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Office of the Executive Vice
President for Academic Affairs

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University Equity and Inclusion

Rutgers Presidential Postdoctoral Fellows Program Frequently Asked Questions

I. Eligibility

Q: I currently work at Rutgers, but my position is not permanent (i.e., Lecturer, Adjunct, Postdoctoral Fellow). Am I eligible?

A: Yes. Individuals currently holding a postdoctoral, tenure-track, nor non-tenure track position at Rutgers (i.e., Visiting Assistant Professors, Part Time Lecturers, Adjuncts, etc.) are eligible to apply for this program so long as they meet the other requirements.

Q: I received my Ph.D. from Rutgers. Am I eligible?

A: Yes. Individuals awarded a Ph.D. from Rutgers are eligible to apply for this program.

Q: I am not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Am I eligible?

A: No. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens or permanent residents.

Q: I received my degree prior to June 30, 2019. Am I eligible?

A: No. For the 2022-23 Fellows cohort, applicants must have received their degrees no earlier than June 30, 2019 and no later than June 30, 2022.

Q: I have not yet completed my degree. Am I eligible?

A: Yes; however, fellowships are only awarded to applicants who complete their doctoral or terminal degree before the fellowship start date of July 1, 2022.

Q: I am currently a tenure-track Assistant Professor at another institution. Am I eligible?

A: No. Applicants who already hold a tenure-track faculty position are ineligible to apply.

Q: If awarded the fellowship will I need to relocate to Rutgers?

A: All fellows are expected to be in residence at the Rutgers campus of their appointment and to participate in seminars and activities related to their research and to the Fellowship.



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II. Application Process

Q: What is the application review and selection process?

A: Departments will review all relevant applications and may contact applicants during the review period to conduct interviews or request additional information. After review, departments submit supported nominations to their Dean. Dean's endorsement is necessary to nomination into the program. Deans will submit a list of finalists to the campus Provost's office, which will review all campus nominations and submit a finalist pool to the EVPAA's office for final approval.

Q: Who is the selection committee?

A: There is no single selection committee. All evaluation of candidates, nomination, and endorsement will be made by faculty sponsors and mentors, department Chairs, Deans, and campus Provosts.

Q: When will successful candidates be notified?

A: Final decisions on a cohort of Fellows will be made in approximately the third week of February.

III. Mentoring and Research

Q: How are mentors selected for fellows?

A: Fellows will have an opportunity to indicate in the portal up to three preferred choices for placement on a Rutgers campus, a Rutgers School, and / or a Department or lab. During applicant review, departments will assign mentors to nominees and any Fellow in the program will have at least one mentor.

Q: Are candidates required to find and contact potential mentors?

A: Candidates are not required to identify a mentor before applying, but they are welcome to contact possible mentors to express interest in working with them through the fellowship program. Doing so can be a good way of evaluating what placement will be most beneficial and will help departments as they seek to make good matches.

Q: Does my research need to be independent from my mentor's research?



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A: Depending on the department, area of research, and career path, candidates may work more or less independently from their mentors. Some candidates will work closely with mentors on projects that overlap with their mentor's research. Others will pursue projects that are distinct and / or complementary to the mentor's work. Either way, strong endorsement from a nominating faculty member, a mentor, the department chair, and the Dean will be necessary to successful appointment into the program.

IV. Application Questions

Q: What should I submit as a writing sample? Can my writing sample be a collection of shorter published papers (under 25 pages)?

A: Your writing sample can be any form of written work that best represents your research and / or creative efforts at this stage of your career. Depending on your field of expertise, your sample might be a published paper, article, essay, creative work, or a selection of one; a compilation of different shorter papers; an unpublished research paper that represents current work; a scholarly article; or an excerpted chapter from a dissertation.

Q: How detailed should the research plan be?

A: The Research Plan should include any large-scale description, overview, and detail that will best represent a candidate's research plans and promise. Plans should include descriptions of the contribution that the work will make to the field, method(s) used or advanced, and why the research is significant.