Lillian Gilbreth Postdoctoral Fellowships at Purdue Engineering

The Gilbreth Postdoctoral Fellowships at Purdue Engineering are awarded in memory of Dr. Lillian Moller Gilbreth, Professor at Purdue from 1935-1948. A world renowned pioneer in the application of psychology to industrial engineering, Dr. Gilbreth’s work epitomized interdisciplinary research and broader impact on industry and society. Dr. Gilbreth laid the foundations of modern industrial engineering, invented designs of consumer appliances, hospital, office, and sport equipment to make work and life easier, and was a consultant to many major corporations. She was elected to the US National Academy of Engineering (NAE) in 1965 and awarded the prestigious Hoover Medal in 1966 for “contributions to motion study and to recognition of the principle that management engineering and human relations are intertwined”. The NAE also established the Gilbreth Lectureship in 2001 as a means of recognizing outstanding young American engineers. Beginning in 1930, by serving on President Hoover’s Emergency Committee on Employment, she was as an advisor to five U.S. presidents on committees dealing with civil defense, war production, and rehabilitation of the handicapped. She also received more than twenty honorary doctorates from prestigious institutions. Purdue University’s e-archives and special collections feature many historical materials on Dr. Gilbreth’s life and career.

The goal of the Lillian Gilbreth Postdoctoral Fellowship Program at Purdue Engineering is to attract and prepare outstanding individuals with recently awarded PhD’s for a career in engineering academia through interdisciplinary research, training and professional development.

The Lillian Gilbreth Postdoctoral Fellows are selected not only for their outstanding scholarly achievements and proposed innovative interdisciplinary research but also for their potential for broader impact on industry and society. They undertake research with faculty mentors in different fields and participate in professional development activities tailored to their chosen path in academia.

ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS

Individuals who have either completed their PhD within two years of the Fellowship application deadline or are in the final year of their PhD program in engineering or related sciences at the time of application can apply.

Gilbreth Fellows will have two co-advisors. One faculty co-advisor must have a primary appointment in an Engineering school/division. The second must have a primary appointment in a different Engineering school/division or at a non-engineering department at Purdue. An additional third collaborator from within or outside Purdue can also participate in the project.

Applicants can (a) propose their own innovative research proposal and suggest potential Purdue co-advisors, or (b) choose to develop their proposal based on interdisciplinary topics already posted by faculty on the fellowship website.

Gilbreth Fellows are appointed for a two-year term, and receive an annual stipend of $60,000 and benefits. A $5,000 grant is also provided for professional development such as attending conferences or workshops and are mentored for their future academic careers through a variety of programs.

The Gilbreth Fellowship is a full time appointment and the Fellows undertake research with their faculty co-advisors, participate in professional development activities, and are required to prepare and submit short annual reports on their achievements.

1 Candidates with PhD’s from Purdue can apply however their postdoctoral fellowship co-advisors cannot include their thesis advisor(s).
APPLICATION MATERIALS

1. Cover letter describing how the Gilbreth Fellowship will help the candidates progress towards their goals in Engineering academia.
2. Curriculum Vitae including list of publications.
3. One-page research statement that includes goals and significance of proposed interdisciplinary work and suggests potential Purdue engineering faculty members who can be co-advisors.
4. A one-page essay on their proposed broader impact through education/outreach/engagement.
5. Three letters of recommendation that include detailed assessments of (a) the candidate’s qualifications and (b) potential for success in academia through scholarly research and broader impact through research/education/engagement. These letters should be emailed directly from the recommenders to coeoaa@purdue.edu.

Applicants should upload the cover letter, curriculum vita, research statement and impact statement as a single .pdf file on the fellowship website.

KEY DATES


Deadline for letters of recommendation: all three of the candidate's letters of recommendation must be received by December 15, 2018. These letters should be emailed directly from the recommender to coeoaa@purdue.edu.

Awardees will be selected based on faculty committee recommendations and approval of co-advisors and school/division heads. Gilbreth Fellowship awardees will be notified on March 15, 2019.

Fellowship start dates must be in 2019, and for international applicants, the dates must allow sufficient time for awardees to secure the relevant visa.

FUNDING MODEL

- The College of Engineering will provide $50K annually towards a Gilbreth Fellow’s annual stipend with prorated benefits.
- The two co-advisors will contribute a total of $10K in salary annually with prorated benefits and will be responsible for providing all research equipment and supplies and expenses for the proposed research.
- The Schools/Departments of the two Purdue co-advisors will each contribute $2,500 towards a $5,000 total professional development grant.

MENTORING PLAN

A draft mentoring plan developed by the co-advisors will be included in the offer letter to the Gilbreth Fellowship awardees, but there would be an expectation that the mentors and mentee will work together during the first 3 months to develop a comprehensive Individual Development Plan (IDP).