Purdue University
Schools of Nuclear Engineering and Health Sciences

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Scholarship

2009 Scholarship Information and Instructions

Objective: To recruit, retain, monitor and mentor undergraduate students of high academic ability and performance in the nuclear engineering and radiological health science (health physics) programs so that they graduate to become career professionals and leaders in the nuclear power sector and government regulatory bodies for this industry.

Impact: The nuclear power sector in the USA has had little growth over the past few decades and the consequent lack of career opportunity led to a decline in undergraduate student enrollment in nuclear engineering and health physics programs across the nation, causing some programs to close. However there is expected to be a nuclear power renaissance in our country attributable to global climate change and international political tensions requiring the country to assure a homeland generated safe, secure and sustainable energy supply to meet the nation's present and future power needs. One of the difficulties faced by this renaissance is the aged population of experienced professionals in the nuclear power sector who are expected to retire over the next ten years. It is important to support the entry of new professional blood into the nuclear sector that are academically talented and high performing individuals capable and prepared to step into professional leadership positions within the nuclear power and related industry. Support of a scholarship program at Purdue University will provide an incentive to improve the number and quality of undergraduate students entering its nuclear engineering and health physics programs and allow selection of the very best to be placed on a trajectory of career success and leadership within the nuclear power sector.

Number and Size of the Scholarships

- Funding is available for 6 undergraduate scholarships of $15,000 per year for 2 years (total scholarship amount is $30,000). Students will receive $7,500 per semester (fall and spring) for a maximum of 4 semesters (2 years).

Recipient Obligations

All scholarship recipients must

1. Remain and matriculate in the degree program for the field of study for which the scholarship was approved (i.e., Nuclear Engineering or Radiological Health Science)
2. Maintain satisfactory academic progress in the recipient's field of study, as demonstrated by maintaining a 3.0 GPA, both overall and within the recipient's major
3. Maintain a course load of at least 12 credit hours per semester as a full-time student in good standing
4. Completed and abide by the terms outline in the NRC's 2009 Scholarship and Fellowship Program Service Agreement. The terms of the service agreement require recipients to serve a minimum of 6 months in nuclear-related employment for each full year of academic support. The employment may be with nuclear-related industry, State agencies, Department of Energy laboratories, the NRC or other Federal agencies, or academia in the recipients' sponsored fields of study

If a recipient fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress, the scholarship will be terminated and the recipient could be obligated to repay the NRC the full amount of the scholarship/fellowship. If a recipient receives any subsequent scholarship(s) through this program, the service obligation periods will be consecutive.

At the discretion of the NRC, the service obligation period may be delayed to allow the recipient to continue a subsequent degree program immediately following that sponsored under this program. For example, a recipient who receives a fellowship to earn a Master's degree, may request and be permitted to delay fulfilling their service obligation until after they complete a subsequent terminal degree program. Any such requests must be made to the NRC before a student enrolls in a subsequent degree program. If a student enrolls in a subsequent degree program before or without NRC approval, and the NRC does not subsequently approve the request, the NRC will not be held liable for any expenses incurred to dis-enroll, or for failure to otherwise meet the terms of this service obligation. Recipients only incur a service obligation for funded periods of study.

If the student receives no employment offers or does not accept any of the offers received, the student is not relieved of the service obligation, unless, pursuant to this service agreement, the student applies for and receives a waiver from the NRC. Implicit in the waiver request is data or explanation by the student that efforts to secure employment in a nuclear-related field were undertaken. This can be in the form of job searches, referrals, etc. Absent a waiver from the NRC, rejection of one or more job offers could trigger the service agreement obligation.

If a recipient voluntarily leaves the employment during a period of obligated post-academic service, the recipient may immediately become liable to the U.S. Government for repayment of the entire amount of the assistance provided under the scholarship or fellowship, for which the service obligation has not been fulfilled.

Application Timeline

Wednesday November 4, 2009: Information session held in CIVL 1252 at 5:30 pm

Friday November 6, 2009: NRC application forms and related information posted on the websites for the School of Health Sciences (http://healthsciences.purdue.edu/) and School of Nuclear Engineering (https://engineering.purdue.edu/NE/)

Friday December 11, 2009: Return the completed application form to Dr. Robert Stewart (trebor@purdue.edu) or Dr. Lefteri H. Tsoukalas (tsoukala@purdue.edu) by 5 pm.

Week of December 14, 2009: Selection panel composed of two faculty from Health Sciences and two faculty from Nuclear Engineering meet, review and rank the applicants.

Week of December 21, 2009: Applicants notified of outcome.

Friday January 4, 2010: Applicants must accept in writing the scholarship and provide a copy of the signed NRC service agreement and a resume to Professor Jevremovic or Stewart.

Spring 2010 through fall 2011: Scholarships awarded ($7,500 per semester)

Additional Information

For Additional information about the NRC Scholarship program, please contact

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