

Executive Summary:

A fellowship program for two graduate students pursuing degrees in nuclear engineering at the MS or PhD level is proposed. Awards could be for up to four years per recipient. Individual awards would cover a stipend of \$2500/month (starting in Year 1) along with insurance with tuition and fees completely provided by the award. The Fellow's faculty advisor would act as a resource for the students to guide them in pursuit of a nuclear related career path. Interactions with many of the nearby nuclear industrial concerns would also be promoted to give students a robust understanding of nuclear related careers and opportunities in the nuclear engineering field. The USC program enjoys strong ties with the nuclear industry including extensive representation on the advisory board and frequent interactions through the local ANS, plant visits, and special nuclear related career days. These strong industry ties and the career opportunities they highlight to students will help ensure that high quality students are attracted to the program and selected Fellows retain a strong commitment to a nuclear related career. The USC Nuclear Engineering Program has enjoyed some recent successes that warrant additional consideration. In particular, a new junior faculty member began in Fall 2009 in addition to active searches to fill one to two additional junior faculty position with quality candidates. Also, a nuclear engineering minor was established in Fall 2008 to provide specialized education for students pursuing careers in the nuclear field. USC was awarded in 2009 a Center of Economic Excellence in Nuclear Engineering by the SC Research Centers of Economic Excellence. This endowment along with industry matching funds will enable the recruitment and hire of an endowed chair in nuclear engineering. These new developments have come despite the economic considerations the state and nation are now experiencing and speak to the level of commitment that USC places on growing its NE program.

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