



**Request for Applications (RFA) No. UNLP-002-25 for
Nuclear Energy Graduate Fellowships**

Subject: University Nuclear Leadership Program
Graduate Fellowship – RFA
Issue Date: May 15th, 2026
Application Due Date: July 2nd, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET

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Contents

Executive Summary iii

1 Introduction 1

2 Eligibility Information 2

 2.1 Graduate Year Restriction 2

3 Award Description 3

 3.1 Tuition, Books, and Fees 4

 3.2 Travel 4

 3.3 Internship 4

 3.4 International Exchange Opportunity 4

4 Application Submittal Requirements 5

 4.1 Application Due Date 5

 4.2 Application Schedule 5

 4.3 Late Applications 5

 4.4 Application Preparation Instructions 5

 4.5 Document Descriptions 6

 4.6 Document Format Requirements 8

5 Application Instructions 8

 5.1 Interpretations and Exceptions 8

 5.2 Rights Reserved by NE 8

 5.3 Application Validity Period 8

 5.4 Discrepancies in the RFA 9

6 Deliverables and Obligations 9

 6.1 Graduate Fellow’s Annual Activities Report 9

7 Application Review and Selection Process 9

8 Award Administration Information 10

 8.1 Notification of Award 10

 8.2 Award Conditions 10

Appendix A: Allowable Costs for Fellowships 11

Appendix B: Other Graduate Fellowship Activities 12

Executive Summary

Program 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 \$175,000 over a three-year period which includes a \$40,000/year stipend; \$15,000/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.

An optional exchange opportunity with the UK will be offered for up to 10 awarded fellows under this RFA to attend a week-long tour of nuclear-related facilities in the UK during the summer following the first year of the fellowship (Summer 2027). Students can indicate their interest in this new opportunity at the time of submission via the online application form at neup.gov.

Application deadline is 5:00 pm ET, July 2nd, 2026. Students must apply electronically at neup.gov and questions should be sent to NEUP@inl.gov.

As part of their application package, students must submit an essay outlining long-term career goals, a graduate research plan, letters of recommendation, academic transcripts, and a leadership summary. 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 Fall 2026. The number of awards is dependent upon application quality and total available funding. Eligibility is restricted to United States 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 (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy (NE). Questions regarding this RFA should be submitted to neup@inl.gov or applicants can review the Q&A forum found on the [NEUP website](#).

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 master's 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 2026. In most cases, this will be demonstrated by a bachelor's degree earned prior to the Fall of 2026.

NE's mission is to advance nuclear energy science and technology to meet United States (U.S.) energy, environmental, and economic needs. NE enables innovation, supports unique research infrastructure, and solves crosscutting challenges facing the nuclear energy sector to:

- Keep existing U.S. nuclear reactors operating
- Deploy new nuclear reactors
- Secure and sustain our nuclear fuel cycle
- Maintain U.S. leadership in nuclear energy technology

All applications submitted under this RFA must demonstrate a strong tie to this mission. Applications focused specifically in areas not of interest to the NE mission, such as fusion energy, medical physics, nuclear forensics, or environmental management, will not be reviewed or considered. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) administer related programs; therefore, applicants interested in regulatory (NRC) or international nonproliferation (NNSA) careers are encouraged to apply to those opportunities as well.

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.

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 2026.

All information and instructions required to respond to this RFA are accessible at neup.gov. Students MUST submit their application electronically through 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 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 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.

Applicants' colleges/universities need to be approved to participate in UNLP. NE will work with new schools and guide them through the approval process prior to the distribution of any award funds. More information on the approval process can be found at neup.gov.

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 their 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, 2026. 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, 2026.

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. Applicants should email neup@inl.gov with any questions regarding graduate year eligibility.

All post-baccalaureate, graduate-level study is counted toward the allowed 12 months of completed graduate study. This includes all master 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 2026. To be eligible, applicants must have completed no additional graduate study by August 1, 2026.

Questions related to the graduate-year restriction should be addressed to neup@inl.gov.

3 Award Description

NE expects to award three-year/\$175,000 graduate fellowships under this RFA. The number of awards is dependent upon application quality and total available funding.

Note: All awards will be for a maximum of three contiguous years. Remaining funds from a fellow’s tenure, not previously forfeited, may be used by the fellow for the following semester or year if they are still conducting fellowship research and working toward their degree. Fellows will need to contact the External Innovation Integration Office (IO) at neup@inl.gov in the last semester of their tenure for approval to use any remaining funding. **Fellows must receive NE approval prior to the use of remaining fellowship funds.**

Table 1 provides a breakdown of award funding. Appendix A includes allowable and unallowable expenses for this award.

Table 1. Breakdown of the UNLP Fellowship award (3 years).

Expense	Amount
12-Month Stipend	\$40,000/year
Tuition, Books, and Fees	\$15,000/year
Research Travel Allowance	\$1,000/year
Internship Allowance	\$7,000
Total (3 years)*	\$175,000
*Travel costs will also be provided to students participating in the international exchange opportunity.	

