A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you for your interest in the Stanford Energy Postdoctoral Fellowship.

I know how beneficial a great postdoctoral program can be. I began researching sustainable energy technology as a Miller postdoctoral fellow at UC-Berkeley and Berkeley Lab. In 2004, Steve Chu became director of the lab. Steve, a Nobel physicist, arrived with such a strong commitment to sustainable energy. He and I overlapped for only about a year before I was hired as an assistant professor at Stanford, but I started my focus on energy research based on what I had first learned from Steve.

Coming full circle: Steve, also at Stanford after his time as U.S. secretary of energy, has agreed to chair the Stanford Energy Postdoctoral Fellowship’s advisory board. I and the other leaders of the program are thrilled Steve has taken on this role.

If you are interested in interdisciplinary research in pursuit of sustainable, affordable, secure energy for all people, I encourage you to apply and hope to see you soon on the Stanford campus.

Sincerely,

Yi Cui

Director, Precourt Institute for Energy, Stanford University
Director, Stanford Energy Postdoctoral Fellowship
Professor, Materials Science & Engineering
THE PROGRAM

Stanford University’s Precourt Institute for Energy, TomKat Center for Sustainable Energy, Bits & Watts Initiative, and StorageX Initiative are delighted to attract more talent to Stanford for postdoctoral, interdisciplinary research in energy. Tackling climate change is a defining challenge of the 21st century. The transition to a low-carbon energy system will solve about three-fourths of the climate problem. At the same time, the new energy system needs to be affordable, reliable, and available to all people.

The goal of the Stanford Energy Postdoctoral Fellowship is to bring together the brightest minds in energy from around the world to develop knowledge necessary to realize that vision. Fellows will work with at least two faculty members from different academic departments and interact with other fellows across the energy research spectrum: from science and engineering to policy and economics. As a result, fellows early in their careers can develop a more holistic view of the energy transition and sustainability, broaden their base of knowledge, or pursue a new area of expertise.

Stanford University is the ideal place for such a program. It is unparalleled for breadth in energy research. More than 200 faculty and more than 100 research staff conduct energy-related activities along with more than 1,000 graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. More than 100 courses focus on energy. Numerous research initiatives, centers and programs engage with external partners on decarbonizing the global economy. Also, Stanford was one of the first universities to emphasize interdisciplinary research.

Stanford offers other advantages for a world-class postdoctoral program in energy. As an integral part of Silicon Valley, the university has always understood the strong relationship between basic science and applied research meant to benefit the world. Over the past 10 years or so, Stanford has built a remarkable ecosystem, which extends far beyond its walls, for advancing sustainable energy solutions to deployment in the world. The Precourt Institute – and especially the TomKat Center – is the center of that ecosystem. Also, the new Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability launches in September 2022.
FELLOWSHIP DETAILS

We plan to select up to 10 fellows every year. Each fellow will be supported for up to three years with an $85,000 per year salary, an $8,000 per year fund for research and conference expenses, and benefits including health care coverage. The fellowship includes activities to build strong interaction among the fellows and within the Stanford/SLAC community, as well as engagement with industry and government.

QUALIFICATIONS:

• The fellowship covers all areas of science, engineering, economics, policy, and the social sciences. PhD students demonstrating cross-discipline studies are particularly welcome. Eligible candidates would have their PhD completed between Aug. 31, 2021, and Aug. 31, 2023.

• Each fellow must be co-hosted by two faculty-level researchers in different departments at Stanford. Staff scientists and engineers at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory with principal investigator status can co-host, but at least one co-host must be a Stanford faculty member.

APPLICATION:

☑ One-page cover letter summarizing the materials below.

☑ A nomination letter, to be written and signed by two PI co-hosts.

☑ Two additional recommendation letters, one of which must come from the candidate’s PhD thesis advisor.

☑ Curriculum vitae.

☑ One-page summary of research to be conducted at Stanford.

The application and letters of recommendation can be submitted online at energyfellowship.stanford.edu.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS 5 PM PDT (12 AM GMT) ON OCT. 31, 2022.
TIMELINE

- Application period is open from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31, 2022.
- Contact two PIs at Stanford and/or SLAC who will commit to co-host nominee.
- During December, final candidates will be scheduled for Zoom interviews in January.
- Final decisions by Jan. 31, 2023
- Begin fellowship between March 1 and beginning of fall term, 2023.

ADVISORY BOARD

Steven Chu, Chair
Nobel Laureate, Physics
Former U.S. Secretary of Energy
Professor, Physics and Physiology

Inês Azevedo
Co-Director, Stanford Bits & Watts Initiative
Associate Professor, Energy Resources Engineering

Mark Duggan
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Matthew Kanan
Director, TomKat Center for Sustainable Energy
Associate Professor, Chemistry

Franklin (“Lynn”) Orr
Former U.S. Under Secretary for Science & Energy
Former Dean, Stanford School of Earth Sciences
Professor Emeritus, Energy Resources Engineering

Deborah Sivas
Director, Stanford Environmental Law Clinic
Professor, Stanford Law School

CONTACT US

Our team welcomes your application. For questions, or if you have any difficulties completing the application form or submitting documents, please email: Energy_Postdoctoral_Fellowship@stanford.edu.

Program page, including submission portals: energyfellowship.stanford.edu