



**Request for Applications (RFA) No. UNLP-002-22 for  
Nuclear Energy Graduate Fellowships**

**Subject:** University Nuclear Leadership Program  
Graduate Fellowship – RFA

**Issue Date:** September 22, 2022

**Application Due Date:** January 11, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. ET

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## Executive Summary

This Fellowship Request for Applications (RFA) is for the University Nuclear Leadership Program (UNLP) as administered by the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy (NE). Under this RFA, NE is seeking applications for its graduate fellowship program.

Awarded fellowships are for \$169,000 over a three-year period which includes a \$39,000/year stipend; \$14,000/year Cost of Education allowance to cover tuition, fees and books; a \$1,000/year research travel allowance; and a one-time, \$7,000 allowance to cover the housing and travel associated with a required 10-week internship.

**Applications are due by January 11, 2023, at 5:00 pm ET.** Students must apply electronically at [neup.gov](https://neup.gov) and questions should be sent to [NEUP@inl.gov](mailto:NEUP@inl.gov).

As part of their application package, students must submit an essay outlining long-term career goals, a graduate research plan, leadership summary, letters of recommendation, and academic transcripts. Additionally, annual reports on the progress of the fellow's research are required, with a final report due at the end of the fellowship. Short updates on the fellow's career are requested for up to five years after the fellowship concludes.

Students must have a cumulative 3.25 and 3.5 GPA at the undergraduate and graduate levels, respectively, to apply.

NE anticipates making award announcements in Spring 2023. The number of awards is dependent upon application quality and total funding available. Eligibility is restricted to U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents.

## 1 Introduction

This Fellowship Request for Applications (RFA) is for the University Nuclear Leadership Program (UNLP) as administered by the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy (NE). Questions regarding this RFA not already addressed in the question and answer forum found at [neup.gov](https://neup.gov) should be sent via email to [neup@inl.gov](mailto:neup@inl.gov).

UNLP works to attract qualified nuclear science and engineering (NS&E) students to the nuclear energy professions by providing fellowships, which are awarded for graduate level work leading to a masters or doctoral degree in the fields or disciplines of NS&E relevant to the NE mission. All students shall have adequate preparation to begin graduate level study and research by Fall 2023. In most cases, this will be demonstrated by a bachelor's degree earned prior to the Fall of 2023.

NE's mission is to advance nuclear energy science and technology to meet U.S. energy, environmental, and economic needs.

NE has identified five goals to address challenges in the nuclear energy sector, help realize the potential of advanced technology, and leverage the unique role of the government in spurring innovation:

1. Enable continued operation of existing U.S. nuclear reactors.
2. Enable deployment of advanced nuclear reactors.
3. Develop advanced nuclear fuel cycles.
4. Maintain U.S. leadership in nuclear energy technology.
5. Enable a high-performing organization.

Ensuring an adequate number of high-quality NS&E students will (1) support the need for qualified personnel to develop and maintain the nation's nuclear power technology, (2) enhance educational institutions' capabilities to perform nuclear energy-related RD&D, and (3) meet DOE's and the national laboratories' needs for highly trained scientists and engineers in support of NE programs.

**Note:** The following topics are not a priority of NE: medical physics, nuclear fusion, nuclear forensics, or environmental management.

Additionally, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) administer related programs; therefore, applicants interested in regulatory (NRC) or international proliferation (NNSA) careers are encouraged to apply to those opportunities as well.

Prospective students are advised that submission of an application implies a commitment, if selected, to the pursuit of study in a program in the NS&E disciplines relevant to nuclear energy. Acceptance of a fellowship is an explicit acceptance of this commitment and assurance that the student will be duly enrolled in an acceptable program beginning in the Fall of 2023.

All information and instructions required to respond to this RFA are accessible at [neup.gov](https://neup.gov). Students MUST submit their application electronically through [neup.gov](https://neup.gov). No hard copy applications will be accepted (letters of recommendation, transcripts, and other supporting documents listed in Table 4 will be accepted as described in Section 4.5).

## 2 Eligibility Information

It is critical to our nation's economic leadership and global competitiveness that the United States (U.S.) educate, train, and retain more scientists and engineers from varying backgrounds. Applications will be accepted from all U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents, including those who belong to underrepresented groups, those with disabilities, and people from all geographic and economic backgrounds attending an eligible UNLP-approved college or university (Table 1) while pursuing NS&E disciplines. Applicants should note that, if selected, proof of legal status may be requested for award processing.

