



---

---

## IGERT Fellow Opportunities and Obligations in the STAIR program

---

---

### Overview

As an IGERT Fellow in the STAIR program, the student will earn a Ph.D. in one of the five participating departments: (1) Biochemical, Cellular and Molecular Biology, (2) Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, (3) Chemistry, (4) Civil and Environmental Engineering, and (5) Materials Science and Engineering. The research project will come from one of three task areas associated with the STAIR program: (1) Production of Hydrogen through Biological Pathways, (2) Storage of Hydrogen in Functionalized Nanostructured Materials, and (3) Conversion of Hydrogen to Energy in Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cells. The research project will be advised by a faculty member participating in the STAIR program.

### IGERT Fellowship Features

The IGERT Fellowship in the STAIR program will provide five years of support for the Fellow. Four of the five years will include a \$30,000 annual stipend plus tuition and health benefits. One of the five years will require the student work as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) for the home department, during which the student will be supported at the standard departmental GTA level, which includes tuition. The IGERT Fellowship includes an allowance for laboratory materials and supplies and an annual travel allowance to present research at professional conferences. The IGERT Fellow will also participate in the STAIR curriculum, which includes (1) lecture-based courses developing fluency in each of the three task areas, (2) case-studied based courses, in which fundamental concepts are applied to important examples in sustainable energy arena, (3) seminars featuring nationally-recognized speakers, and (4) colloquia in which the fellows interact with speakers, STAIR faculty, and their peers in all three task areas.

### IGERT Fellow Obligations

Fellows in the STAIR program are required to complete the PhD requirements of their home department, participate in the STAIR curriculum, and seize the opportunity to contribute to a dynamic, multidisciplinary research environment composed of all STAIR participants.

**Contact:** David Keffer, [dkeffer@utk.edu](mailto:dkeffer@utk.edu), <http://clausius.engr.utk.edu>

STAIR requirements: U.S. citizen or permanent resident in the Ph.D program



The STAIR Program at the **University of Tennessee:**  
Training superheroes to save the world,  
one engineer at a time.