Request for Proposals (RFP)

Intel CHIPS Scholarship & Fellowship Program
Managed by SRC
Issue Date: February 12, 2026

I. Introduction

Intel Corporation, in collaboration with Semiconductor Research Corporation (SRC), invites universities located in Ohio, Oregon, Arizona, and New Mexico to submit proposals for participation in the Intel Scholarship & Fellowship Program. This program is designed to build a pipeline of highly skilled professionals with advanced degrees in semiconductor-related disciplines in regions where Intel has significant operations. The initiative will provide funding to support scholarships and fellowships for eligible MS and PhD students. A key desired outcome is to increase retention and degree attainment in advanced degrees in engineering and STEM disciplines of interest to the semiconductor industry. Selected institutions will collaborate with SRC and Intel personnel to recruit, mentor, and support students in critical academic disciplines, preparing them for careers in semiconductor innovation

Recruitment and Retention Focus:

This scholarship program is designed to be an influential platform for recruiting and retaining students from economically disadvantaged communities, transfer students, and individuals with demonstrated financial need, as well as high performing students. The financial support provided will help break down barriers to higher education, particularly for those who face challenges accessing or completing a STEM degree. Institutions will be able to leverage these scholarships to actively engage with economically disadvantaged student populations, offering them the resources, mentorship, and encouragement to succeed in their academic and professional endeavors.

Program Structure and Staggered Start:

Institutions may propose funding for cohorts of up to 8 students for the Masters degree level and 10 students for the PhD degree level. To ensure the program's success and scalability, scholarships and fellowships will be awarded with flexibility to stagger start dates for students within each cohort. Institutions will be selected in early 2026 for programs that start in either academic year 2026-2027 or 2027-2028. Proposers should clearly indicate their preferred start date for the scholarship and/or fellowship cohort program in their proposal. Selected institutions will have the flexibility to stagger the enrollment of scholarship recipients over two academic years for MS students and three academic years for PhD students following the award (e.g., for programs starting in 2026, students may begin in either the 2026-2027 or 2027-2028 academic year). This phased approach allows flexibility in program implementation, permitting institutions to tailor the experience to their specific needs while ensuring the program's scalability and success.

This program structure provides each group of institutions with ample time to establish their cohort programs while collaborating with Intel and SRC and to ensure successful implementation and maintainability. The staggered start of student scholarship and fellowship recipients offers two key benefits for participating institutions: (1) flexibility to align scholarship and fellowship opportunities with academic enrollment timelines, boosting their use as a targeted recruitment tool; and (2) the ability to identify and support at-risk students, using the program to bolster retention efforts. This adaptive approach ensures that institutions can effectively meet both enrollment and retention goals while addressing the specific needs of their students. Furthermore, staggered start dates facilitate ongoing feedback and continuous improvement, ensuring the program delivers meaningful benefits to students, participating institutions, and Intel.

Benefits of the Staggered Start:

The phased rollout of the program allows us to monitor the effectiveness of the overall program, make modifications, and ensure institutions are equipped to build strong, sustainable connections with under-resourced and transfer student communities. Additionally, launching the program in stages allows flexibility to adapt and optimize based on real-time feedback from students and faculty. This approach ensures that we strengthen the talent pipeline over time and expand the program's impact across the four states where Intel has semiconductor manufacturing investments.

II. Program Objectives

1. Student Support:
    - Provide 2-year scholarships to 48 MS students and 3-year fellowships to 30 PhD candidates over the next five years.
    - Focus on U.S. citizens pursuing degrees in Materials Science, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Engineering, Microelectronics Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Optical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. Degrees of interest vary by degree level. Please refer to the table in section IV. Cohort Requirements.
2. Broadening Participation in STEM fields:
    - Encourage the recruitment of students from economically disadvantaged and other underserved communities to broaden participation and inclusion in STEM fields.
3. Workforce Alignment:
    - Prepare students for careers in semiconductor-related fields, with an emphasis on high-demand roles aligned with Intel's talent needs.

