Graduate Research Community of Excellence

$40,000 Fellowship Program

School of Chemical, Biological & Materials Engineering

University of Oklahoma

The Graduate Research Community of Excellence (GRCE) $40,000 Fellowship Program is an exciting new addition to The University of Oklahoma School of Chemical, Biological & Materials Engineering’s (CBME) continued efforts to further develop a fast-paced and exhilarating research environment that provides Ph.D. students with a discovery rich doctoral study experience and highly recognized degree that opens doors in the years to follow. With the support of the Office of the Vice President for Research and the College of Engineering, CBME is pleased to be able to offer outstanding doctoral graduate students a $40,000 fellowship, distributed evenly across four years beginning immediately after the student’s initiating pursuit of their doctoral degree.

GRCE Fellowships, meant to motivate exceptional graduate student research performance, are provided as supplements to CBME’s highly competitive doctoral student stipends or other student financial support, such as National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships. GRCE Fellows are free to use awards in whatever ways they feel most enrich their doctoral study period.

An environment of graduate student excellence already pervades CBME; Goldwater Scholars and NSF Graduate Research Fellows are among the over fifty graduate students advancing CBME’s research efforts. This substantial graduate student body is complemented by research activity on the part of over fifty CBME undergraduate students. This appreciable number of active researchers provides GRCE Fellows abundant opportunity to learn from and learn with peers having a wide range of research expertise and help undergraduate students develop the skill set and hunger for discovery that will facilitate their becoming high level performers in both academia and industry.

Both the first and second derivatives of CBME’s research operations are highly positive. Over the past five years, CBME’s research expenditures have increased by more than 200% and works by CBME’s seventeen faculty have appeared in maximally visible journals including Science and PNAS. Students with interests captured by the more classical aspects of Chemical Engineering will find a core of catalysis-focused faculty members as well as Professors with exceptional track records in polymer chemistry and enhanced oil recovery. Doctoral candidates who are captivated by more recently established branches of our field will encounter opportunities in nanotechnology that span both academia and companies that have grown out of technologies developed here in CBME.

Students will also find a broad range of biomedical research possibilities spanning tissue engineering, cancer therapy and biosensor development. CBME’s close connection with the University’s Bioengineering program brings an exciting multidisciplinary element to many of these bioengineering research pursuits. More specific details regarding CBME faculty research programs can be viewed at - http://www.ou.edu/content/coe/cbme/audience/People/faculty1.html

GRCE Fellowships will be offered to a cohort of domestic Ph.D. students beginning in August 2013. Eligible students will have completed a Chemical Engineering undergraduate degree from a non-Oklahoma institution with a GPA of 3.75 or higher prior to July 2013. Students with lower GPAs but significant research experience may also be considered. Fellowship recipients will be selected based on their potential for exceptional doctoral study achievement based on dialogs with faculty before, during and after a campus visit. Specific questions about the program or applying for admission can be directed to Dr. Pete Heinzelman - pete@ou.edu. CBME is excited about this initiative and we are eager to hear from you!