In addition, NE strives to ensure energy justice and is fully committed to broadening the inclusion and contribution of those communities that have been historically underserved within its programs. Students attending minority-serving institutions (MSIs), including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), or institutions located in a disadvantaged community, are highly encouraged to apply to this RFA.

Information on Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) can be found at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/idades/eligibility.html#tips>. This information predominately covers institutions that have been awarded grants through the Department of Education and does not include all institutions that may meet the definition of an MSI. **This resource is not an exhaustive list of minority-serving institutions.**

For purposes of identifying MSIs in NE's application system, NE is using a directory based off of 2020 U.S. Department of Education data compiled by Rutgers University's Center for MSIs, which can be found here: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/idades/2022eligibilitymatrix.xlsx>. This list is also not an exhaustive list of MSIs but will be used as a starting point for auto-identifying MSIs.

If applicants believe that their institution qualifies as an MSI and is not listed, please contact [neup@inl.gov](mailto:neup@inl.gov) with an explanation for how the university meets the conditions of being considered an MSI.

Table 1 provides a list of schools currently approved to participate in UNLP. This list is current as of August 2022, but it may not contain universities that have recently applied. Refer to [neup.gov](https://neup.gov) for the most up-to-date listing.

**Students are encouraged to apply to this opportunity even if their university is not listed below.** NE will work with new universities to get them through the approval process prior to the distribution of any award funds.

**Table 1. Current UNLP-approved Colleges and Universities.**

No.	University/College	No.	University/College
1	Abilene Christian University	33	Texas A&M University, Kingsville
2	Alfred University	34	The Ohio State University
3	Arizona State University	35	Thomas Edison State University
4	Auburn University	36	University of Alabama
5	Boise State University	37	University of California, Berkeley
6	Brigham Young University	38	University of California, Irvine
7	Case Western Reserve University	39	University of California, San Diego
8	Chattanooga State Community College	40	University of Chicago
9	Clemson University	41	University of Connecticut
10	Colorado School of Mines	42	University of Florida
11	Colorado State University	43	University of Idaho
12	Florida International University	44	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
13	Francis Marion University	45	University of Maryland, College Park
14	Georgia Institute of Technology	46	University of Massachusetts, Lowell
15	Idaho State University	47	University of Michigan
16	Illinois Institute of Technology	48	University of Missouri, Columbia
17	Kansas State University	49	University of Nevada, Las Vegas
18	Kennesaw State University	50	University of Nevada, Reno
19	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	51	University of New Mexico
20	Mississippi State University	52	University of Notre Dame
21	Missouri University of Science & Technology	53	University of Pittsburgh
22	Montana State University	54	University of South Carolina
23	North Carolina State University	55	University of Tennessee at Knoxville
24	Northern New Mexico College	56	University of Texas at Arlington
25	Oregon State University	57	University of Texas at Austin
26	Pennsylvania State University	58	University of Utah
27	Purdue University	59	University of Wisconsin, Madison
28	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	60	Utah State University
29	Southeast Community College	61	Vanderbilt University
30	State Technical College of Missouri	62	Virginia Commonwealth University
31	Stillman College	63	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
32	Texas A&M University	64	Washington State University

Any institution interested in administering a fellowship as a UNLP-approved college or university must apply to the Department's Financial Assistance Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) DE-FOA-0002265, which can be found at [grants.gov](https://www.doe.gov/grants.gov) and [neup.gov](https://www.neup.gov).

Institutions will need to demonstrate that they have an applicable nuclear science and engineering program and are committed to the growth and maintenance of that academic program to be considered eligible. Eligibility does not guarantee funding and is restricted to U.S. colleges and universities with 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, nuclear engineering technology, computer science, and cybersecurity.

Questions related to institution eligibility should be directed to Jenna Payne at [jenna.payne@nuclear.energy.gov](mailto:jenna.payne@nuclear.energy.gov). The institution must be an approved organization prior to the transfer of fellowship funds.

Graduate fellowships are for three years provided that the student continues to be involved in an applicable NS&E academic program and remains in good standing at his/her university. Additional consideration will be given to those students pursuing research more closely tied to NE's mission.

