the development and exploration of advanced nuclear science and technology. DOE-NE promotes nuclear energy as a resource capable of meeting the Nation’s energy, environmental, and national security needs by resolving scientific, technical, and regulatory challenges through research, development, and demonstration.

The goal of NE’s University Programs (NEUP) is to support outstanding, cutting-edge, and innovative research at U.S. universities through the following:

- Integrating research and development at universities, national laboratories, and industry to revitalize nuclear education and support NE’s Programs;
- Attracting the brightest students to the nuclear professions and supporting the Nation’s intellectual capital in science and engineering disciplines mentioned above;
- Improving university and college infrastructures for conducting research and development (R&D) and educating students; and
- Facilitating transfer of knowledge from aging nuclear workforce to next generation of workers.

Educating undergraduate and graduate students in the nuclear science and engineering field will:

- Support the ongoing need for personnel who can develop and maintain the nation’s nuclear power technology;
- Enhance a university’s or college’s ability to conduct research and development; and
- Fulfill national demand for highly trained scientists and engineers to work in nuclear science and engineering (NS&E) areas in which DOE has ongoing research and development.

The Universities selected under this FOA must comply with the attached guidelines. See Appendix A.

NOTE: The term “applicant” as used in this FOA means Universities that submit an application to DOE in response to this FOA; it does not refer to students who apply for fellowships/scholarships under the NEUP Fellowship and Scholarship Program.

Also, the term “application” as used in this FOA refers to the application provided in response to the FOA made by Universities; it does not refer to individual fellowship/scholarship applications by students to apply for funds.

Section II - AWARD INFORMATION

A. TYPE OF AWARD INSTRUMENT

Cooperative Agreements

DOE anticipates awarding cooperative agreements under this program (See Section VI.B.2 Statement of Substantial Involvement).

B. ESTIMATED FUNDING

Amount New Awards

The actual level of funding received by each University will depend on the number of fellowship/scholarship students selected and attending each university. Up to \$5 million is expected to be available in FY 2010 for fellowship and scholarship recipients. Funding availability for FY2011 - 2014 is anticipated to be in the same range, but is dependent upon DOE-NE appropriations.

C. MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM AWARD SIZE

Ceiling (i.e., the maximum amount for an individual award made under this announcement):

The size of individual fellowships and scholarships are fixed, as specified below. The number of individual fellowships/scholarships awarded to each school will be determined by the number of selected students. Accordingly, although each cooperative agreement awarded will run for 5 years (and possibly up to 8 years – see Section II, paragraph F of this funding opportunity announcement), the amount of funding awarded through each school will vary from year to year and may be **\$0.00 in a particular year(s)** depending on the actual number of individual scholarships awarded at that school.

The fellowship and scholarship amounts awarded under separate NE RFAs will be as follows:

Fellowship: A maximum of \$150,000 each for three-contiguous-years graduate student fellowships (at a maximum of \$50,000 per year) will be awarded per student.

Scholarship: \$5,000 each for one-year undergraduate scholarships will be awarded per student. Scholarship recipients must reapply and be selected for each year for a follow-on scholarship to be awarded. Scholarships for particularly outstanding students may be available at a higher amount.

No funding will be provided to any University, unless a student has received a NE fellowship or scholarship and is accepted or currently enrolled at that University.

Floor (i.e., the minimum amount for an individual award made under this announcement): \$ None

D. EXPECTED NUMBER OF AWARDS

Number of Awards

The number of award will be limited to those Universities who meet the restricted eligibility requirements, and all other requirements set forth in this FOA.

In fiscal year (FY) 2009, NEUP issued approximately 38 cooperative agreement awards to Universities. The number of awards issued to Universities in FY2010 will depend on the actual number of Universities that apply and otherwise meet requirements. Only one cooperative agreement award per University is necessary under this FOA. Previously awarded Universities need not apply during this solicitation.