3.1 Tuition, Books, and Fees

The cost of education allowance is \$15,000 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 with a \$1,000 research travel allowance per year upon an approved travel request (see neup.gov) submitted well in advance 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 U.S. 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. Students who elect to receive compensation from the interning agency must forfeit their fellowship stipend for the duration of the internship. Additionally, students who receive travel and housing support from the interning agency must forfeit the internship allowance provided through the UNLP Fellowship. The forfeited funds are not appended to the end of the student's fellowship and will instead be de-obligated and returned to NE.**

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 a 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 a 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.

3.4 International Exchange Opportunity

An optional exchange opportunity with the UK will be offered to up to 10 fellows to attend a week-long tour of nuclear-related facilities in the UK during the summer following the first year of the fellowship (Summer 2027). Students can indicate their interest in this new opportunity at the time of submission via the online application form at neup.gov. This initial expression of interest will be used as a data point only and will not preclude any student who

does not express interest at the time of application from consideration. In September of 2026, all first-year fellows will be invited to submit a statement describing why they should be considered for the international opportunity and how the visit will benefit and inform their future in nuclear energy. Additional guidance and details, including how the statements will be evaluated and what UK facilities will be toured, will be provided at that time.

Travel costs associated with the international exchange opportunity will be provided to selected students.

4 Application Submittal Requirements

4.1 Application Due Date

Applications and all supporting documents are due by July 2nd, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).

4.2 Application Schedule

Table 2. Tentative UNLP Fellowship RFA schedule.

UNLP Fellowship RFA Schedule	
Issue Request for Applications	May 15 th , 2026
Fellowship Application Deadline	July 2 nd , 2026
Award Announcement	Fall 2026

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 before the deadline established above. To apply, students will need to create an account at 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 2025 Fellowship Request for Applications.

In addition to the information required on the fellowship RFA submittal form, the supporting documents listed in Table 3 must also be provided.

Table 3. 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 their 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 provided 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. Students should ensure that their career goals are relevant to nuclear energy and the NE mission as stated in Section 1. Applicants should describe how their program of study and career goals align to the NE mission. Applicants are encouraged to review the NE [website](#) for more information.

Essay 2: Proposed Graduate Research – This essay should describe the research that 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 with the NE mission and how it will advance NE priorities. Applicants should include technical references where possible. References are included in page limit restrictions. Applicants are encouraged to review the NE [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 the UNLP fellowship. 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 their 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. Applicants can request more than three references; however, **only the first three letters received will be sent forward for review.**

Academic Transcripts – Academic transcripts are required and must include Fall 2025 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. Transcripts will also be accepted by fax, electronically, or via postal mail, express service, or courier to the External Innovation Integration Office (IO):

INR Integration Office

Attn: Tyler Newitt
 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 4 below for all submitted documents.

Table 4. Formatting requirements.

Document Format	.pdf
Font Size	12 pt
Font	Times New Roman
Margins	1-inch all around
Line Spacing	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. 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 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, an email will be sent requesting a brief report on the fellow's experiences and accomplishments during the past academic year. Within 30 days after the request is sent, the fellow must submit this report using the online system at 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.

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 following when evaluating applications against the above Merit Review criteria:

1. **Academic Strength:** Reviewers will consider the applicant's academic record, as interpreted from both undergraduate and graduate transcripts.
2. **References:** Reviewers will consider the writer's general impression of the student's potential for success, future contribution to the field of nuclear energy, and suitability for award.
3. **Personal Career Goals:** Reviewers will consider how well the applicant describes their long-term career goals; how the UNLP fellowship will help them achieve those goals; how well the applicant explains how their program of study and career goals align to the NE mission; and if the applicant wrote their essay and in a clear and concise manner.
4. **Proposed Graduate Research:** Reviewers will consider how well the applicant's proposed graduate research is described; how skills acquired through these experiences have prepared them for their graduate research; and how the proposed research aligns with the NE mission.
5. **Fellowship Leadership:** Reviewers will evaluate activities the student has or is currently participating in that speak to their personal/professional leadership and involvement in the industry—including relevant internships, community service, publications, and organizational memberships—that have helped to prepare them for this fellowship opportunity.

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 first be made with the issuance of a press release on the Office of Nuclear Energy's website. All selected and non-selected applicants will then be notified via email. Once all students from a university or college have accepted their awards, the institution will be provided with a list of awardees.

Awardees will receive an award guide that consists of the applicable terms and conditions of the UNLP fellowship as well as information on how the award will be managed.