### **Eligibility Restrictions:**

1. Only students who are in their early stages of graduate level work, as described in Section 2.1, are eligible to apply.
2. Students must have maintained at least a 3.25 cumulative GPA (based on a 4.0 scale) at the undergraduate level, and a 3.5 at the graduate level. GPAs are not rounded.
3. No more than four (4) fellowships will be awarded per institution.
4. Students holding an F1 student visa **are not** eligible.

### **2.1 Graduate Year Restriction**

Applicants must have completed no more than 12 months of full-time graduate study or its equivalent in any graduate field as of August 1, 2023. Full-time graduate study is as defined by the university attended. There is no credit hour limit for students who have completed only full-time graduate study; eligibility for full-time students is based on the length of time enrolled in the graduate program.

Applicants who have completed part-time graduate study (or a combination of part-time and full-time) must have completed no more than 24 semester hours or 36 quarter hours or their equivalent as of August 1, 2023.

Fellowships are issued to students in the early stages of their graduate research. Applicants are generally eligible to apply (1) during their senior year of undergraduate studies, (2) after graduating from an undergraduate college and prior to entering graduate school, or (3) during their first year of graduate study.

All post-baccalaureate, graduate-level study is counted toward the allowed 12 months of completed graduate study. This includes all master's and doctoral programs.

Applicants in joint BS/MS programs are typically eligible to apply prior to completion of any further graduate study. In four-year joint programs, applicants may apply in the fourth year and after completion of the program. Completion of any graduate study outside of the joint program will disqualify an applicant. In five-year joint programs, applicants may apply in the fourth and fifth years of the program and after completion of the program. Completion of any further graduate study outside of the joint program will disqualify an applicant.

Applicants who have completed more than twelve months of graduate study and who have not earned a graduate degree may be considered eligible if they have had an interruption in graduate study of at least two consecutive years prior to May 2023. To be eligible, applicants must have completed no additional graduate study by August 1, 2023.

Questions related to the graduate-year restriction should be addressed to [neup@inl.gov](mailto:neup@inl.gov).

### 3 Award Description

NE expects to award up to 30 three-year/\$169,000 graduate fellowships under this RFA. However, the number of awards is dependent upon application quality and total funding available.

**Note:** All awards will be for a maximum of three (3) contiguous years. Funds left over from a fellow’s tenure may be used by the fellow the following semester or year if they are still conducting fellowship research and working toward their degree. Fellows will need to contact the Innovative Nuclear Research Integration Office (INR-IO) at [neup@inl.gov](mailto:neup@inl.gov) in the last semester of their tenure for approval to use leftover funding. **Fellows must receive approval prior to the use of remaining fellowship funds.**

Table 2 provides a breakdown of award funding. Appendix A includes allowable and unallowable expenses for this award.

**Table 2. Breakdown of the UNLP Fellowship award per year.**

Expense	Amount
12-Month Stipend	\$39,000
Tuition, Books, and Fees	\$14,000
Research Travel Allowance	\$1,000
<b>Total*</b>	<b>\$54,000</b>
*Internship travel and housing allowance is \$7,000	

#### 3.1 Tuition, Books, and Fees

The cost of education allowance is \$14,000 per tenure year and is to be used by the affiliated institution to cover the costs of educating the fellow. If all tuition, fees, and books have been covered, students can receive reimbursement for housing with their education allowance (rent only). Students will need to provide receipts to their university to receive reimbursement (see Appendix A for allowable and unallowable expenses). Fellows can also use remaining funds for

additional NE approved travel and health insurance. Fellowship funding covers the needs of the fellow only and does not provide support for dependents.

### 3.2 Travel

Fellows are provided a \$1,000 research travel allowance per year upon an approved travel request (see [neup.gov](http://neup.gov)) submitted well in advanced of the anticipated date of travel. The planned travel must involve a structured research activity approved by NE and can only be for travel within the United States. The research travel allowance must be used for research-related travel costs only. Funds from the research travel allowance cannot be applied toward tuition, books, fees, or any other expenses.

