



2026/27 Short Term Postdoc Support (STePS) Funding Request Form

To sustain our preeminence goals, the UCF Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) has allocated funding to support recent UCF PhD graduates through a new short term post-graduation program. The term of support is six (6) months. This is meant to be short term support only, during which time the scholar will make arrangements for post-UCF employment while receiving the benefit of mentorship by a UCF faculty member. Once the STePS award ends, a faculty member may keep the postdoc employed, but P3 funding would not be available. (see below)

PIs will cover approximately the first two months of salary + fringe and the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs will cover the latter four months. At a minimum annual rate of \$57,000, the six-month breakdown (including fringe) is PI: \$12,000 (Approximate total buy-in), OPA: \$23,055. (If a PI chooses to pay above the minimum salary, the PI will be responsible for the difference. If a PI chooses to extend the postdoc contract beyond six months, the PI will be responsible for the full salary and fringe cost.)

Funding will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

PIs take note: A postdoc may not receive both STePS funding and P3 funding--only one or the other during their time as a postdoc at UCF. Note the benefits and costs of both programs and choose the one that best aligns with your and the scholar's situation.

I understand my postdoc cannot receive P3 if they have received a STePS award. PI Initials _____

Eligibility

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

To be eligible for 2026/27 STePS funding, a student must be a UCF graduate, fully hired as a postdoc, and eligible to lawfully work in the US before they can begin working. (see below)

OPT: Students on an F-1 visa must apply for OPT 60-90 days in advance of their hire date to ensure **physical possession** of the EAD card, which is **required** to begin working after graduation. If the graduating student needs a foreign screening, as required by [Florida Statute 1010.35](#), we recommend requesting this **60 days** before graduation. Placement into the postdoc position cannot occur until this is completed. No exceptions.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL POSTDOCS: A POSTDOC MUST BE EMPLOYED AT SOME POINT DURING THE PERIOD AUGUST 2 – DECEMBER 31 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR STePS FUNDING.

Required Information from STePS Program Participants:

Scholar's Name: _____ Email Address: _____

STePS Funding Start Date: _____ Sources of Funding / Grant Number for Salary: _____

CIP Code (Required: See Below): _____ Postdoc Salary: _____

Please review the [linked GSS - CIP](#) document and enter the CIP code that relates to the postdoc's research area.

Mentor's Name: _____ Affiliated Home Department: _____

I understand my postdoc can only receive this STePS award if they are a UCF grad and new postdoc at UCF. PI Initials: _____

Please describe the area of research in which the postdoc will be working:

Please describe the activities the postdoc will engage in during their six-month assignment:

Please describe the support you will provide the postdoc to assist in their job search:

Required Signatures/ Financial Support Verification

Applicants are responsible for procuring BOTH signatures below. Please do not return the form unless signed or otherwise approved. (e.g., via email)

By signing below, I agree to the terms of the STePS program as laid out above and understand this STePS scholar will not be eligible for a P3 award and is not eligible for STePS if they have already had a P3 award.

PI Name: _____ PI Signature: _____ Date: _____

FBC Representative Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

The signature of a post-award specialist or other college/unit financial representative is required to ensure the funding source has been verified for amount and compliance.

SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO POSTDOC@UCF.EDU.