Call for applications: Research Excellence Postdoctoral Program (REP)

Upcoming Deadline: September 5, 2023

Program Overview

The goal of the MU Research Excellence Postdoctoral Program (REP) is to enhance the research mission of the university by (1) supporting outstanding faculty to hire postdoctoral scholars who are well-positioned to be competitive for major external awards, (2) increasing the number of postdoctoral scholars on our campus, and (3) providing support for faculty who have active external grants and a solid record of funding to enhance their research.

Faculty Applicants: The program invites applications from promising mid- and advanced-career tenured faculty to hire and mentor REP postdoctoral scholars. Faculty, with current external funding, may apply to host a REP postdoctoral scholar. If selected, the faculty member then may hire a postdoctoral scholar of their choice sponsored by the program (as detailed below).

Program Support: The REP program will pay the salary of the REP postdoctoral scholar (see the funding model below). The selected faculty member will join a cohort of REP Faculty Scholars on campus who will participate in CIMER mentorship training (if they have not already done so) to help support them in mentoring a REP postdoctoral scholar.

REP postdoctoral scholars: REP postdoctoral scholars will be required to apply for a major grant or award during their postdoctoral fellowship. Grant writing support and training will be provided to REP postdoctoral scholars.

Faculty Applicant Eligibility

The following criteria must be met for a faculty member to be eligible for REP funding to hire a REP postdoctoral scholar. MU faculty who:

- are tenured
- have active major federal grants (e.g., NIH, NSF, USDA NIFA, DOE, DOD, DoEd) with funding that will remain active during the period of the REP postdoctoral fellowship
- have a strong record of external funding
- have a strong record of mentoring postdocs

Funding Model

For this round of funding, REP has the capacity to provide funding to hire a total of 4 postdoctoral scholars, thus we anticipate awarding 4 REP Faculty Scholars from applications submitted by eligible faculty. See below for an overview of the program funding model as well as details of the application process.

- REP postdoctoral scholar positions are for 2 years.
• REP postdoctoral scholar salary is $56,000/year plus benefits and $1500 professional development/travel funds annually.
  o Year 1:
    ▪ 100% ($56,000) funded centrally by the Graduate School/Office of Postdoctoral Education
  o Year 2:
    ▪ 75% ($42,000) of the salary and benefits by the Graduate School/Office of Postdoctoral Education
    ▪ 25% by the REP Faculty Scholar (or the department if the faculty member does not have the funds)

Departments/REP Faculty Scholars may provide funds to increase the REP postdoctoral scholar salary. The REP postdoctoral scholar salary contribution from the Graduate School/Office of Postdoctoral Education will be the same (i.e., $56,000 in the first year and $42,000 in the second year) even when the annual salary of the postdoc is higher than $56,000.

Application Process

There are spring and fall application cycles. Applications are due by 5 PM (Central Time) on the first Monday of September and February each year. If the due dates fall on a weekend or holiday, then the due date is the following workday. A complete application includes the online application completed by the faculty member and a letter of support from the faculty member’s Department Chair/Head. Eligible MU faculty can directly apply or be nominated by their Department Chair/Head, however, please note that a letter of support from the Department Chair/Head is needed in either case.

Application Materials:

1. Application completed by the faculty member via Google Forms
   a. Application information (name, rank, department, email)
   b. One paragraph draft of mentoring plans for a REP postdoc to support them in their development and in applying for an early career award
   c. Recruitment plans (2-3 sentences) for hiring a REP postdoc
   d. List of external sponsored funding for the past 5 years as well as current funding for which you are the lead investigator or principal co-investigator
   e. Application link: https://forms.gle/6c2FpUTC2UEw5FTc7

2. Letter of Support from Department Chair/Head or Dean submitted directly to Dr. Valli Sarveswaran via Postdoc@missouri.edu
   a. 2-3 sentences describing:
      i. How many trainees has the faculty had during the past 5 years and currently in their program?
      ii. Are the trainees well supported by the faculty member?
      iii. Description of the faculty member’s research program and external funding record
   b. Evidence of the faculty member’s mentorship skills
   c. 2-3 sentence description of the faculty member’s research or creative works and how their work has been (and is currently) funded by federal agencies or other entities
d. A statement of financial commitment by the department for the REP Postdoc in the second year of the program if the faculty member is unable to provide the required contribution (i.e., it is expected that the REP Faculty member pays for 25% of the postdoc salary and benefits in Year 2; if faculty is unable to pay, then the department must cover the expense)

e. Letter should be emailed to Postdoc@missouri.edu with attention to Dr. Valli Sarveswaran, Director of Postdoctoral Education

**Selection Process**

Faculty members apply or Chairs nominate a faculty member for the REP Postdoctoral Program; in both cases, a support letter from the Department Chair/Head is required. A campus selection committee comprised of faculty and administrators will selection a cohort of up to 4 REP Faculty Scholars. Applicants will be notified of selections in September-October (fall applications) and February-March (spring applications). The selected REP Faculty Scholars are expected to begin recruiting and hire their REP postdoctoral scholar right away.