### 3.3 Internship

Fellows are required to participate in a 10-week minimum internship at DOE, a DOE national laboratory, industry, or a facility designated and approved by NE. An additional \$7,000 is provided to offset the costs of travel and housing associated with the internship. Stipend dollars are expected to cover the time of the internship. **Fellows may not be additionally compensated by the interning agency.**

It is the fellow’s responsibility to work with his/her advisor to identify an appropriate internship by the end of the fellow’s second year of award. **Failure to at least secure an NE-approved internship opportunity by the end of the fellow’s second year will result in the cancellation of the fellowship for the third year.**

If an NE-approved internship has not been completed within the last few months of the student’s award, the last 10 weeks of the fellowship will be canceled.

## 4 Application Submittal Requirements

### 4.1 Application Due Date

Applications and all supporting documents are due by January 11, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).

### 4.2 Application Schedule

Table 3. Tentative UNLP Fellowship RFA schedule.

Issue Request for Applications	September 22, 2022
Fellowship Application Deadline	January 11, 2023
Award Announcement	Spring 2023

### 4.3 Late Applications

Applications received after the designated date and time will not be accepted. Extension of the application due date shall be at the sole discretion of NE.

**Note:** It is the applicant’s responsibility to confirm—prior to the application deadline—that all requirements have been met and materials received. If a requirement has not been met, the application will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed.

### 4.4 Application Preparation Instructions

Complete fellowship applications must be submitted electronically through [neup.gov](http://neup.gov) before the deadline established above. To apply, students will need to create an account at [neup.gov](http://neup.gov). Students re-applying should use their existing account. Once logged in, applicants will need to click on the “Applications” tab located at the top, left hand corner of the page. To begin an application, click on the “Create New Application” link for the FY 2022 Fellowship Request for Applications.

In addition to the information required on the fellowship RFA submittal form, the supporting documents listed in Table 4 must also be provided:

**Table 4. Supporting document requirements.**

Submittal Documents	Page Limit
Essay 1: Personal Career Goals	2
Essay 2: Proposed Graduate Research	3
Leadership Summary	1
Letters of Reference (3)	2 per reference
Academic Transcripts*	None

\* Unofficial and/or official transcripts will be accepted.

### 4.5 Document Descriptions

For each document uploaded, the applicant should include his/her last name in the file name (for example: Smith Personal Career Goals.pdf). The applicant’s name, as well as the document name, should also be included in the header of each document. Additional submittal guidance can be found in the online application form. A description of each required document is listed below.

**Essay 1: Personal Career Goals** – This essay should identify the applicant’s long-term career goals and explain how the UNLP Fellowship will help the student achieve those goals from a professional and educational standpoint. This essay should also describe how the applicant’s program of study and personal career goals align to the NE mission. Applicants are encouraged to review the NE R&D [website](#) for additional information.

Please note that this essay should not provide a summary of the current state of the nuclear industry.

**Essay 2: Proposed Graduate Research** – This essay should describe the research the student is interested in conducting during the fellowship. Applicants should use previous research experience outside of the classroom to demonstrate acquired skills and show how those experiences have prepared the applicant to be successful in the proposed graduate research. The applicant should also describe how the research aligns to the NE mission and how it will advance NE priorities. Applicants are encouraged to review the NE R&D [website](#) for additional information.

**Leadership Summary** – The leadership summary should list all activities the student has or is currently participating in that speak to their personal/professional leadership abilities. Applicants should list relevant internships, community service, publications, and organizational memberships that have helped to prepare them for this fellowship opportunity. Students should use the template provided in the online application form at [neup.gov](#).

**Letters of Reference** – Fellowship applicants are required to submit three (3) letters of reference. The following information should be included in each letter:

- Name and title of reference writer
- Department
- Institute/Organization
- Explanation of the nature of the relationship to the student
- Detail of the applicant’s prior research experiences outside of the classroom
- Statements about the student’s academic potential
- Statements about the student’s proposed research
- Signature
- Any other information to enable the review panel to evaluate the application according to the guidelines described in Section 7 including, but not limited to, the student’s involvement in various activities such as relevant internships, community service, publications, and organizational memberships

Applicants can notify reference writers directly in the online application form by providing the references’ email addresses and clicking “Notify.” This will send the writer an email with a link to upload his/her recommendation electronically to the system. Students are encouraged to contact reference writers as early as possible to provide sufficient time for them to submit the letter. **Letters must be received by the application deadline.**

Letters of reference should originate from faculty, professional university staff, or scientists and engineers in the nuclear field who can appropriately speak to the student’s abilities and experiences (such as an advisor or core professor, preferably someone who has known the applicant for a year or longer). Students should not have family members provide recommendations regardless of their position within the industry. It is the applicant’s responsibility to confirm all letters have been received prior to the application deadline. Any application with fewer than three letters of reference will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed. Letters submitted by the applicant on behalf of the writer will not be accepted. The first three letters received will be sent forward for review.