III. Student Eligibility Requirements

To participate in this program, students must satisfy the following eligibility requirements:

Eligibility Criteria	Details
Citizenship	Must be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or permanent resident.
Enrollment	Must be enrolled full-time in an accredited STEM degree program (MS or PhD) with a focus on target disciplines outline in section IV.
Target Disciplines	Must be pursuing a STEM degree aligned with the program's target disciplines (see Section IV: Cohort Requirements)
Academic Standing	Must be in good academic standing as defined by the institution (no minimum GPA required)
Flexibility for Extenuating Cases	Consideration will be given for students with extenuating circumstances or additional qualifications (e.g., work experience, coursework, projects)
Interest in STEM Careers	Must demonstrate a strong interest in STEM careers, particularly in the semiconductor industry
Program Engagement	Must commit to participating in workshops, enrichment opportunities, and utilizing Intel-sponsored curricula and tools

IV. Cohort Requirements

Institutions may apply for funding for MS cohort, PhD cohort, or any combination. A separate proposal must be submitted for **each degree cohort.** Institutes should limit their submissions to no more than 2 proposals for each degree cohort. Institutions may propose funding for cohorts of up to eight students for MS degree level and 10 students for PhD degree level. The table below shows the targeted disciplines for each degree level cohort and requirements.

V. Cohort Funding Allocations

The program allocations are as follows: MS scholarships are awarded for a maximum of 2 years, providing financial support to master's students throughout their degree programs. PhD fellowships offer comprehensive support for up to 3 years, including stipends and school-related fees for advanced research students. Proposers are encouraged to explore tuition waivers and other complementary funding options to maximize the amount of support available to students. Principal Investigator (PI) incentives are scaled based on the degree level and cohort size they manage, incentivizing active engagement and program

Degree Level	Funding Duration	Targeted Disciplines	Student Eligibility	Program Goals	Additional Requirements
MS	2 years	Materials Science, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Engineering, Microelectronics Engineering, Optical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering	U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or permanent residents enrolled in eligible institutions	Prepare master's students with advanced technical knowledge aligned with semiconductor industry needs	Must detail plans to retain BS scholars transitioning into MS programs and strategies for mentoring students
PhD	3 years	Materials Science, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Engineering, Microelectronics Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Optical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering	U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or permanent residents enrolled in eligible institutions	Support advanced research and development skills essential for semiconductor innovation	Proposals must include mentorship plans and strategies for guiding students toward industry careers or postdoctoral opportunities. Proposals should describe a representative of an exemplar semi research project that the students may be working on.

support. Additionally, funds are designated for student development, promoting participation in activities such as STEM workshops, poster sessions, and social events that foster collaboration, learning, and community building among students.

The table below summarizes the scholarship and fellowship funding per degree level, PI incentives, and student development allocations.

*Proposers are encouraged to explore tuition waivers and other complimentary funding to maximize the amount of funding available to the students.

VI. Success Objectives of Program

Category	Details	Amount (per year)
Scholarship for MS Students	Up to 2 years (contingent on meeting program criteria and approval for continued funding in the second year)	$15,000/year
Fellowship for PhD Students	Up to 3 years (includes stipend and school-related fees; contingent on meeting program criteria and approval for funding in subsequent years)	$60,000/year (at least $45,000 should be applied to student stipend) *
PI Incentives	Varies based on degree level and cohort size	$5,000-10,000 total (not yearly)
Student Development Allocation	Allocated per student annually for enrichment activities, STEM events, poster sessions, supplies, journals, etc.	~$500/student/year

*Proposers are encouraged to explore tuition waivers and other complimentary funding to maximize the amount of funding available to the students.

The program success objectives are designed to ensure the development of a highly skilled talent pool with a broad range of backgrounds and expertise, aligned with the semiconductor industry's needs. For master's students, success will include the completion of relevant technical or research projects, active participation in internships, and their transition into PhD programs or semiconductor-related careers. For PhD candidates, success will be marked by the completion of a 3-year fellowship, the delivery of high-impact research, engagement with Intel mentors, and post-fellowship placement in the semiconductor industry, academia, or relevant government careers. These objectives ensure that the program not only supports students' academic and professional growth but also meets the strategic priorities of the semiconductor industry.

We highly encourage proposers to amplify the impact of the proposed scholarship and fellowship cohorts by leveraging existing institutional, regional, state, federal, or industry-supported programs where appropriate. Please incorporate into the proposal synergistic matching grants or co-funding arrangements—including, but not limited to, support from the Semiconductor Research Corporation (SRC), National Science Foundation (NSF), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), institutional funding, or other public or private sponsors. Proposals that demonstrate existing or planned multi-institution collaborations, including joint fellowship and/or scholarship programs, will receive higher evaluation priority.

