

University of California Presidents Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility:

Q: **Do I have to be an underrepresented minority to apply for this fellowship?**

A: No. The Program is open to all persons who meet the eligibility criteria without regard to race, gender, or ethnicity.

Q: **Can I still be considered if I do not have U.S. citizenship or permanent residency?**

A: Yes. Successful applicants must present documents demonstrating that they are legally authorized to work in the United States. Visa sponsorship and work authorization is possible for successful applicants through a process which would be managed by the International Students and Scholars Office with the support of the UC faculty mentor on their home campus. Please review the UC selection guidelines at <http://ppfp.ucop.edu/info/how-to-apply/evaluation-and-selection.html>. Information regarding citizenship, gender, race, ethnicity, veteran or disability status is requested for statistical purposes only and will not be provided to the Selection Committee.

Q: **I currently hold F-1/J-1/H-1B (or other) immigration status. Am I eligible for the program?**

A: Yes, if you meet all of the eligibility criteria and if you are selected, visa sponsorship is possible. The UC campus International Students and Scholars Office on your faculty mentor's home campus would evaluate your current status to determine if a transfer or extension of your current status or a change of status is possible.

Q: **Can I apply if I have a JD, MD, MFA or EdD instead of a PhD?**

A: Yes, applicants with terminal degrees in their field may apply as long as they are preparing for a career in university teaching and research.

Q: **I'm an assistant professor, can I still apply?**

A: The fellowship is designed to give recent graduates an opportunity to become more competitive candidates for UC tenure-track appointments. It is not a general fellowship program for individuals already on the tenure-track to take time out for research with the intention of staying at their current institution. Candidates with tenure-track appointments at other universities are not favored in the selection process, unless there is a clear explanation of how an award to the candidate would further the goals of the program.

Q: **I received my PhD over 5 years ago. Am I still eligible for to apply for this fellowship?**

A: Yes. You are still eligible to apply if you are preparing for a career in university teaching and research. Please note that if you have served in postdoctoral fellowship appointments at any university for over five years, you will not be eligible for appointment in this program due to University of California policy that limits total time of service in academic postdoctoral appointments to five years.

Q: **I will finish my doctorate after July 1, next year. Am I still eligible to apply this fall?**

A: You should expect to complete your doctorate on or before July 1 of the year following your application.

Q: **Can I apply for multiple fellowships simultaneously at various host institutions?**

A: Applicants can apply for competitive fellowships, however there may be restrictions for accepting more than 1 award.

Choosing a Mentor

Q: **How do I find a tenured ladder-rank (associate or full professor) faculty mentor?**

A: In the past, awardees have identified potential faculty mentors through professional contacts in their field. You may also look for an appropriate mentor by reviewing the literature and searching UC department websites for faculty who are working in your area of interest.

Q: **Are assistant professors allowed to be faculty mentors?**

A: No. Faculty mentors must be tenured ladder-rank UC faculty in the associate or full professor title.

Q: **What are the expectations of the faculty mentors during the fellowship?**

A: Please see the [Guidelines for Mentors and Host Departments](#).

Q: **May I select a faculty mentor from my current department or campus?**

A: The program encourages applicants to look for a mentor outside their current department and their home campus unless they can articulate a strong reason for remaining in the same academic location in their research proposal or education background statement.

Q: Can I select a retired faculty member to be my faculty mentor?

A: The program encourages applicants to select an active faculty member as their mentor. However, in some cases retired faculty who are still fully involved in their department and their research program are excellent prospective mentors.

Q: Can a faculty member serve as a mentor for more than one applicant?

A: Yes, faculty may serve as a mentor for more than one applicant for the President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program. In the past, the program has offered fellowships to two candidates mentored by the same faculty member.

Review and Selection Process

Q: Who will review my application?

A: Applications will be reviewed by at least two faculty who may be from your field or from a range of fields in related disciplines. Final selections may be made by faculty review panels or senior academic administrators (provost, vice provost, vice chancellor). All files may be read by faculty from any university participating in the Partnership for Faculty Diversity.

Q: What criteria are considered by the selection committees when reviewing applications?

A: Faculty reviewers evaluate applicants in all fields according to their potential for success in an academic career with special consideration given to potential for contributions to the diversity and equal opportunity as described in [Evaluation and Selection](#).

Q: Should the research proposal focus on turning the dissertation into a book, expanding on the dissertation, or beginning a new research project?

A: In general, faculty reviewers prefer to see a proposal that includes a significant piece of new work. However, in some fields or for some individuals, a proposal to complete or expand upon previous might be favorably reviewed. In such cases, this should be combined with a plan for making a significant start on a new project.

Q: I'm unable to relocate to a UC campus because of family reasons. Can I still apply?

A: The fellowship requires that you are in residence and establish a presence at your mentor's campus, school or department. If you wish to propose continuing work where you completed your Ph.D., we recommend that you consider working with different faculty members or a different department if possible. If you wish to stay with your current department or faculty advisors, please explain your situation in your education background statement.

Q: What are the faculty mentors and faculty references asked to address in their letters?

A: For a detailed list of prompts for faculty letter writers, please review the [Application Requirements \(pdf\)](#).

Q: What is the salary for this award?

A: The award includes a salary beginning at approximately \$55,632 depending on the field and level of experience with a benefits package including health insurance and paid vacation/sick leave, and up to \$5,000 for research-related and program travel expenses.

Q: What happens to my application if I am not selected for a PFPF award?

A: High scoring applications may be automatically cascaded for consideration for the host UC campus Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship, which provides similar benefits. Please contact Graduate Division or the Office for Postdoctoral Affairs at your prospective campus for more information.

Terms of Appointment

Q: What is the salary and how is it determined?

A: Salaries for the 2023 fellowships begin at approximately \$60,000. Additional salary may be considered for candidates with previous experience in postdoctoral fellowship appointments and/or candidates in science and engineering fields with higher postdoctoral fellowship salaries.

Q: What benefits are provided?

A: The award includes health, vision and dental benefits, paid sick leave, maternity leave, and 4 weeks of "paid time off" during the fellowship term.

Q: Do fellows need to be in residence at a UC campus during the fellowship?

A: Yes, award recipients are expected to have a presence in a UC department with the exception of time away for research, conferences and other scholarly activities

Refer to <https://ppfp.ucop.edu/info/about-ppfp/> for more information, accessed 7/27/2023.