

HSU Sponsored Programs Foundation

Job Announcement

Job Title: Research Scientist and/or Policy Specialist

Wage: Salary will depend on skills and experience. We anticipate that the selected candidate will be hired at a salary range between \$5,547 and \$7,800 per month. This is a full-time, benefited, exempt position. Benefits include medical, dental, vision, life coverage, and retirement. This is not a state position.

Essential functions of the job: The Schatz Energy Research Center is seeking a research scientist and/or policy specialist for a full-time position, working on Energy Access. The successful applicant will have a Ph.D. in a relevant discipline and experience related to energy access for low-income people in places such as sub Saharan Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and/or Latin America. The position is based at Humboldt State University (HSU) in Arcata, California (USA). The starting date could be as early as October 2017 and is subject to negotiation. A one-year commitment is required. Continuation is possible and desirable, contingent on funding and performance. We are seeking candidates who are interested to remain at SERC for a number of years and build a robust research portfolio in collaboration with a passionate set of colleagues. The work provides an opportunity to make substantive contributions to addressing energy poverty using clean energy systems.

Background: The [Schatz Energy Research Center](#) (SERC) is an international leader in applied research and project implementation related to international energy access and renewable energy. The Center was founded in 1989 and is housed in a modern facility at HSU. Our dynamic team works on a variety of projects and currently includes about 30 people, including faculty, researchers, administrative staff, and students. SERC's portfolio of projects includes work related to energy access, renewable energy, smart grid technology, energy efficiency, and clean transportation. The work we do cuts across research, development, demonstration and deployment, program implementation, planning, and analysis. SERC is an internationally recognized leader in energy access work through its work in sub Saharan Africa and South Asia on initiatives such as the [Lighting Global Quality Assurance](#) programs and multiple applied interdisciplinary research projects. Over the past five years, SERC has managed over \$6 million in grants and contracts related to clean energy access, including projects funded by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Bank, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), U.S. Department of Energy, and others.

The goal of this job announcement is to bring in a colleague who can help sustain and grow our Energy Access work at SERC through collaboration on current projects and development of new initiatives and partnerships.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Participate in ongoing project activities related to energy access, such as the Lighting Global Quality Assurance program and research related to adoption of off-grid solar products by rural energy users in sub Saharan Africa and South Asia.
- Build a research/project portfolio related to energy access, working in collaboration with SERC's directors, faculty associates, professional staff, and students. This will involve playing a leadership role in the conceptualization and development of proposals for grants and contracts related to energy access and clean energy.
- Manage and/or serve as principal investigator on one or more research projects, working closely with SERC's directors, faculty associates, and professional staff.¹
- Supervise research staff and students as part of project management duties.
- Travel internationally to participate in meetings and field research activities. The position may also involve domestic travel (e.g. to Washington DC) to meet with program partners.

The activities of the selected applicant may vary depending on the person's skills and experience.

¹ Pending approval of the Dean of the College of Natural Resources and Sciences and the HSU Provost, the selected candidate's appointment as a research associate at HSU permits the selected candidate to serve as a principal investigator on grants and contracts.

Minimum Qualifications: Eligible candidates must have a Ph.D. or an equivalent terminal degree in an appropriate field of study at the time of appointment or within three months of the appointment start date. Candidates will have expertise in one or more technical, policy, and/or social science field(s) and meaningful prior research experience related to energy access. Candidates with an interdisciplinary background and experience working productively with a multi-disciplinary team are desirable.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities: The successful candidate's prior research experience should include fieldwork related to energy access in one or more region(s) of interest to SERC, project development and grant writing, publications, and collaboration with partners. In addition, the successful candidate should have strong communication, research, problem solving, critical thinking, and project management skills. She or he should also be highly motivated and self-directed and should work effectively with colleagues and external partners in a collaborative team setting. Candidates should also have excellent writing and editorial skills and experience with standard computer software applications such as Microsoft Word and Excel.

Desirable Qualifications (note that candidates are not expected to have qualifications in all the listed areas):

- Experience with social science theory and methods relevant to energy access and international development
- Technical and/or policy skills in one or more fields related to renewable and efficient energy systems, such as solar energy, energy efficiency, electric power, off-grid energy systems, laboratory testing, standards related to product quality/performance, and others
- Policy and/or business experience related to deployment of products and services related to energy access
- Foreign language proficiency relevant to fieldwork in key regions of interest; French language proficiency is of particular interest
- Data science and statistical analysis experience using R, SQL, Matlab and/or similar computational tools.

Application Procedure: Applicants should submit (i) a letter of application, (ii) a curriculum vitae, (iii) a one-page research statement, (iv) a list of three professional references, and (v) an [HSU SPF Employee Information Form for Applicants](#) to the Schatz Energy Research Center, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA 95521 or via email to serc@humboldt.edu.

The letter of application should include an explanation of the candidate's qualifications and interests with respect to the position, including information about relevant prior experience. The research statement should outline the candidate's vision for development of an energy-access focused research portfolio at SERC. The letter and the research statement will be used in part to evaluate the quality of the candidate's writing.

Application Deadline: The position is open until filled. Application materials received by 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time (US), Friday, August 18, 2017 will receive first consideration.

Questions and Inquiries: For additional information about the position, please send an email to serc@humboldt.edu or call 707-826-4345.

Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation (HSU SPF) is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. We consider qualified applicants for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, medical condition, disability, marital status, protected veteran status, or any other legally protected status. More information about HSU SPF's Equal Employment Opportunity hiring can be found [here](#).

For assistance with the application process, please submit an Accommodation Request Form which can be found [here](#) or call the SPF Interim Compliance Support Coordinator at (707) 826-5159.

A background check (including a criminal records check) must be completed satisfactorily before any candidate can be offered this position within HSU SPF. Failure to satisfactorily complete the background check may affect the application status of applicants or continued employment of current HSU SPF employees who apply for this position.