**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:**

**SUMMER 2021 ENERGY ACCESS RESEARCH PROJECTS**

**SPONSORED BY THE ENERGY ACCESS PROJECT AT DUKE UNIVERSITY**

The [Energy Access Project](https://energyaccess.duke.edu/) at Duke University (EAP) is a research and policy effort that aims to address the challenges around increasing access to modern energy solutions to underserved populations in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Established in 2017, the project supports foundational research and fosters constructive dialogue among the world’s policy makers, entrepreneurs, and scholars to identify ways of applying that research.

EAP invites proposals for research projects in Summer 2021 related to energy access in LMICs, with a focus on either modern technologies and fuels for cooking, or access to reliable, affordable, safe, and sustainable electricity. EAP is particularly interested in projects that (i) promote innovative approaches to accelerate sustainable energy transitions in LMICs; (ii) offer insights that are applicable or generalizable to wider audiences; (iii) help to close the "know‐do gap" between academic researchers and public and private practitioners; and/or (iv) are related to ongoing research or research interests of Duke faculty.

Undergraduate and graduate students at Duke University who are currently enrolled, and will be enrolled full‐time at Duke in Fall 2021, are eligible to apply for up to $3,000. While funding is available for a variety of research projects, those research projects much be faculty-led by a Duke faculty member.

We will prioritize proposals for research projects in the field (i.e., in LMICs with communities that directly experience energy access challenges); however, we will also accept proposals for projects based at Duke, or in other parts of the developed world. While EAP recognizes that energy poverty exists worldwide, including in high-income countries, at present we focus primarily on LMICs. If you are uncertain if your setting is included, we encourage you to contact us before applying.

We will prioritize funding for travel and living expenses, and we will also consider (with lower priority) funding to purchase equipment or data, or translation services.

**Due to the Covid-19, all-EAP funded work in summer 2021 may need to be conducted remotely if Duke University's evolving pandemic policies require it.**

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis pending availability of funds, beginning February 28, 2021.

**Proposal Questions**

1. Your contact information: Name, degree program and expected graduation year, department, faculty advisor, and email address.
2. Description of the project. This section should be reasonably well detailed, and should include specific responsibilities to the extent you know them. If the experience includes field work, please also indicate how long you intend to stay in the country, and where specifically you will be (in one city, traveling to communities, etc.).
3. Description of the sponsoring organization (if applicable), including location, and the nature of your conversations with the organization to date. Please note whether the organization has agreed to provide logistical and institutional support, and describe the nature of this support (e.g., an office space, teammates, logistical or language support for travel, etc.).
4. How your proposed project contributes to the priorities of the EAP, as noted in this call for proposals and on the [EAP website](https://energyaccess.duke.edu/). If you believe your project relates to ongoing research or research interests of Duke faculty, please identify the relevant faculty member(s) and describe how it relates to their research program(s).
5. How your proposal fits within your academic program, and within your broader learning goals and/or professional goals.
6. What other funding sources you have applied or intend to apply for, including amounts you have already secured. (For undergraduates, please indicate if you have also applied to Duke Engage; if not, please explain why not.)
7. A proposed budget.

**Submitting your proposal**

Please submit your proposal to Victoria Plutshack at victoria.plutshack@duke.edu. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis pending availability of funds, beginning February 28, 2021.

**Contact**

Questions or clarifications may be addressed to **Victoria Plutshack**, Policy Associate at the Nicholas Institute: victoria.plutshack@duke.edu.