**Academic Transcripts** – Academic transcripts are required and must include Fall 2022 semester grades. Academic transcripts from all completed college or university work are required (including

community college and summer school transcripts) from all institutions where a degree was received by the applicant, as well as any current degrees the applicant is working toward. **Unofficial and/or official transcripts will be accepted. If selected for award, official transcripts may be requested.**

Applicants can upload their transcripts to their application at [neup.gov](http://neup.gov). Transcripts will also be accepted by fax, electronically, or via postal mail, express service, or courier to the Innovative Nuclear Research Integration Office (INR-IO):

**INR Integration Office**

Attn: Julie Jacobson  
 PO Box 1625 MS 3730  
 Idaho Falls, Idaho  
 83415-3730

Unofficial/official copies of transcripts must be sent in for an application to be considered complete. All transcripts must be received by the application deadline.

## 4.6 Document Format Requirements

Please adhere strictly to the document formatting requirements in Table 5 below for all submitted documents.

**Table 5. Formatting requirements.**

<b>Document Format</b>	.pdf
<b>Font Size</b>	12 pt
<b>Font</b>	Times New Roman
<b>Margins</b>	1-inch all around
<b>Line Spacing</b>	Single-spaced

**Note:** Do not send extraneous information or materials such as CDs, manuscripts, resumes, medical reports, or news clippings. These items will not be reviewed with your application. Images may be included but will be produced only in black and white to the review panel. Do not submit a personal photo.

## 5 Application Instructions

### 5.1 Interpretations and Exceptions

Students shall submit applications in compliance with the RFA requirements. Any interpretation of the requirements by the student may be considered an exception and treated accordingly (i.e., deem the application non-responsive). The student must obtain NE concurrence/clarification regarding its interpretation to classify the student's application as compliant with, or an exception to, the RFA requirements by contacting [neup@inl.gov](mailto:neup@inl.gov). Any exception must be approved by NE and documented as part of the application.

## **5.2 Rights Reserved by NE**

NE reserves the right to accept or reject any application with or without prior discussion with the student and to disregard minor irregularities in applications received. NE reserves the right to conduct any necessary pre-award survey and analysis to evaluate a student's capabilities to comply with the requirements of this RFA.

## **5.3 Application Validity Period**

An application shall remain firm for 180 days after the application due date, unless otherwise specified by the student.

## **5.4 Discrepancies in the RFA**

Should a student find discrepancies in, or omissions from, the RFA, its attachments or related documents, or should the student be in doubt as to the meaning of any requirements, the student shall notify NE by contacting [neup@inl.gov](mailto:neup@inl.gov) and obtain correction or clarification prior to submitting his/her application.

# **6 Deliverables and Obligations**

## **6.1 Graduate Fellow's Annual Activities Report**

In May of each fellowship year, a letter will be sent to the fellow via email requesting a brief report on the fellow's experiences and accomplishments during the past year. Within 30 days after the request is sent, the fellow must submit this report using the online system at [neup.gov](http://neup.gov). Fellows must provide a summary of their activities for the year as well as their plans for the following year. A list of any publications, presentations, and patents will also need to be provided. The report will need to be approved by the fellow's advisor via the online system at [neup.gov](http://neup.gov).

In addition, acceptance of a UNLP Fellowship is an acceptance of a commitment to keep NE informed of career progress, regardless of how it develops, both during and after the fellowship (for up to 5 years) as a critical data source for future NE planning.

Furthermore, NE is always interested in receiving relevant information throughout the year including captioned photographs or other material providing notification and details of any noteworthy fellowship-related accomplishments that may merit public attention.

# **7 Application Review and Selection Process**

Applications will be reviewed by interdisciplinary scientists, engineers, and other professional experts in education. Each application will be reviewed independently based on merit and using all available information in the completed application. Reviewers will be instructed to evaluate applications against the following Merit Review criteria. Therefore, applicants must address the criteria in their written statements to provide reviewers with the information necessary to fully evaluate the application.

