Lighting Research Center Expands Educational Program, Offers Paid Externships

Dr. N. Narendran, Ph.D.
Professor, Director of Research
Lighting Research Center,
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, NY

Science and technology education has grown considerably in the past decade, and many new graduates are entering the workforce with university degrees in applied sciences and engineering. Lighting is one career area that is growing, especially the field of solid-state lighting, and more graduates are needed with education and experience in the science and art of lighting. To meet this demand, the Lighting Research Center (LRC) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York, USA, has recently expanded its Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Lighting. Starting in August 2017, students enrolled in the degree program will spend nine months engaged in hands-on learning with world-class faculty and research experts in architecture, engineering, design, and biosciences, followed by a paid career externship at a leading lighting manufacturer, design firm, or government organization in the United States.

“The new externship program is an excellent opportunity for students to gain additional real-world career experience in lighting, outside of the classroom and laboratory,” said Rensselaer Professor Nadarajah Narendran, Ph.D., the LRC’s director of research. “It is a bridge to a career in lighting.” The paid externship will last for three months or more with one of many major lighting organizations that have agreed to host LRC students.

In 1990, the LRC became the first university research center to offer graduate degrees in lighting and today offers an M.S. and a Ph.D., as well as shorter professional seminars, to educate future leaders in lighting. The LRC is part of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, America’s first technological research university, founded in 1824. With more than 35 faculty and staff working closely with 15 select graduate students, and a 30,000-square-foot laboratory space, the LRC is the largest university-based lighting research and education organization in the world.

The M.S. in Lighting program is the premier master’s-level graduate degree offered in the field of lighting, focusing on technology, design, human factors, and applications. Students enrolled in the program explore emerging trends in customisation and data analytics, in areas such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and connected lighting, 3D printing of lighting components, lighting for circadian health and wellbeing, lighting for plant health, aviation and automotive lighting, and other topics in lighting technology, application, and design. The LRC attracts students with undergraduate degrees in engineering, physics, biology, psychology, architecture, and design.

The program culminates in a master’s project in the second semester during which each student focuses on a particular area of interest under the guidance of a faculty advisor. Some examples of recent student projects include: remote monitoring of LED lighting system performance, designing a portfolio of lighting patterns to support circadian health and wellbeing, studying the impact of lighting on performance, and evaluating OLED and edge-lit LED lighting panels.

The application deadline for Fall 2017 is January 2, 2017. For more information, visit: http://www.lrc.rpi.edu/education/graduateEducation/degrees/msintroduction.asp

About the Lighting Research Center
The Lighting Research Center (LRC) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is the world’s leading center for lighting research and education. Established in 1988 by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the LRC has been pioneering research in solid-state lighting, light and health, transportation lighting and safety, and energy efficiency for nearly 30 years. LRC lighting scientists with multidisciplinary expertise in research, technology, design, and human factors, collaborate with a global network of leading manufacturers and government agencies, developing innovative lighting solutions for projects that range from the Boeing 787 Dreamliner to U.S. Navy submarines to hospital neonatal intensive-care units. LRC researchers conduct independent, third-party testing of lighting products in the LRC’s state of the art photometric laboratories, the only university lighting laboratories accredited by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP Lab Code: 200480-0).

In 1990, the LRC became the first university research center to offer graduate degrees in lighting and today, offers a M.S. in lighting and a Ph.D. to educate future leaders in lighting. With 35 full-time faculty and staff, 15 graduate students, and a 30,000 sq. ft. laboratory space, the LRC is the largest university-based lighting research and education organization in the world.

About Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, founded in 1824, is America’s first technological research university. The university offers bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in engineering; the sciences; information technology and web sciences; architecture; management; and the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Rensselaer faculty advance research in a wide range of fields, with an emphasis on biotechnology, nanotechnology, computational science and engineering, data science, and the media arts and technology. The Institute has an established record of success in the transfer of technology from the laboratory to the marketplace, fulfilling its founding mission of applying science “to the common purposes of life.”