Applications Open for Fellowships and Scholarships

The ACI Foundation is now accepting Fellowship and Scholarship applications from students pursuing a degree related to concrete. The current application period is for awards for the 2022-2023 school year. Based on student essays, educational data, and endorsements, the ACI Foundation’s Scholarship Council will grant thousands of dollars in fellowships and scholarships to candidates judged to have the strongest combination of interest and potential for professional success in the concrete industry.

For many years, the ACI Foundation’s Fellowship and Scholarship Program has successfully attracted high-potential students to the field of concrete via education and involvement in the ACI community. This year’s program promises to be even more successful, as six new awards have been added. The new awards are:

- Robert F. Mast Memorial Fellowship;
- S.P. Shah Fellowship;
- Burg-Coleman Iowa State 77 ACI Fellowship;
- Nick Bada – ACI Ontario Chapter Graduate Scholarship;
- Nicholas F. Maloof Jr. ACI Georgia Chapter Fellowship; and
- Master Builders Solutions Material Concrete Science Scholarship.

As with the existing fellowships and scholarships, the ACI Foundation’s newest awards will provide additional opportunities for students hoping to further their careers in the concrete industry by providing financial support to cover books, tuition, and cost of living while making invaluable networking opportunities available within ACI. To learn more about all ACI Foundation awards for concrete scholars, visit www.acifoundation.org/scholarships/fellowships.aspx.

Thank you to our generous donors throughout the industry for supporting the brightest students in a concrete-related program. We extend special thanks to Ron Burg, Jeff Coleman, Surendra Shah, the ACI Ontario Chapter, the ACI Georgia Chapter, and Master Builders Solutions for making the new fellowships possible this year. Your efforts truly make a difference for the concrete industry of the future.

If you know of a student who would benefit from receiving tuition and networking assistance and who would serve our industry well, please encourage them to apply. This is a life-changing opportunity for students, and as with all concrete industry members, we value their experience in this program. Program applicants are required to obtain two endorsements, with one of those being from an ACI nonstudent member. Please consider endorsing a worthy student today.

To apply for a fellowship and/or scholarship, visit www.acifoundation.org/scholarships.aspx. All application requirements and tips for preparing materials for submission can also be found at that web address.

Funded Research Projects in 2021

We extend special thanks to all the researchers who took the time and effort to apply, as well as the ACI and ACI Foundation Concrete Research Council (CRC) volunteers who undertook the challenging task of reviewing the applications and choosing this year’s awardees. Congratulations go out to the following principal investigators who were awarded research projects for 2021:
Knowledge to Practice:

- Standard Critical Chloride Threshold Test Variability Due to Material Sources—Ceki Halmen, Principal Investigator, University of Missouri;
- Stress‐Strain Analysis of BCSA Cement for Structural Applications—Cameron D. Murray, Principal Investigator, University of Arkansas;
- Chloride Desorption Isotherms of Cementitious Systems Exposed to Low-pH Environments—Mahmoud Shakouri, Principal Investigator, University of Nebraska at Kearney;
- Core Compressive Strength and Elastic Modulus Measurements of High-Strength Concrete—Matthew Sherman, Principal Investigator, and Brett Holland, Co-Principal Investigator, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Inc.;
- Transverse Reinforcement Requirements for UHPC Columns: Assessment of Existing ACI Provisions and New Developments—Mohamed Moustafa, Principal Investigator, University of Nevada, Reno;
- Development of FRP Retrofit Guidelines for Deficient Reinforced Concrete Horizontal Lateral Force Resisting Systems—Eric Jacques, Principal Investigator, and Matthew Eatherton, Co-Principal Investigator, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University;
- Shear Behavior of Macro-Synthetic Fiber-Reinforced Concrete—Travis Thonstad, Principal Investigator, and Paolo M. Calvi, Co-Principal Investigator, University of Washington; and
- Minimum Design Requirements for Insulated Concrete Form Wall Systems—Laura Lowes, Principal Investigator, and Dawn Lehman, Co-Principal Investigator, University of Washington.

Annual Request for Research Proposals Opens August 1

The ACI Foundation’s annual Request for Research Proposals (RFP) will open on August 1, 2021, and it will close on December 1, 2021. An important requirement of the RFP is obtaining support from at least one ACI Technical Committee. Principal investigators must contact the appropriate committee Chair before September 17, 2021, so the request can be added as an item for discussion to the committee’s fall ACI Concrete Convention agenda.

Get more details about the grant process online via the ACI Technical Committee Support form and the CRC Grant Guide at www.acifoundation.org/research. Online access to apply will open on August 1 at the same webpage.

ACI Foundation’s Strategic Development Council Technology Forums

The ACI Foundation held the Strategic Development Council (SDC) Technology Forum 49 virtually. Feedback from our attendees showed that the event was a great success. Our next forum, Technology Forum 50, will be held virtually on August 24-26, 2021. The forums have always provided a space for professionals to learn and gather. While it is our preference to meet in person, we are monitoring the ongoing pandemic and will update meeting logistics at www.acifoundation.org/technology/forums.aspx.