1. How closely aligned are the student's career goals and chosen course of study to the NE mission?
2. How does the student's previous and proposed research align to the NE mission?
3. How well qualified is the student to complete the proposed course of study and associated research?

Reviewers will consider the (1) personal career goals and alignment to the NE mission as described in the required essay, (2) description of proposed research and alignment to the NE mission as described in the required essay, (3) references, (4) strength of the academic record, and (5) leadership positions and extracurricular activities in which the applicant is involved.

Review results will be presented to the NE Selection Official and considered along with additional relevant objective and subjective information related to the application process, including program policy and management factors and the amount of funds available. All of this information will be factored into the final award selection and approval.

## **8 Award Administration Information**

### **8.1 Notification of Award**

Notification of the fellowship award will be made to both the student and his/her respective university or college via email and press release. Students whose applications are not selected for a fellowship award will also be notified of that decision via email.

### **8.2 Award Conditions**

A UNLP Fellowship award consists of the award letter and an information guide that outlines the appropriate management of the UNLP Fellowship. UNLP Fellowship students will be notified, via email, as soon as possible of their selection or non-selection. If selected, the student must accept or decline the fellowship by the date provided in the award notification. Failure to comply with the deadline may result in revocation of the fellowship offer. The UNLP Fellowship does not offer recipients with the option of a one-year deferment.

## Appendix A: Allowable Costs for Fellowships

### *Graduate Fellowship*

For each selected fellow, the affiliated institution receives a \$54,000 award per year to be administered as follows:

1. The fellowship stipend is \$39,000 for a 12-month tenure period and prorated monthly. Shorter periods will need NE approval.
2. The cost of education allowance is \$14,000 per tenure year and is to be used by the affiliated institution to cover the costs of educating the fellow. This includes all applicable tuition, books, and fees normally charged to students of similar academic standing, unless such charges are optional or are refundable. Students can receive reimbursement for off-campus housing with their education allowance if all tuition, books, and fees have been covered. Students will need to provide paid rent receipts to their university to receive reimbursement. Fellows can also use remaining funds for additional NE approved travel and health insurance. Fellowship funding covers the needs of the fellow only and does not provide support for dependents.

The fellowship award does **not** provide allowances for special student needs such as research expenses, travel to employment sites, computers, books, and publications beyond those required for classes, fieldwork expenses, special study, and like items.

3. Fellows are allowed an additional \$1,000 research travel allowance per year upon submission of an approved travel request. The planned travel must involve a structured research activity approved by NE. Please note that the travel allowance **cannot** be used for international travel. The research travel allowance must be used for research-related travel costs only. Travel funds cannot be applied toward tuition, books, fees, or any other expenses.

In addition, a 10-week (approximate) internship must be conducted at DOE, a DOE national laboratory, or facility designated and approved by NE. A one-time \$7,000 allowance is provided for travel and/or housing expenses associated with the internship.

The institution may require service of a UNLP Fellow by appointment to appropriate teaching or research-related activities acceptable to and consistent with the goals of the UNLP Fellow. However, it is expected that any required service contributes to the progress of the fellow toward an advanced degree and that attainment of the degree not be delayed significantly by these service requirements.

## **Appendix B: Other Graduate Fellowship Activities**

### ***Termination of Tenure***

A fellow who terminates his/her activities prior to the expected completion date is entitled to stipend payments only for those months on fellowship tenure. For stipend payment purposes, the last month is defined as 14 or more days of tenure.

### ***Reduction of Tenure***

A fellow may reduce the tenure of any fellowship from 12 to 9 months without penalty other than forfeiting 3 months of tenure and associated stipend.

### ***Interruption of Tenure***

In unusual circumstances, and with prior approval, NE will permit a brief interruption in tenure. Normally in such cases, stipend payments and tenure will be forfeited for the duration of the interruption.

### ***Resignation of Tenure***

A fellow may resign a fellowship at any time. In such cases, the fellow is expected to inform his/her college or university, which must then notify NE of the resignation, the number of tenure months completed, and the cost of education allowance that will be claimed.

A letter of explanation sent directly to NE ([neup@inl.gov](mailto:neup@inl.gov)) by the fellow will be appreciated and held confidential.