At the current anticipated funding level, approximately 88 scholarships will be given to students attending two- and four-year programs and 30 fellowships to graduate students in fiscal year 2010 (see paragraph C above for individual fellowship/scholarship amounts).

E. ANTICIPATED AWARD SIZE

Award Range

There is no set limitation on the number of students who apply for scholarships or fellowships who may be accepted at a particular University under these cooperative agreements (see paragraph C. above).

F. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

Number of Years

DOE anticipates making awards to selected schools that will run for up to five years for awarding new fellowship/scholarship funds; the cooperative agreements may run for up to eight years total (e.g., depending on the fellowships/scholarships awarded to students, including 3-year fellowship awards, the awarded cooperative agreement may run for up to eight years in order to complete the fellowships/scholarships awarded under that cooperative agreement; however, in no event will new fellowships/scholarships be awarded after five years).

G. TYPE OF APPLICATION

New Applications Only

DOE will accept only new applications under this announcement.

Section III - ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Restricted Eligibility

In accordance with 10 CFR 600.6(b), eligibility for award is restricted to U.S. Colleges and Universities with two-, four-year, and graduate programs of study in science and engineering disciplines related to nuclear energy, such as Nuclear Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Chemistry, Health Physics, Nuclear Materials Science, Radiochemistry, Applied Nuclear Physics, Nuclear Policy, Radiation Protection Technology, Nuclear Power Technology, Nuclear Maintenance Technology, and Nuclear Engineering Technology. Minority institutions such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities and/or minority serving institutions are encouraged to apply. Colleges and Universities with cooperative programs which share coursework between two or more colleges and universities to meet the above requirements are also encouraged to apply.

B. COST SHARING

Cost sharing is not required.

Section IV - APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**A. ADDRESS TO REQUEST APPLICATION PACKAGE****Application Package at Grants.gov**

Application forms and instructions are available at Grants.gov. To access these materials, go to <http://www.grants.gov>, select "Apply for Grants," and then select "Download Application Package." Enter the CFDA and/or the funding opportunity number located on the cover of this announcement and then follow the prompts to download the application package.

B. LETTER OF INTENT AND PRE-APPLICATION**1. Letter of Intent.**

Letter of Intent is not required

2. Pre-application

Pre-applications are not required.

C. CONTENT AND FORM OF APPLICATION

You must complete the mandatory forms and any applicable optional forms (e.g., SF-LLL- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities) in accordance with the instructions on the forms and the additional instructions below. Files that are attached to the forms must be in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) unless otherwise specified in this announcement.

1. SF 424 - Application for Federal Assistance

Complete this form first to populate data in other forms. Complete all required fields in accordance with the pop-up instructions on the form. To activate the instructions, turn on the "Help Mode" (Icon with the pointer and question mark at the top of the form). The list of certifications and assurances referenced in Field 21 can be found on the DOE Financial Assistance Forms Page at http://management.energy.gov/business_doe/business_forms.htm under Certifications and Assurances.

2. Other Attachments Form

Submit the following files with your application and attach them to the Other Attachments Form. Click on "Add Mandatory Other Attachment" to attach the Project Narrative. Click on "Add Optional Other Attachment," to attach the other files.

Project Narrative File - Mandatory Other Attachment

The program narrative page limitation is as described in each section below. The program narrative, when printed, will fit standard 8.5" by 11" paper with 1 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) single spaced. EVALUATORS WILL REVIEW ONLY THE NUMBER OF PAGES SPECIFIED IN THE PRECEDING SENTENCE. The font must not be smaller than 11 point. Do not include any Internet addresses (URLs) that provide information necessary to review the application. See Part VIII.D for instructions on how to mark proprietary application information. Save the information in a single file named "Project.pdf," and click on "Add Mandatory Other Attachment" to attach.

The program narrative must include:

Program Description.