8.2 Award Conditions

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 the option of a one-year deferment. A student who wishes to begin their fellowship in January instead of the fall semester **must receive NE approval and provide justification for the delay.**

Appendix A: Allowable Costs for Fellowships

Graduate Fellowship

For each selected fellow, the affiliated institution receives a \$56,000 award per year to be administered as follows:

1. The fellowship stipend is \$40,000 for a 12-month tenure period and prorated monthly. **Shorter periods will need NE approval.**
2. The cost of education allowance is \$15,000 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 for a 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.
4. 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. Fellows may not be compensated by the interning agency while also receiving their fellowship stipend. The stipend must be forfeited for the duration of the internship and is not paid out to the fellow at a later time. It is not acceptable for the stipend to be prorated in this case to allow the fellow to receive both the stipend as well as compensation from the interning agency.
5. Travel costs associated with the international exchange opportunity will be provided to selected students to tour UK nuclear facilities.

The institution may require the 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 is not 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) 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 the fellow 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. 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 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 with NE 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, and the

student must obtain NE concurrence to ensure compliance with the RFA requirements by contacting neup@inl.gov.

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.

Prohibition Related to Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs

Prohibition

As required by law¹, *Covered Individuals* participating in a *Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program* are prohibited from participating in projects selected for federal funding under this RFA. Consequences for violations of this prohibition will be determined according to applicable law, regulations, and policy.

Further, the recipient must notify DOE within five business days upon learning that an individual on the project team is or is believed to be participating in a malign foreign talent recruitment program. DOE may modify and add requirements related to this prohibition to the extent required by law.

Covered Individuals and the applicant must provide certifications regarding no participation in *Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs*.

Non-Discrimination

DOE will ensure that the Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program Prohibition is carried out in a manner that does not target, stigmatize, or discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, ethnicity, or national origin, consistent with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

Definitions

Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program. as defined in P.L. 117-167, Section 10638(4):

A. any program, position, or activity that includes compensation in the form of cash, in-kind compensation, including research funding, promised future compensation, complimentary

¹ See sections 10631-10632 of [P.L. 117-167 \(42 USC 19231-19232\)](#); [OSTP-Foreign-Talent-Recruitment-Program-Guidelines.pdf \(whitehouse.gov\)](#).

foreign travel, things of non de minimis value, honorific titles, career advancement opportunities, or other types of remuneration or consideration directly provided by a foreign country at any level (national, provincial, or local) or their designee, or an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country, whether or not directly sponsored by the foreign country, to the targeted individual, whether directly or indirectly stated in the arrangement, contract, or other documentation at issue, in exchange for the individual—

- i. engaging in the unauthorized transfer of intellectual property, materials, data products, or other nonpublic information owned by a U.S. entity or developed with a federal research and development award to the government of a foreign country or an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country regardless of whether that government or entity provided support for the development of the intellectual property, materials, or data products;
- ii. being required to recruit trainees or researchers to enroll in such program, position, or activity;
- iii. establishing a laboratory or company, accepting a faculty position, or undertaking any other employment or appointment in a foreign country or with an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country if such activities are in violation of the standard terms and conditions of a federal research and development award;
- iv. being unable to terminate the foreign talent recruitment program contract or agreement except in extraordinary circumstances;
- v. through funding or effort related to the foreign talent recruitment program, being limited in the capacity to carry out a research and development award or required to engage in work that would result in substantial overlap or duplication with a federal research and development award;
- vi. being required to apply for and successfully receive funding from the sponsoring foreign government's funding agencies with the sponsoring foreign organization as the recipient;
- vii. being required to omit acknowledgment of the recipient institution with which the individual is affiliated, or the federal research agency sponsoring the research and development award, contrary to the institutional policies or standard terms and conditions of the federal research and development award;
- viii. being required to not disclose to the federal research agency or employing institution the participation of such individual in such program, position, or activity; or
- ix. having a conflict of interest or conflict of commitment contrary to the standard terms and conditions of the federal research and development award; and

B. a program that is sponsored by—

- i. a foreign country of concern or an entity based in a foreign country of concern, whether or not directly sponsored by the foreign country of concern;
- ii. an academic institution on the list developed under section 1286(c)(8) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 2358 note; ¹ Public Law 115–232); or
- iii. a foreign talent recruitment program on the list developed under section 1286(c)(9) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 2358 note; ¹ Public Law 115–232).

Consistent with applicable law (42 U.S.C. 19232), this provision does not prohibit, unless such activities are funded, organized, or managed by an academic institution or a foreign talent recruitment program on the lists developed under paragraphs (8) and (9) of section 1286(c) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 4001 note; Public Law 115–232)—

- A) making scholarly presentations and publishing written materials regarding scientific information not otherwise controlled under current law;
- B) participation in international conferences or other international exchanges, research projects or programs that involve open and reciprocal exchange of scientific information, and which are aimed at advancing international scientific understanding and not otherwise controlled under current law;
- C) advising a foreign student enrolled at an institution of higher education or writing a recommendation for such a student, at such student's request; and
- D) other international activities determined appropriate by the federal research agency head or designee.