### ***Cancellation of Tenure***

Fellows certified by their college or university as making unsatisfactory progress toward a graduate degree will have all remaining years of tenure canceled by NE.

### ***Medical Deferral***

NE may grant a medical deferral if a serious illness or other medical condition prevents full-time fellowship activity for an extended period. A fellow requesting a medical deferral must secure a letter verifying the need for such action from a health care provider and notify his/her college or university, which must then contact NE. In addition, the fellow will need to provide a letter from a health care provider when he/she requests to resume tenure after being on medical deferral.

In the case of a medical deferral, the unused portion of the stipend and cost-of-education allowance will be reserved for the fellow's later use.

A medical deferral may be granted for psychological as well as physical reasons, and the nature of the condition need not be disclosed. Moreover, a medical deferral does not jeopardize the fellowship award, nor does it stigmatize a fellow's reputation.

### ***Military Deferral***

A brief interruption for duly authorized military service or training will be permitted with the approval of the college or university.

In the case of a longer interruption resulting from active military service or from certain activities in lieu of service with the regular Armed Forces, provision can be made for reservation of a fellowship (or the balance of it) and reinstatement of the unused portion at a later date. In such cases, a fellow should immediately provide NE with written notification of these plans and request further instructions by emailing [neup@inl.gov](mailto:neup@inl.gov). Pay received by a fellow for occasional attendance at military reserve or National Guard functions is exempted from limitations on supplementation of stipends.

### ***Change of Institution***

#### Before Starting Tenure

A fellow's choice of a graduate institution is made at the time of application and must be made carefully. NE will only allow changes to the designated fellowship institution before matriculation under extreme circumstances.

#### Between Fellowship Years

A request to change affiliated institutions between fellowship years is normally made at the time the fellow and university submit their annual reporting documents. If a decision to change institutions is made subsequent to submission of the annual declaration, the fellow must submit a written request to NE accompanied by a statement from the college or university or scientific advisor indicating that the fellow's work has continued to be satisfactory. In addition, evidence of acceptance at the new school should be submitted. The new school must be an affiliated college or university per Table 1.

#### During a Fellowship Year

A request to change affiliated institutions during a fellowship year will not be allowed.

### ***Tenure Beyond the Doctoral Degree***

Tenure beyond a doctoral degree will not be supported by UNLP.

### ***Advanced Degree Enrollment***

In addition to a satisfactory institutional affiliation, each fellow must, at all times, be enrolled in a full-time program leading to an advanced degree in one of the fields supported by NE. However, the requirement of formal registration may be waived during part of this tenure, when appropriate, if permitted by the policy of the fellowship institution, provided that the fellow otherwise remains engaged in appropriate full-time fellowship activities.

### ***Teaching***

Each fellow is required to devote full time to advanced scientific study or work during tenure. However, because it is generally accepted that a reasonable amount of teaching or similar activity constitutes a valuable part of the education and training of many graduate students, a fellow may undertake a reasonable amount of such teaching, without NE approval, at the affiliated institution. It is expected that furtherance of the fellow's educational objectives and the gain of substantive teaching experience, not service to the institution as such, will govern such assignments.

### ***Required Internship***

A 10-week (approximate) internship must be conducted at DOE, a DOE national laboratory or facility designated and approved by NE. A one-time, \$7,000 allowance is provided for travel and/or housing expenses associated with the internship. It is the fellow's responsibility to work with his/her advisor to identify an appropriate internship.

**Failure to at least secure an NE-approved internship opportunity by the end of the fellow's second year will result in the cancellation of the fellowship for the third year.**

If an NE-approved internship has not been completed within the last few months of the student's award, the last 10 weeks of the fellowship will be canceled.

### ***Field Work (or Study at Another Institution)***

If, in the opinion of the faculty of the affiliated institution, it is desirable for the fellow to study, engage in field work or in research at another institution or laboratory during any part of fellowship tenure (in addition to the above internship), the fellow may do so without having to obtain NE's approval. It should be noted, however, that NE's responsibility with respect to any graduate fellow is to the fellow's affiliated institution only, and not to the "visited" institution or laboratory. NE specifically cannot assume responsibility for educational costs assessed by another institution at which a fellow may be studying temporarily. Regardless of the fellow's physical location, the fellow will be considered by NE as being identified with the affiliated institution only. Plans for field work or study at another institution must be approved by the college or university.