This section should describe the currently established Nuclear Science and Engineering programs, not to exceed 2 pages per discipline. Please provide a brief history of the academic program, discuss the current program and describe the future plans for the program. In the last discussion on the future plans, provide evidence as to the university’s commitment to the growth and maintenance of the academic program. The description should also include additional attachments as stated below. These attachments are not included in the 2 page per discipline limitation of the program description.

- Degree or certificate plans in all major, minor, or 2-year relevant program areas identified previously including all established requirements in each field and for each program;
- List and provide an explanation for the courses offered under each relevant degree or certificate program, which are most relevant to the two-year, undergraduate and graduate program. Please include a table with course title, course number, description, and number of times offered per year;
- List the facilities or affiliated program and provide a brief description of each facility as to how it is used in the relevant academic program offered (2 page limitation);
- List any collaborative or affiliated, if any, relevant academic programs with other colleges and universities (Optional); and
- Metrics on current and recent existing student population involved in the relevant academic programs.
 - Number of students currently enrolled.
 - Number and type of degrees issued over the past 5 years.
 - Titles of Projects, Theses and Dissertations complete over the past 5 years.

Faculty Description.

Principal Faculty Members: List the names, title (Associate, Assistant, Professor), research interest areas and percentage of time devoted to the program for each faculty member involved in delivering the relevant academic programs.

3. SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

If applicable, complete SF- LLL. Applicability: If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the grant/cooperative agreement, you must complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying."

Summary of Required Forms/Files

Your application must include the following documents:

Name of Document	Format	File Name
Application for Federal Assistance – SF424	Form	N/A
Other Attachments Form Attach the following files to this form:	Form	N/A
Project Narrative File and Attachments	PDF	Project.pdf

SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable.	Form	N/A
Completed Awardee Point of Contact Data Sheet (see Appendix D)	PDF	POC.pdf

D. SUBMISSIONS FROM SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

If selected for award, DOE reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information for any reason deemed necessary.

E. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

1. Pre-application Due Date

Pre-applications are not required.

2. Application Due Date

Applications will be accepted continuously until March 02, 2011. A list of previously approved Colleges and Universities is shown in Appendix E. Colleges and Universities contained in this list do **not** need to reapply under this solicitation.

F. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

Program Not Subject to Executive Order 12372

This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 - Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

G. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

Cost Principles. Costs must be allowable in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles referenced in 10 CFR part 600. The cost principles for commercial organizations are in FAR Part 31.

H. OTHER SUBMISSION AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Where to Submit

Application package must be obtained through the "Apply for Grants" function at www.Grants.gov by downloading the application package and its instructions. Save these files to your computer for future reference and use. You do not need Internet access to read the instructions or to complete the application once you save them to your computer. Once your application is completed, submit it through FedConnect at www.FedConnect.net.

2. Registration Process

You must be registered with FedConnect in order to submit your application. Guidance on registering can be found at www.FedConnect.net through the link "Have Questions? Need help getting started? Click here." We recommend you register and become familiar with FedConnect at least two weeks before you submit your application.

Section V - APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. CRITERIA

1. Initial Review Criteria

Application Award Eligibility

Prior to a comprehensive merit evaluation, DOE will perform an initial review to determine that (1) the applicant is eligible for an award; (2) the information required by the announcement has been submitted; (3) all mandatory requirements are satisfied; and (4) the proposed project is responsive to the objectives of the funding opportunity announcement.

2. Merit Review Criterion

The evaluation criterion and weights are provided below. In accordance with the evaluation criterion and available funding, DOE will make the final selection of awards with NEUP Technical Integration Office, Center for Advanced Energy Science (CAES) participation in the selection process.

Criterion – Weight 100%

- Potential of the program to conduct nuclear science and engineering education;
- Alignment of the programs with the NE mission;
- Scope and depth of the classes;
- History and Future plans of the program;
- Quality of the current staff; and
- Acceptability of school's process for distributing fellowship/scholarship funds, tracking usage and reporting.

