The Northwestern-Argonne Early Career Investigator Award for Energy Research

Guidelines

Northwestern University and Argonne National Laboratory invite applications from extraordinary early career scientists who are working collaboratively between the two institutions in energy research. The awardee will receive a total of $100,000 to be spent over three years. Part of the $100,000 award will be set aside to cover tuition and stipend for a full-time graduate student. A selection committee with members from the two institutions has been established to review applications.

1. **What are Northwestern and Argonne looking for in a project proposal?**

   Proposed research should address significant unmet needs in energy production or use. The awardee will be funded for novel ideas that foster collaboration between Northwestern and Argonne. Applications will be evaluated on the following selection criteria:

   - Research relates to energy production or use.
   - There is synergistic collaboration between Northwestern and Argonne.
   - Research must involve a Northwestern full-time graduate student.

   **Funds are intended to support the following:**

   - Graduate student tuition and stipend (at the level specified by The Graduate School).
   - Materials and supplies.

   **Examples of unallowable use of funds include:**

   - Capital equipment.
   - Staff, faculty, and post-doc salaries.
   - Travel.
   - Conference and publication fees.

2. **What is the application deadline?**

   The deadline for proposals is **Tuesday, May 26, 2015**.

3. **Who is eligible to apply?**

   The Principle Investigator (PI) must be either a tenure-track assistant professor at Northwestern or a level-RD2 assistant scientist or engineer at Argonne at the time of application. Previous awardees are ineligible.
4. What is the funding level?

The recipient will receive a total of $100,000 to be spent over three years. Uncommitted first and second year funding can be spent in subsequent years, but all funds must be expended by the end of the third year. There will be no extensions on spending beyond the third year.

Part of the award must be used for tuition and stipend of a full-time graduate student. The stipend will be at the base level specified by The Graduate School of Northwestern and should be increased by the student’s graduate research adviser using other funding to the level guaranteed by the home graduate program.

5. How do I apply?

Applicants must submit the following via the online application form located at: http://isen.northwestern.edu/research/faculty_funding/northwest-argonne/guidelines.html

- A research proposal that is a maximum of 4 pages, including figures and bibliography (single spaced, 11-point Times Roman font, 1 inch margins all around). The proposal needs to include a budget that details how the award funds will be used.
- A one-page CV for the applicant and the collaborator.
- A full list of publications for the applicant and the collaborator.

6. How will proposals be evaluated?

Proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee consisting of representatives from Northwestern University and Argonne National Laboratory.

7. When will applicants be notified?

The applicants will be notified 4-6 weeks after submission deadline.

8. When will funding be awarded?

The funding will be awarded on September 1.

9. How will funding be administered?

Once pre-deliverables have been received, a project id is assigned to the PI under an ISEN chart string and Northwestern’s portion of funding is placed in it. The department of the PI or the collaborator (whichever one is NU affiliated) will open a sponsored chart string for the Argonne portion of the funding. If the awardee is from Argonne, the awardee may request some of the funding remain at Argonne for ordering materials, for example. The rest of the Argonne funding is put in the NU department’s sponsored project id to be applied to the graduate student support.
Monthly budget statements will be sent to the PI and the business administrator, indicating the balance and any anticipated funding issues. Please be responsive to any issues addressed in the communication. If the project runs a deficit caused by Payroll, we expect that the errors will be corrected and the funding returned to ISEN within 60 days. If the project runs a deficit for any other reason, we expect the funding returned to ISEN immediately.

10. What are the deliverables required from awardees?

1. Before the award starts:
   a. Return the award letter signed, agreeing to the terms and conditions in the award letter, including the timely submission of deliverables
   b. Provide a summary slide of the project for the ISEN website.

2. Annually and no later than one week before the end of funding:
   a. Provide a narrative report in .PDF format.
   b. Provide summary slide for posting to website.
   c. Provide details of all publications submitted, accepted or published from the award. (Northwestern University and Argonne National Laboratory must be acknowledged in such publications.)
   d. Provide details (funder, title, amount funded, project period) for external proposals resulting from the ISEN-funded project

Occasionally, and as requested by ISEN/Argonne:
- various information on the project or its results for outreach purposes

11. Intellectual Property

Existing standards for intellectual property between NU and ANL will be adopted.

12. What if I need more information?
For administrative matters, please contact: Linda Naunapper, Research Administrator (linda.naunapper@northwestern.edu)