### ***Program Changes***

Minor changes in a fellow's program may be approved by the affiliated institution. A major change in a fellow's program—one that alters the program to the extent that it differs significantly from that originally submitted in the fellow's application (for example, a change in field)—must receive the prior approval of the college or university or scientific advisor. In addition, the fellow must submit a revised proposed plan of study or research for NE approval.

### ***Vacations***

NE fellowships do not provide a vacation period, as such, during tenure. Fellows are entitled to the normal, short holiday periods observed by their affiliated institutions, such as winter or spring holidays, and short between-term periods.

"Vacation time" may not be accumulated for later use. There is considerable variation in institutional practices in the matter of vacations, but if an institution should close for a long period of time, fellows on tenure there during such periods will be expected to have made prior arrangements for the use of necessary facilities and resources to carry out their programs.

If it is not possible to make these arrangements at the affiliated institution, the fellow should make other satisfactory arrangements, with NE approval, to carry on his/her work.

### ***Awards or Employment During Tenure***

Fellows are permitted to solicit and accept support from any appropriate sources for research expenses connected with their fellowship activities. NE is not concerned with grants or loans of any kind that fellows may receive. During tenure, except for scheduled, short vacation periods, fellows are expected to devote full time to the advancement of their graduate education.

Employment that does not jeopardize a fellow's full-time commitment to graduate study is usually permitted. Nevertheless, employment that will generate substantial income in addition to receiving the stipend must be approved by NE. Occasionally, fellows identify opportunities at on- or off-campus employment sites that contribute significantly to their graduate study. Before a fellow engages in such work, permission of the college or university and of NE must be obtained. Requests for approval of employment during tenure are reviewed by NE on a case-by-case basis.

### ***Income Tax***

Specific questions regarding taxation of fellowship funding should be referred to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. University policies regarding withholding of taxes from stipend payments vary, and fellows must bear the responsibility of paying any tax, domestic or foreign, when due.

Fellows are not in any sense salaried employees of either NE or their affiliated institution. Therefore, no funds will be deducted from the stipend; no social security taxes will be paid by

NE; no W-2 forms will be issued; and provision must be made by the fellow for the filing of any necessary estimate of taxes due and for payment of all income taxes that may become due. Fellows may request a statement of earnings from their affiliated institution.

### ***Publications***

A fellow should make all research results available to the public without restriction, except as is required in the interest of national security. NE would appreciate receiving notice of a fellow's publications, but it is not necessary to send a copy of publications, papers, thesis, or dissertation.

### **Acknowledgment of Support and Disclaimer**

An acknowledgment of UNLP support and a disclaimer must appear in any publication of any material, whether copyrighted or not, based on or developed under the project being reported, in the following terms:

“This material is based upon work supported under a Department of Energy, Office of Nuclear Energy University Nuclear Leadership Program Graduate Fellowship.”

All materials, except scientific articles or papers published in scientific journals, must also contain the following:

"Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy."

### ***Intellectual Property Rights***

DOE claims no rights to any inventions or writings that might result from its fellowship awards. However, fellows should be aware that the Department of Energy, another Federal agency, or some private party may acquire such rights through other support for particular research. Also, fellows should note their obligation to include an acknowledgment and disclaimer in any publication.

### ***Future Employment***

The offer and acceptance of this fellowship does not, in any way, obligate the fellow, DOE, or the United States Government to future employment or service of any kind.

### ***National Security***

Fellows are obliged to report promptly to NE, prior to disclosure to others, any discoveries that are made or data that are developed that could reasonably be considered as likely to affect the national security or the national defense. Doubtful cases should be referred to NE prior to disclosure of any information concerning them.

***Members of the Armed Forces and Federal Employees***

If during tenure the fellow will be a member of the Armed Forces (other than as a participant of an ROTC program) or on leave from a position in the Federal service, it is the fellow's responsibility to inform NE and to have a cognizant official of the government organization involved file a statement outlining the funds that will be made available by the fellow's employer and the specific purpose for which they are provided to the fellow. NE and the fellow's institution must reach a mutually satisfactory agreement regarding the fellow's support during tenure before any funds can be provided under a fellowship.