

**NSF Student/Early Career Researcher Travel Award for MSEC 2026/NAMRC 54,
Penn State University, State College, PA, June 14-18, 2026**

A proposal has been submitted to the National Science Foundation, which (if granted) will support selected students and early-career engineers (e.g., postdocs or recent graduates working in industry or national labs) from the United States to participate in [MSEC 2026 / NAMRC 54](#). The proposal review was delayed due to the 2025 U.S. federal government shutdown. In anticipation of the proposal being granted, we are inviting applications for the Travel Award.



Key dates:

- March 6, 2026, Application deadline
- March 20, 2026, Notification of award
- March 31, 2026, Awardee registration deadline

All applications for the NSF Student/Early Career Researcher Travel Award should be made via the online form. Applications submitted in any other way will not be considered for the award.

1. Fill out the online application form here: <https://forms.gle/g6MYRaMwwf47AbFZ7>
2. BEFORE beginning on your online application form, you should have the following two items ready to upload:
 - **Personal Statement:** In 150 words or fewer, please identify and explain the broader impacts of your academic or industrial research/practice, particularly as it addresses the challenges faced by the manufacturing industry. Do not simply cut-and-paste an abstract from your paper or poster. *[Note: You will be required to paste this statement into the appropriate text box in the online application.]*
 - **Signature Form:** This form must be signed by the applicant and their advisor or supervisor and uploaded along with the online application. The application will be considered incomplete without this form uploaded. The form can be downloaded from the online form link provided above.

Make sure the form is a PDF file of not more than 2 MB in size and has the required filename format: *Travel2026_yourfirstname_yourlastname.pdf*

You will be instructed how to submit the form during the online application.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Do not register for the conference yourself if you are applying for this NSF Student/Early Career Researcher Travel Award. Your registration fee and accommodation will be covered by the travel award. In other words, this is not a process where you pay for registration and lodging and get reimbursed afterward. The costs will be managed directly, so that awardees never have to carry these charges. The mandatory author registration deadline is March 31, 2026. Hence, if you do not receive one of these awards, you will still have time to register for the conference at the “early bird rate” (March 31, 2026).

Conference key dates available are at: <https://www.engr.psu.edu/events/namrc-msec/about.aspx>

Before applying, please note that to qualify for the award, you must (no exceptions):

1. Reside and study/work in the United States,
2. Attend the conference and participate in the technical sessions and other events, and
3. Attend the Early Career Forum organized by ASME/MED and NAMRI/SME (at the conference).

Travel Award Contact:

Chinedum Okwudire, Professor
Department of Mechanical Engineering
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA
Email: okwudire@umich.edu

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

1. The award will cover registration and lodging for the entire conference. The awardee is responsible for paying for travel and other expenses.
2. An awardee's advisor/supervisor must endorse the application (see instructions above for Signature Form for application).
3. If you are planning to apply for an award, do not register for the conference until you are informed of an award decision. This notification will be made before the "Early Bird" registration deadline for the conference (March 31, 2026).
4. We anticipate making around 50 travel awards.
5. You must be studying or working in the United States at the time of the conference to be eligible for an award.
6. The following individuals are eligible to apply for the award: undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and working engineers in industry or a national lab who have received their most recent degree within the last three calendar years (i.e., since January 2023 for the 2026 conference).
7. In the selection process, preference will be given to applicants who have not previously attended or presented their work at this conference; applicants who have not previously received an NSF travel award for this conference; and applicants who do not have access to other travel support (e.g., from their educational institution or place of employment).
8. This award will cover specific student lodgings only reserved by the conference host, not any other self-booked hotel rooms.
9. The application deadline will not be extended.
10. No late applications will be considered.