



Request for Proposals for the Hulka Energy Research Fellowship

Announcement Date: December 8, 2023

Proposal Due Date: February 9, 2024

Since 2008, Ms. Barbara Hulka has provided the Hulka Energy Research Fellowship to support graduate student research in selected alternative energy fields at the University of Maryland Energy Innovation Institute (MEI²). This announcement serves as a request for proposals for engineering graduate student(s) and their faculty advisor(s) to seek funding to pursue new research in one of the following research areas:

- advanced solar energy conversion,
- fuels and power from sustainable energy processes,
- renewable wind energy,
- ocean, thermal, or wave energy or geothermal energy conversion.

Engineering students with a UMD faculty sponsor are encouraged to submit proposals for a \$20,000 one-year full-time graduate fellowship applied to the student's annual stipend. One fellowship award will be granted starting in the summer of 2024 and going through the end of the 2025 spring semester. In addition, \$4,000 would be provided for research materials and/or conference travel. This fellowship is intended to assist faculty in covering the stipend costs of their research assistants and therefore is *not* in addition to student's graduate stipend.

The proposed research must not fall exclusively under the objectives of a currently funded research project although supplemental research efforts to existing projects will be considered. A prerequisite to receiving this fellowship is that the graduate student will receive the rest of their regular support during the academic year and summer from their advisor/department. The assistantship can have no additional work requirement during the summer months to allow the Hulka Fellow time to focus full-time on her/his proposed research effort during that time period.

It is expected that each fellow will present his/her research results at a technical conference, and/or submit a scholarly publication. Fellows will be required to submit an end of the year progress report to the MEI² director. The intent of the fellowship is to initiate new research directions, so there will be a new competition each year, subject to availability of funds.

Proposal Format: The proposal narrative must be no more than a three-page description of the student's research and must identify how it addresses some aspect of a forward-looking solution in their area of research. The proposal must include the following, all within the three-page limit:

- a one-paragraph abstract summarizing the research plan,
- a brief description of the problem and relevant background,
- a proposed plan of research,
- a paragraph describing plans to present the results and efforts to further fund the research.

Bios of the student and the advising faculty member, each not to exceed two pages in length, should be appended to the proposal narrative. In addition, current and pending support of the faculty advisor should be provided (research title, sponsor, duration, and funding amount).

*Proposals should be emailed as a **single PDF document** to Cathy Stephens (csteph5@umd.edu) no later than close of business February 9, 2024.*

The advising faculty member is expected to email to Cathy Stephens a separate signed reference letter, which provides an assessment of the student and his/her applicability for the fellowship.

2024 Hulka Energy Research Fellowship Application Checklist:

- Research Topic Proposal: 3-page maximum, must include:
 - Abstract
 - Problem description & relevant background
 - Proposed plan of research
 - Plans to present results and efforts to further fund the research
- Student biography or CV (2-pages maximum)
- Advising Faculty biography or CV (2-pages maximum)
- Advising Faculty's current and pending funding (research title, sponsor, duration, and funding amount)
- Reference letter signed and sent by advising faculty

2024 Hulka Energy Research Fellowship Important Dates:

- Fellowship Application Deadline: February 9, 2024
- Anticipated date of notification: March 1, 2024
- Fellowship Award beginning date: July 1, 2024
- Fellowship Award ending date: June 30, 2025
- Results presented at a technical conference, and/or submitted a scholarly publication: by August 18, 2025
- Final Report Deadline: August 18, 2025