3. Other Selection Factors

Program Policy Factor

The selection official may consider the following program policy factor in the selection process: Application selection may optimize the appropriate mix of applications to best achieve NEUP objectives.

B. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

1. Merit Review

Applications Subject to Merit Review

Applications that pass the initial review will be subjected to a merit review in accordance with the guidance provided in the "Department of Energy Merit Review Guide for Financial Assistance." This guide is available under Financial Assistance, Regulations and Guidance at <http://www.management.energy.gov/documents/meritrev.pdf>.

2. Selection

Selection Official Consideration

The Selection Official will consider the merit review recommendation and program policy factor.

3. Discussions and Award

Government Discussions with Applicant

The Government may enter into discussions with a selected applicant for any reason deemed necessary, including but not limited to: (1) the budget is not appropriate or reasonable for the requirement; (2) only a portion of the application is selected for award; (3) the Government needs additional information to determine that the recipient is capable of complying with the requirements in 10 CFR part 600; and/or (4) special terms and conditions are required. Failure to resolve satisfactorily the issues identified by the Government will preclude award to the applicant.

C. ANTICIPATED NOTICE OF SELECTION AND AWARD DATES**Selection and Award Date**

DOE anticipates notifying applicants selected for award within 90 days of receipt of application.

Section VI - AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**A. AWARD NOTICES****1. Notice of Selection****Selected Applicants Notification**

DOE will notify applicants selected for award by email. This notice of selection is not an authorization to begin performance.

Non-selected Notification

Organizations whose applications have not been selected will be notified by email as promptly as possible. This notice will explain why the application was not selected.

2. Notice of Award

A Notice of Financial Assistance Award or Assistance Agreement issued by the contracting officer is the authorizing award document. It normally includes either as an attachment or by reference: (1) Special Terms and Conditions; (2) Applicable program regulations, if any; (3) Application as approved by DOE/NNSA.; (4) DOE assistance regulations at 10 CFR part 600; (5) National Policy Assurances To Be Incorporated As Award Terms; (6) Budget Summary; and (7) Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, which identifies the reporting requirements.

For grants and cooperative agreements made to universities, non-profits and other entities subject to OMB Circular A-110 the Award also includes the Research Terms and Conditions located at <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rtc/index.jsp>.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS**1. Administrative Requirements**

The administrative requirements for DOE grants and cooperative agreements are contained in 10 CFR part 600 (See: <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>). Grants and cooperative agreements made to universities, non-profits and other entities subject to OMB Circular A-110 are subject to the Research Terms and Conditions located on the National Science Foundation web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rtc/index.jsp>.

2. Special Terms and Conditions and National Policy Requirements

Special Terms and Conditions and National Policy Requirements. The DOE Special Terms and Conditions for Use in Most Grants and Cooperative Agreements are located at http://management.energy.gov/business_doe/business_forms.htm.

National Policy Assurances to Be Incorporated as Award Terms. The National Policy Assurances To Be Incorporated as Award Terms are located at DOE http://management.energy.gov/business_doe/business_forms.htm.

Statement of Substantial Involvement

Substantial involvement, including assistance from the NEUP Integration Office/, will be required in various aspects of effort necessary to accomplish the completion of students selected for scholarships and fellowships. Substantial direct operational involvement/participation is anticipated to ensure compliance with the objectives of the Fellowship and Scholarship Program. This involvement includes but is not limited to collaboration as necessary with schools, participation in the management of the project and intervention in the activity, namely:

- Assist in publicizing scholarship opportunities (at no additional expense to the schools) on either a national, regional or local basis, as may be determined necessary by NE University Programs;
- Receive and review of fellowship/scholarship request forms from individual students; and
- Participate in selecting students for receipt of fellowships and scholarships as well participate in the decision as to whether a fellowship is continued.

C. REPORTING

Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, DOE F 4600.2, attached to the award agreement.