There is no limit on IP-compatible funding amplification. Proposers may identify funding for related or complementary work obtained from other sources, including institutional or external sponsors, that would amplify the proposed project. Such funding will be considered provided the supported work is IP-compatible, including a commitment to a public dedication approach or the provision of non-exclusive,

royalty-free research and commercial licenses to Intel for any resulting intellectual property. There is no limit on the amount of amplified funding that may be identified.

Degree Level	Objectives of Success
MS	• Enrollment of a well-rounded cohort of master students aligned with semiconductor workforce needs • Completion of 2-year scholarship program • Completion of a technical or research project relevant to Intel's innovation goals • Internship participation at Intel or related semiconductor companies Transition into semiconductor-related PhD programs or direct semiconductor workforce placement
PhD	• Enrollment of highly skilled PhD candidates in semiconductor-focused disciplines • Completion of 3-year fellowship program with a focus on high-impact research • Delivery of at least one published research paper or conference presentation • Participation in advanced mentorship and leadership training activities • Collaboration with Intel technologist mentors from Intel's R&D teams during fellowship term • Post-fellowship placement in the semiconductor industry, academia, or relevant government careers

The program will be monitored and assessed by Intel and SRC to ensure institutions and students have met deliverables and key performance indicators for continued funding distributions.

VII. Proposal Submission Requirements

Institutions must submit a proposal responding separately to each degree program (MS or PhD) criteria for which they are applying. Each institution may submit a maximum of two proposals in total per institution and is encouraged to coordinate internally prior to submission. Each proposal must include:

1. Executive Summary:
    - Overview of the institution's strengths and alignment with program goals.
2. Institutional Capabilities:
    - Description of semiconductor relevant STEM programs, faculty expertise, and research infrastructure.
3. Program Plan:
    - Recruitment strategies tailored to each degree program.
    - Plans to support economically disadvantaged and underserved communities.

- Proposed mentorship, career development, and retention strategies.
- Semiconductor related degree programs that would be targeted for the scholarship/fellowship cohort. It is encouraged to collaborate across degrees/departments on multidisciplinary cohorts. It is not required to include all the example degrees/departments of interest.
- Plans describing the types of experiential learning opportunities to be offered to students, such as cleanroom experience, project-based learning, research projects, etc.
- ***For PhD Fellowship Awards:*** Proposed semiconductor relevant research areas for PhD fellowship awards and the institution's current research capabilities and faculty who would be engaged in advising students in the program.

4. Evaluation and Metrics:
    - Metrics for tracking success, including retention rates and workforce placement.
    - Institutions will assess and verify that students maintain good academic standing, as defined by their institution, prior to scholarship or fellowship renewal.
5. Partnership Plan:
    - Collaborative approach with Intel and SRC personnel encompassing annual reviews, workshops, and regular engagement with Intel liaisons.
6. Budget
    - Proposers may include their own institutional budget sheet to supplement the required budget summary and to clearly justify requested funds.
    - Recommended Budget Categories and line items
        - Direct Student Support (required)
            1. MS - annual scholarship amount for duration up to 2 yrs
            2. PhD - annual stipend of $45,000/yr and tuition/fees up to $15,000/yr ($60,000 max)
                i. Tuition waivers applied (if applicable)

    Leveraged dollars

VIII. Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

1. Alignment with Program Objectives:
    - Clear focus on semiconductor-related disciplines and workforce needs.

2. Commitment to Broadening Participation in STEM Fields:
    - Robust strategies to recruit and support economically disadvantaged communities.
3. Institutional Strength:
    - Proven capacity to implement and sustain the program effectively.
4. Degree-Specific Plans:
    - Tailored, comprehensive strategies for each degree program.
5. Qualification of Principal Investigators:
    - Expertise and prior experience of the faculty Principal Investigator(s) leading the cohort will be considered. Prior experience in semiconductor relevant research areas is strongly desired.
6. Collaboration:
    - Proposer demonstrates established or planned collaborations with other universities, including joint fellowships and/or scholarship programs; proposals that include such collaborative opportunities will receive higher evaluation priority.
7. Budget Feasibility (PhD proposals only):
    - Provide a realistic and well-justified funding request, with a cap of $60,000 per fellowship.
    - Include a detailed breakdown of the funding allocation, specifying the portion allocated directly to the student (e.g., stipends) and the amount designated for additional fees (e.g., tuition or research expenses). At least $45,000 should be applied to student stipend.
    - Proposers are strongly encouraged to explore and incorporate tuition waivers or other complementary funding sources to maximize the financial support available to students.

