

Canada Excellence Research Chair in the Socio-Economic Value of Renewable Energy in Remote Communities

The [University of Saskatchewan](https://www.usask.ca) (USask) is pleased to invite applications for a **Canada Excellence Research Chair** in *the Socio-Economic Value of Renewable Energy in Remote Communities*. The Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) Program is the flagship of a national strategy to make Canada one of the world's top countries in research and innovation (<https://www.cerc.gc.ca/home-accueil-eng.aspx>). Chairholders will be awarded up to \$1 million per year for a period of 8 years.

Given the global importance of the transition from carbon-based fuels to renewable energy and the large number of remote, energy-isolated communities in Canada's North, USask is committed to providing national and international leadership on how renewable energy can help address basic needs, as well as economic and social reconciliation in Canada and beyond. Such leadership can also provide a global opportunity to transfer the lessons for achieving energy security, expanding economic and social development, and reconciliation to the other 1.2 billion people on Earth without access to electricity.

Position Profile

We are seeking an applied social scientist whose innovative research program complements and builds on the established records of a core group of energy researchers across USask in economics, geography, political science, public policy, engineering, and other disciplines. In addition, we are seeking someone who will contribute to understanding how renewable energy can help address economic and social reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada and beyond.

The successful candidate will be the catalyst to establish the USask as a global leader in any of the following or similar fields:

- Understanding social drivers, dynamics and consequences of energy system change.
- Modelling the social and economic opportunities, benefits and costs of renewable energy in remote communities.
- Identifying and shaping national and international policy agendas to maximize the socio-economic value of the energy transition for remote communities.
- Mobilizing knowledge to enable remote communities to lead energy transitions nationally and globally.

The successful nominee will initiate and lead an innovative and impactful program of research, foster extensive interdisciplinary and multi-sector collaborations, and raise the profile and impact of USask through an innovative research program and knowledge mobilization efforts within and beyond academia. The academic home of this position will be determined in partnership with the successful candidate and will be either the School of Environment and Sustainability, College of Arts and Science, or College of Engineering. A joint appointment including two units is also possible.

The University of Saskatchewan has identified *Energy and Minerals for a Sustainable Future* as one of a select number of Signature areas, recognizing our institution's existing research strength and potential

for impact. USask is also home to several other significant programs, initiatives and chairs that will complement the work of the CERC. These include the federally funded (SSHRC) flagship research initiative “Community Appropriate Sustainable Energy Security”, a professional Masters’ program in Energy Security, a University of the Arctic Thematic Network, the Fulbright Arctic III initiative, and an extensive cohort of faculty and research chairs with expertise spanning technology solutions for energy security in remote, northern and Indigenous communities, bioenergy, comparative energy policy and energy transitions, community energy development, and socio-economic impacts of renewable energy development in remote communities.

The University of Saskatchewan is one of Canada’s top 15 research-intensive universities. The University is located in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, a city on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River known for its quality of life, diverse and thriving economic base, a vibrant arts community, and a full range of leisure opportunities. The University has a reputation for excellence in teaching, research and scholarly activities and offers a full range of undergraduate, graduate and professional programs to a student population of over 24,000. Its main campus is situated on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respects to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another. Together, we are uplifting Indigenization to a place of prominence at the University of Saskatchewan.

Qualifications

We are seeking candidates who demonstrate excellence, innovation, creativity, and leadership in research through an exceptional record of research excellence with demonstrated international status and impact in their field. The successful candidate will have a track record of leading a vibrant research program and a superior ability to secure competitive external research funding. Applicants will demonstrate excellence in teaching and graduate student and postdoctoral fellow supervision, a commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion in research design and research team formation, and the capacity to engage and inspire research teams from across the university and beyond to transform the energy security research landscape at USask and nationally. We emphasize that the successful candidate will be an internationally recognized research leader with experience in either academia, government, or the private sector. The nominee must be a full professor, or associate professor expected to be promoted to full professor within one or two years of the CERC nomination. Alternatively, if from outside of the academic sector, nominees must possess the qualifications necessary to be appointed at these levels.

The successful applicant will be appointed as a tenured faculty member and will be nominated for a Canada Excellence Research Chair. The CERC nomination is subject to review and final approval by the CERC Secretariat. The faculty appointment is conditional on approval of the CERC. We offer a very competitive salary with merit-based additions, as well as: a comprehensive benefits package with a dental, health and extended vision care plan; a pension plan, life insurance, academic long-term disability, sick leave, travel insurance, death benefits plans; an employee assistance program; a professional expense allowance; and a flexible health and wellness spending program.

How to Apply

Applications for this position should include a cover letter outlining the candidate’s alignment with the advertised position, a detailed curriculum vitae, a summary of key research achievements (1 page max), an outline of the proposed research program (2 pages max), a statement on how the candidate’s research, teaching, outreach, and/or mentorship demonstrates a commitment to diversity and inclusion

(1 page max), and the names and contact information for three referees. Applications should be submitted using the University's online application portal. Click on the "Apply Now" button (top left side of the page) to submit an application. Visit the "[Tips for Applying](#)" page for instructions on how to apply. As part of the application process, applicants will be asked to complete a voluntary employment equity survey.

Review of applications will begin on **May 15, 2022**, and continue until a suitable candidate is found. The CERC supports research excellence and recognizes that principles of equity, diversity and inclusion are fundamental to this goal. USask is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace, and encourages applications from individuals from all underrepresented groups, including members of racialized minorities, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, women, and individuals from the LGBTQ2+ community. Recruitment will be guided by the Canada Research Chairs Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Practices (www.chairs-chaire.gc.ca/program-programme/equity-equite/index-eng.aspx) and by the strong commitment of the University of Saskatchewan to diversity, inclusion, and equity, and all qualified applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.

The impact of personal leaves, interruptions or slowdowns (e.g., parental leaves, slowdowns due to illness or disability, COVID-19 impacts) and professional circumstances (e.g., extended responsibilities, cultural contributions) will be carefully considered when reviewing the candidate's record of research achievement. Candidates are encouraged to explain in their application how personal or professional circumstances may have impacted research productivity. Furthermore, USask is committed to supporting employees in need of accommodation in an employment context. For more information on the University's accommodation policy, please contact Ashley.Cates@usask.ca (306-966-7321).

For questions related to this position or the selection process, please contact Dr. Karsten Liber, Chair, Interdisciplinary Search Subcommittee at Karsten.Liber@usask.ca or (306) 966-1499.

Date Posted: April 4, 2022

The University believes equity, diversity, and inclusion strengthen the community and enhance excellence, innovation and creativity. We are dedicated to recruiting individuals who will enrich our work and learning environments. We are committed to providing accommodations to those with a disability or medical necessity. If you require accommodation in order to participate in the recruitment process, please notify us and we will work together on the accommodation request. The University of Saskatchewan's main campus is situated on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respects to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.