College of Graduate Studies

OFFICE OF POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

UCF 2026/27 Preeminent Postdoctoral Program (P3)

Through an exceptional funding request, the College of Graduate Studies has been allocated funding to support new postdoctoral scholars at the university. According to NIH, NSF and the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA), a postdoctoral scholar is an individual who has received a doctoral degree (or equivalent) and is engaged in a temporary and defined period of mentored advanced training to enhance professional skills and gain research independence needed to pursue their chosen career path.

Advancing UCF's research, teaching and service missions, P3 will provide support for first-time UCF postdoctoral scholars. For both internally (e.g., start-up) and externally funded postdoctoral scholars, P3 will provide $20,000 support each year (plus fringe at the current rate) for two years. During this time, each P3 scholar will be eligible to apply for funds (up to $5,000) for professional development.

Eligibility

Principal Investigators (PIs) who desire to mentor postdoctoral scholars and can document the availability of matching funds and necessary resources (e.g., research space, computer, supplies) for two years are eligible to apply. As of 7/1/24, the minimum required salary of $57,000 for these postdocs is slightly below the current NIH minimum. Coupled with UCF employee benefits (fringe= **23% or $13,110 as of July 1, 2026**), the minimum estimated match requirement from the PI for each of the two years is listed in the table below.

Postdoctoral Scholar Support Amount

Year	P3	PI
1	$24,600 + $2,500	$45,510
2	$24,600 + $2,500	$45,510
3†	-	$70,110
4†	-	$70,110

† From anticipated external sources

If approved, the two years of P3 support will commence at the start of a quarter (i.e., mid December, April 1, July 1, or October 1). For the December cohort, postdocs must begin their appointment no later than the week following the University's commencement date. The PI is responsible for 100% of the salary and benefits if the postdoc is hired before the start of the quarter. Postdocs may also be hired after the start of a quarter, provided the PI is amenable to the original award period. In such cases, the P3 award will begin on the postdoc's actual hire date but will retain the original quarter-based end date.

P3 Professional Development Fund ($2,500) Utilization Period

P3 awards begin on a quarterly cycle (July 1, October 1, mid December, or April 1). The table below shows when the first $2,500 must be fully utilized, based on the P3 start date:

P3 Award Start Date	Time Period to Use First $2,500	Takeaway
July 1 or October 1, 2026	July 1 (or Oct 1), 2026 - June 30, 2027	When your P3 starts in July or October, you would begin your utilization period in the SAME fiscal year
Mid December 2026 or April, 2027	July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2028	When your P3 starts in mid December or April, you would begin your utilization period in the NEXT fiscal year

The second $2,500 will be available during the second fiscal year and must be utilized before P3 award ends.

Expectations

PIs must submit a postdoctoral mentoring plan that describes how the PI (research group, department, college, etc.) will provide advanced training in the discipline and enhance professional skills to promote scholarly independence. This plan may involve participation in faculty development and teaching opportunities available through existing UCF programs (e.g., Faculty Excellence, FCTL, Pathways to Success) and/or collaboration with industry and government agency partners. It is expected that the PI and scholar will be involved in grant writing to support continued research activities beyond the two-year match period. Currently, postdoctoral scholars at UCF can remain in the postdoctoral scholar job category for up to four years.

As a compliment to the mentoring plan provided by the PI, postdoctoral scholars are expected to create **Individual Development Plans (IDPs), within 1 month of hire**, following guidelines similar to those outlined by the AAAS (http://myidp.sciencecareers.org/) and the American Psychological Association (http://www.apa.org/education/grad/ individual-development-plan.aspx). IDPs and mentoring activities will be tracked by the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs.

Each postdoc and mentor is required to complete an annual report to be emailed to postdoc@ucf.edu on February 1 of each year. (Period of performance is January 1-December 31 of the preceding year.)

I agree to the specifications of the Preeminent Postdoctoral Program as outlined above.

