

AL GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

Using indirect cost recovery funds generated from research grants and contracts, the Director of the Appalachian Laboratory has agreed to *occasionally* award one or more graduate fellowships to particularly promising students who have been accepted into the MEES graduate program and who will be supervised by an AL faculty member. In those years when funds are available to support these fellowships, the AL Graduate Education Committee will solicit nominations for these awards.

GOALS: AL Graduate Fellowships are targeted primarily for recruitment of *new* graduate students, especially those who wish to pursue Ph.D. degrees in the MEES program through University of Maryland College Park (UMCP). It is possible that students in other circumstances (e.g., students nearing completion of their degrees, FSU students, etc.) may also be considered eligible for a graduate fellowship award, but it is expected that the funding availability for such students will normally be very limited.

PERIOD OF SUPPORT AND BENEFITS: AL Graduate Fellowships will generally be awarded for one year (12 consecutive months) of graduate study as part of a two-year (or longer) financial aid package, with the funding for the second year (or longer) provided by a research assistantship from an AL faculty member (or by a combination of research and teaching assistantships). Each fellowship will provide a full-time stipend, full tuition remission, and health insurance chosen from one of the optional plans available to AL employees. Stipend amounts are determined by the current standard rate for MEES students, which also may vary with the specific degree being pursued. It may also be possible to award a student a half-time graduate fellowship award with a two-year duration, as long as the faculty member is able to commit two years of matching half-time research funding.

QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible for consideration for an AL Graduate Fellowship, students being recruited must: (1) meet all UMCP Graduate School and UMCP MEES Program admission requirements, (2) be accepted or show high probability of acceptance into the MEES Program, and (3) have an AL faculty member ready and willing to serve as an advisor.

NOMINATION PROCESS: To apply for an AL Graduate Fellowship, students must be nominated by an advisor (or potential advisor). Nominations must include each of the following elements: (1) the student's undergraduate and graduate transcripts, including GRE scores; (2) their current status within the MEES Program (e.g., applied, accepted, admitted, etc.); and (3) a brief statement from the advisor describing why the student is deserving of the graduate fellowship award. *While it is not essential that research funding be in place to support the student at the time of the award, the signed nomination letter must include a statement that describes specifically how the prospective student's advisor expects to support the student during the second year.* **The AL Graduate Education Committee should receive all nominations of new students for an AL Graduate Fellowship by February 1.**

Please forward AL fellowship nominations to:

Dr. Mark Castro
Chair, AL Graduate Education Committee
UMCES - Appalachian Laboratory
301 Braddock Road
Frostburg, MD 21532-2307

Phone: (301) 689-7163
FAX: (301) 689-7200
E-mail: castro@al.umces.edu

SELECTION PROCESS: The AL Graduate Education Committee will review and rank nominees based on information in the nomination packages. Ph.D. students will normally be given priority over M.S. students. Because of the limited funding available, potential faculty advisors are urged not to make premature offers to prospective students until the committee has reported its recommendations to the AL Director and the AL Business Office. At that time, financial award letters will be co-signed by the chair of the AL Graduate Education Committee and by faculty member who will provide the research support. Recommendations of awards will normally be completed by mid-February.

NOTE: In the event that additional funding is available after the first round of consideration of new student applications, the AL Graduate Education Committee may solicit nominations for full or partial graduate fellowship awards for current graduate students at AL.