The ISEN Early Career Investigator Award for Energy Research

Guidelines

ISEN invites applications from promising early career tenure-track faculty who are working in energy research. The awardee will receive a total of $75,000, free of overhead, for one year. Part of the $75,000 award must be used to cover tuition and stipend for a full-time graduate student. A multidisciplinary selection committee with members from ISEN and Northwestern University administrators has been established to review applications.

1. What is ISEN looking for in a project proposal?

   Proposed research should address significant unmet needs in energy production or use. ISEN is looking for tenure-track faculty to submit innovative, high-risk/high-impact proposals that address significant unmet needs in the area of energy. Successful applications will foster new interdisciplinary efforts and collaborations across NU or external stakeholders. Applications will be evaluated on the following selection criteria:

   - Research relates to energy production or use.
   - Research must involve a Northwestern full-time graduate student.
   - Research will lead to the writing of an external proposal during or after period of support to continue research.

Funds are intended to support the following:

- Graduate student tuition and stipend (at the level specified by The Graduate School and increased by the student’s graduate research adviser using other funding to the level guaranteed by the home graduate program).
- Materials and supplies.
- User Fees, up to $4,000.

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 for the 2014 ISEN Early Career Investigator Award is November 3, 2014.
3. **Who is eligible to apply?**

The applicant must be a tenure-track faculty member at Northwestern University.

4. **How does this award differ from a Booster Award?**

   - The funding level of the ISEN Early Career award is $75,000 while Booster funding is limited to a maximum of $45,000 or less. Both funding mechanisms are free of overhead.
   - Only 1 tenure-track faculty member annually will be awarded the ISEN Early Career Investigator Award whereas multiple faculty or researchers may be awarded Booster funding.
   - The ISEN Early Career Investigator Award requires funding of a graduate student.

5. **Is it possible to apply for both awards at the same time?**

Yes, providing you are applying with different projects. Also, if you apply to the ISEN Early Career Investigator Award and are not chosen, you may adapt your proposal and apply to the spring deadline for Booster awards. Please note that the Booster application is an online form so you will need to enter your application into the system at that time.

6. **How do I apply?**

Applicants will apply through ISEN’s online application at: [http://isen.northwestern.edu/application/earlycareer.php](http://isen.northwestern.edu/application/earlycareer.php)

Applicants must submit the following into the online application:

   - A research proposal that is a maximum of 3 pages, including figures and bibliography (single spaced, 11-point Times New 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.
   - A full list of publications for the applicant.

7. **When will the applicants be notified?**

All applicants are notified within 8 weeks of the application deadline.

8. **What are the deliverables required from the awardee?**

   1. Pre-award:
      a. A signed, original letter agreeing to the terms and conditions in the award letter, including providing deliverables in a timely manner.
b. A PowerPoint summary slide (using the PPT template provided by ISEN) of the project for the ISEN website.

Post-award:
  a. A 2-4 page narrative report in .PDF format.
  b. A PowerPoint summary slide for posting to website.
  c. Provide details of publications submitted, accepted or published from the award. (ISEN must be acknowledged in such publications.)
  d. Provide details (funder, title, amount funded, project period) for external proposals resulting from the ISEN-funded project.

9. When will funding be awarded?

The funding will be awarded once pre-deliverable requirements are met.

10. How will funding be administered?

Once pre-deliverables have been received, an ISEN chart string, indicating a project ID assigned to the PI, will be sent to the PI and the business administrator. Access to the project ID is allowed on a view-only basis by sending the Project Café General Security Access form to Donna Kwiatkowski at ISEN. User Fees are transferred into the PI’s discretionary account. **The PI is responsible for any overcharges on user fees.**

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, the errors will be corrected and the funding returned to ISEN within 30 days. If the project runs a deficit for any other reason, funding will be returned to ISEN immediately.

A reminder is sent approximately one month before the award closes. Unused funding becomes unavailable to the PI on the day the project ends. The balance is removed and the project ID is closed. On a case-by-case basis, awardees may seek approval for a no-cost extension.

11. What if I need more information?

For administrative matters, please contact: Donna Kwiatkowski, Research Administrator, d-kwiatkowski@northwestern.edu, 847-467-0985.

For technical/scientific matters, please contact: Profs. David C. Dunand, dunand@northwestern.edu, 847-491-5370 or Mark Ratner, ratner@chem.northwestern.edu, ISEN co-Directors.