Section VII - QUESTIONS/AGENCY CONTACTS

A. QUESTIONS

Questions regarding the content of the announcement must be submitted through the FedConnect portal. You must register with FedConnect to respond as an interested party to submit questions, and to view responses to questions. It is recommended that you register as soon after release of the FOA as possible to have the benefit of all responses. More information is available at <http://www.fedconnect.net>. DOE will attempt to respond to questions within 3 business days, unless a similar question and answer have already been posted on the website.

Questions relating to the registration process or the submittal process must be directed to FedConnect at support@fedconnect.net. Questions relating to how an application form works must be directed to Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov. DOE cannot answer these questions.

B. CONTACTS

For questions regarding Fellowship and Scholarship Support under the University Programs, contact:

Name: Dr. Marsha Lambregts
E-mail: Marsha.Lambregts@inl.gov
Telephone: 208-526-1336

For FOA procedural questions, contact:

Name: Ron Fellows
E-mail: fellowrg@id.doe.gov
Telephone: 208-526-0536

Section VIII - OTHER INFORMATION

A. MODIFICATIONS

Notices of any modifications to this announcement will be posted on FedConnect. You can receive an email when a modification or an announcement message is posted by registering with FedConnect as an interested party for this FOA. It is recommended that you register as soon after release of the FOA as possible to ensure you receive timely notice of any modifications or other announcements. More information is available at <http://www.fedconnect.net>.

B. GOVERNMENT RIGHT TO REJECT OR NEGOTIATE

DOE reserves the right, without qualification, to reject any or all applications received in response to this announcement and to select any application, in whole or in part, as a basis for negotiation and/or award.

C. COMMITMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The Contracting Officer is the only individual who can make awards or commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds. A commitment by other than the Contracting Officer, either explicit or implied, is invalid.

D. PROPRIETARY APPLICATION INFORMATION

Patentable ideas, trade secrets, proprietary or confidential commercial or financial information, disclosure of which may harm the applicant, should be included in an application only when such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project. The use and disclosure of such data may be restricted, provided the applicant includes the following legend on the first page of the project narrative and specifies the pages of the application which are to be restricted:

"The data contained in pages [*Insert pages*] of this application have been submitted in confidence and contain trade secrets or proprietary information, and such data shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes, provided that if this applicant receives an award as a result of or in connection with the submission of this application, DOE shall have the right to use or disclose the data herein to the extent provided in the award. This restriction does not limit the government's right to use or disclose data obtained without restriction from any source, including the applicant."

To protect such data, each line or paragraph on the pages containing such data must be specifically identified and marked with a legend similar to the following:

"The following contains proprietary information that (name of applicant) requests not be released to persons outside the Government, except for purposes of review and evaluation."

E. EVALUATION AND ADMINISTRATION BY NON-FEDERAL PERSONNEL

In conducting the merit review evaluation, the Government may seek the advice of qualified non-Federal personnel as reviewers. The Government may also use non-Federal personnel to conduct routine, nondiscretionary administrative activities. The applicant, by submitting its application, consents to the use of non-Federal reviewers/administrators. Non-Federal reviewers must sign conflict of interest and non-disclosure agreements prior to reviewing an application. Non-Federal personnel conducting administrative activities must sign a non-disclosure agreement.

F. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS PROGRAM – N/A

G. NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST PATENT WAIVER – N/A

H. NOTICE REGARDING ELIGIBLE/INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Eligible activities under this program include those which describe and promote the understanding of scientific and technical aspects of specific energy technologies, but not those which encourage or support political activities such as the collection and dissemination of information related to potential, planned or pending legislation.

Section IX - APPENDICES/REFERENCE MATERIAL

Appendix A: University Responsibilities

Appendix B: Instructions for Student Submittal of Annual Fellowship Reports

Appendix C: Sample Reporting Requirements Checklist with Attachment A (Annual and Final Progress Report Instructions)

Appendix D: Awardee Point of Contact Data Input Sheet

Appendix E: Affiliated U.S. Colleges and Universities