

2020-21 Chancellor's Award for Postdoctoral Research

The **Chancellor's Award for Postdoctoral Research** recognizes the important contributions that postdoctoral scholars make to UCLA's research mission. Awardees will each receive a plaque and a stipend in the amount of \$7,500.

Eligibility

The Chancellor's Award for Postdoctoral Research honors outstanding research accomplishments by a UCLA postdoctoral scholar. To be eligible for the award, an individual must:

- Hold or have held an appointment (Title 3252–3256) as a UCLA postdoctoral scholar for at least 9 consecutive months between January 2020 and March 2021. The appointment must have been approved by the Graduate Division in accordance with University policy;
- Be nominated by the official mentor(s) and selected as one of the nominees by the department or institute in which the postdoctoral scholar holds their primary appointment;
- Absent extenuating circumstances, be available to receive the prize in person at the UCLA Postdoctoral Scholars and Mentors Awards Ceremony on April 13, 2021.

Selection criteria:

- Innovation and creativity of the research;
- Research productivity while a UCLA postdoctoral scholar, as evidenced by publications, presentations, inventions, performances, products, etc.;
- Scholarly distinction, such as awards or other recognition for the postdoctoral research, or other evidence of the impact of the work;
- Significance of the nominee's work to the research field or its impact on society;
- Leadership by the postdoctoral scholar if a member of a research team or collaborative effort.

Nomination package

The dossier submitted by the department or institute should consist of a single PDF file, containing the following materials in order.

1. **Nomination Cover Sheet**
2. **Official letter of submission by Department Chair or Institute Director** (1 page): Provide a brief cover letter, addressed to the *Selection Committee, Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Award*. If the department is nominating more than one scholar, the Chair or Director should rank the candidates and provide a very brief rationale.
3. **Nomination letter from the Faculty Mentor(s)** (≤3 pages): The letter should be addressed to the *Selection Committee, Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Award*. Please review the selection criteria. *In no more than 3 pages* (minimum 11 pt. font), the letter should describe the nominee's postdoctoral research at UCLA, the nominee's specific contributions to the research, the nominee's research productivity, and the significance or impact of the work. Mentoring or other activities that were relevant to the project's success may also be described. The letter should present a clear case, based on the supporting evidence in the nomination package, for why the postdoctoral scholar merits the distinction this award represents.

The nominator should also include the following information in the letter:

- the nominee's total time as a postdoctoral scholar at UCLA and elsewhere;
 - how many postdoctoral scholars the nominator has supervised, and how the nominee ranks among them;
 - an e-mail address for further contact regarding the nomination
4. **Seconding letter(s)** (≤3 pages each): At least one, but no more than two additional letters should be provided in support of the nomination.
 5. **Research Abstract** At the top of the abstract, please indicate: (1) the nominee's name; (2) his/her department; (3) the name(s) of his/her research mentor(s) and the department(s) in which they hold

appointment(s); (4) 5 -10 key words that describe the research, to help assign nomination reviewers. (5) Provide an abstract of no more than 350 words describing the nominee's postdoctoral research accomplishments. The abstract should be written for a general academic audience, as faculty from diverse fields will review the nominations. Do not list the number of papers, awards, degrees, etc. in the abstract.

6. **Research Citation** A 3–5 sentence summary, no more than 150 words, of the abstract written in layman's, non-specialist language for publication in the *digital version of the ceremony program*.
7. **Curriculum vitae of the postdoctoral scholar:** The postdoctoral scholar's CV is an important component of the nomination package. It should include contact information (including e-mail), academic degrees earned, and postdoctoral appointment history, including locations, dates, mentors and very brief (<75 word) research description(s). The CV should include awards and honors, publications, presentations, inventions, performances, etc., as well as professional memberships and relevant activities. Entries that relate directly to accomplishments while a postdoctoral scholar at UCLA must be highlighted in some way (e.g., colored font or highlighted text). It would be helpful to include URL or links to journal articles.
8. **Publications:** A maximum of 2 publications or articles in-press (accepted manuscripts) and 2 press releases may be appended to the nomination.
9. **Photo:** A recent photo of the nominee. The image is not reviewed as part of the nomination process, but it will be shown during the virtual awards ceremony program. The digital image should be a separate attachment, not part of the PDF file. Photos should satisfy these guidelines:
 - headshot or portrait
 - high resolution JPG (minimum 300 dpi)
 - NOTE: Photos taken with a smart phone and saved as "actual size" will suffice.

Submission process

The faculty mentor (nominator) should first confirm the nominee's eligibility by consulting with the appropriate HR representative in the department/institute.

In addition to writing the nomination letter, the faculty mentor is responsible for collecting the materials for the nomination package, which he/she submits to the department chair/director or his/her designee. The department chair or institute director is responsible for creating a process for selecting and ranking the nominations the unit will submit.

Timeline

- **Late-Jan.:** Nominators submit nominations to the department chair or institute director (or their designee) for pre-screening. An internal deadline may be set by department.
- **Early-Feb.:** Department chair/institute director or their designee selects nomination(s) to submit to the *Selection Committee, Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Award*.
Nominations are due at the Graduate Division 5:00 pm, PST, Tuesday, February 16, 2021.
Send the complete PDF dossiers to pmcdonald@grad.ucla.edu.

Selection Process

The award selection committee will include deans and senior faculty whose research expertise spans the nominees' fields of endeavor.

The award recipients will be announced and honored at the UCLA Postdoctoral Scholars and Mentors Awards Ceremony on **April 13, 2021** hosted by Roger Wakimoto, Vice Chancellor for Research and Susan Ettner, Interim Dean for Graduate Education. All of the nominees and their mentors will be recognized at this event, as will the general postdoctoral scholar community.