PI Name Print: _____ **Date:** _____

PI Signature: _____

Application Evaluation Criteria

To be considered for funding through this program, faculty must submit the following application components (in a PDF format). P3 applications will be evaluated on a first come first served basis until funding is exhausted. However, if the demand exceeds the resources, a waitlist will be established that will prioritize those faculty members who are new to P3 and labs/ programs/ units that have not recently received P3 funding and other criteria. lf a postdoctoral scholar has not already been identified, Pls will be required to document how they will broadly advertise the postdoctoral position to solicit a wide pool of applicants.

Once approved, **PIs will have at least 6 months from the award date to hire the postdoctoral scholar** or the award may be subject to forfeiture and funding made available to other PIs. However, PIs will be eligible to reapply. Unless demand is low, the program will only support one postdoctoral scholar per PI. Postdocs can be shared by multiple PIs using different funding sources to provide the match.

Please type or print legibly. Email the signed application and supporting documents in PDF format to postdoc@ucf.edu.

A. Postdoctoral Scholar Mentor Information

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____

Title: _____

Unit: _____

HR Business Center Contact: _____

B. Research Project Information

Project Title and End Date: _____

Please review the linked GSS - CIP document that identifies CIP codes for the annual NSF Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering, and enter the CIP code that relates to the postdoc's research area.

CIP Code (Required): _____

Funding Source (Agency or Startup Funds): _____

Associated UCF Grant ID (GR######)or Cost Center ID (CC#####): _____

Briefly describe expected postdoctoral scholar project duties:

Briefly list other resources to be provided to the postdoctoral scholar (such as computers, laptops, software, and/or related research equipment - these can no longer be purchased by the postdoc with their professional development funds):

C. Postdoctoral Scholar Information

Individuals currently employed as a postdoctoral scholar at UCF are not eligible to be funded by the P3 award. PLEASE NOTE: A transcript is **required** within 30 days of hire for domestic PhD and 90 days if international. No exceptions.

Postdoctoral Scholar Annual Salary: $_____ **Expected Start Date*:** _____

If Known, Name of Postdoctoral Scholar: _____

Doctoral Institution: _____ **Date Doctoral Degree Received:** _____

Current Position and Location: _____

If a candidate has not been identified, please provide a brief outline of your strategy to broadly advertise the postdoctoral position to solicit a wide pool of applicants:

*Please speak to the HR partner that supports your department for a realistic P3 award start date. P3 awards do expire, which is outlined in your award letter.

D. Future Funding Sources

Identify potential sources for continuation of postdoctoral scholar funding after two years.

1. Title of RFP / Funding Program: _____

Agency: _____ **Projected Deadline Date:** _____

In a few sentences, describe how your research relates to the RFP or program's goals:

2. Title of RFP / Funding Program: _____

Agency: _____ **Projected Deadline Date:** _____

In a few sentences, describe how your research relates to the RFP or program's goals:

Attach additional pages of other possible funding sources if known.

E. Previous Postdoctoral Mentoring Experience

If you have served as a previous mentor, please list recent postdoctoral mentees along with their contact information.

A) Postdoc Name A: _____ **Mentoring Period:** _____

Contact Information: _____

B) Postdoc Name B: _____ **Mentoring Period:** _____

Contact Information: _____

F. Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan (To be submitted along with the application)

Provide a one-page outline of your proposed mentoring plan. You may want to use resources available at NSF and the National Postdoctoral Association for guidance. Identify specific UCF programs that you plan on using. If the appointment will involve teaching, designate the courses and semesters they will be taught.

G. Signatures/Financial Support Verification (Applicants are responsible for procuring all signatures before submitting)

Please do not return the form unless signed or otherwise approved. (e.g., via email)

Principal Investigator:

Print: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Co-Principal Investigator

Print: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Department Chair or Center Director:

Print: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

College Associate Dean for Research:

Print: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Financial Support Verification*

Print: _____ **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.