IX. Responsibilities of Institutions

Institutions will be responsible for:

- Student Selection:
    - Institutions will be responsible for selecting students through a competitive process using SRC's platform. This includes convening a selection committee to evaluate student applications based on eligibility criteria.
    - Final student selections will be approved by Intel and SRC.
    - Institutions will assess and verify that students maintain good academic standing, as defined by their institution, prior to scholarship/fellowship renewal.

- Engagement with Intel and SRC:
    - Institutions will engage with Intel and SRC to integrate semiconductor-specific mentorship, research projects, and training opportunities.
    - We encourage institutions and students to collaborate with Intel by integrating Intel's existing curricula, tools, and training materials, where applicable, to support their research and studies. This approach ensures alignment with the semiconductor industry's needs, equipping students with relevant skills and industry-specific knowledge.
    - Institutions will be encouraged to facilitate research opportunities, hands on experiential learning opportunities, and site visits to Intel facilities for students.
- Event Location and Travel:
    - Most program events will occur on institution campuses or virtually. Some events, such as networking sessions or facility tours, may occur at Intel sites or other mutually agreed-upon regional locations.
    - Students will be supported for travel to Intel sites for seminars, technical workshops, and other program-related events. Travel costs should be factored into the award budget.

X. Intel Engagement with Institutions and Students

One of the best ways to engage with Intel is for scholarship and fellowship award recipients to complete Intel's Talent form, joining Intel's Talent Community. By doing so, students gain direct access to Intel's career development resources and networking opportunities, which are essential for fostering long-term career growth within the semiconductor industry. Intel liaisons will be made available and play a critical role in fostering strong connections between the company, partner institutions, and award recipients. Their involvement ensures a meaningful exchange of ideas and helps align academic and research outcomes with industry needs.

- Guest Lectures and Technical Talks Intel liaisons may deliver guest lectures or technical talks on semiconductor technologies, industry trends, and career opportunities. These sessions provide students with valuable insights and expose them to real-world applications of their studies.
- Mentorship and Networking
  Liaisons may mentor students by offering guidance on academic projects, research, and career planning. Regular one-on-one or group interactions can help students build confidence and develop professional networks within Intel.
- Institution Events and Activities
  Intel representatives may participate in institution-hosted events such as poster sessions, STEM showcases, and Intel hosted virtual/or on campus events. Their presence at these events can enhance visibility for Intel and strengthen ties with the academic community.

- Internship and Job Placement Support
  Student scholarship recipients will be encouraged to enroll in the Intel Talent Community to be notified about potential career and internship opportunities at Intel. Intel's talent organization will engage with student scholarship recipients early and often, establishing ongoing relationships and interest in future careers with Intel.

- Research Collaboration
  Intel liaisons may work with Principal Investigators (PIs) to identify research projects of mutual interest. These collaborations allow students to gain hands-on experience in cutting-edge semiconductor technologies while contributing to Intel's innovation pipeline.

By maintaining consistent engagement with institutions and students, Intel liaisons help bridge the gap between academia and industry, fostering a talent pipeline that meets the evolving needs of the semiconductor workforce.

XI. Submission Process

Submit proposals to SRC via SRC's online submission platform by February 12, 2026, including "Intel Scholarship & Fellowship Proposal – [Institution Name]" in the subject line.

For questions, inquiries, or further information, contact SRC Talent Acquisition @ TalentAcquisition@src.org.

XII. Timeline

- RFP Issuance Date: February 12, 2026
- Proposal Submission Deadline: March 25, 2026
- Student Applications Submissions: April 23, 2026
- Student Submission Deadline: May 13, 2026
- Award Notification Date: April 16, 2026

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Intel and SRC look forward to collaborating with leading academic institutions to cultivate the next generation of semiconductor innovators and build a cultivated, skilled talent pool representing varied perspectives and academic strengths, aligned with the semiconductor industry's needs.