Illinois Distinguished Postdoctoral and Visiting Scholar Program: Outcomes

The Illinois Distinguished Postdoctoral and Visiting Scholar Program, administered by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, the Office for Access & Equity, and the DRIVE faculty recruitment and retention committee, supported individuals from racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in the professoriate, and women who are promising candidates for campus faculty positions for up to two years. Each Illinois Distinguished Scholar was provided high-quality mentoring and support by a faculty sponsor. The goal was to prepare them for tenure-track assistant professor appointments. From August 2015 to September 2021, 22 scholars have been appointed to Illinois Distinguished postdoc positions. Out of the 22, nine have been appointed as assistant professors at the U of I, three left the university to accept other appointments, and eight are current postdocs for 2020-21.

22 Scholars Have Received DRIVE Postdoc Positions

- 9 Appointed at University of Illinois
- 3 Accepted Appointments at other Institutions
- 8 Continuing Post-Doc for 2020-2021

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Opportunities for Hiring and Recruitment

The Office of the Provost supports two programs in which partial or total central financial support for academic positions may be provided: the Targets of Opportunity Program (see https://provost.illinois.edu/policies/provosts-communications/communication-7-targets-of-opportunity-program-top/), and the Dual Career Program, (see https://provost.illinois.edu/policies/provosts-communications/communication-8-dual-career-academic-couples-program/).

The University of Illinois requires all appointees to faculty and academic staff positions to meet the highest standards in teaching, research and service. People meeting these criteria are identified through regular recruitment and search processes. The Provost may also provide funding for a position and/or authorize a waiver search when recruitment will contribute to the university’s excellence.

For more information or to submit applications contact:
Office for Access & Equity
616 E. Green Street, Suite 214, Champaign, Illinois 61820
accessandequity@illinois.edu
P (217) 333-0885
TTY (217) 244-9850
F (217) 244-9136

Illinois Human Resources:
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
https://jobs.illinois.edu/
The Chancellor’s Diversity Postdoctoral Fellows Program

The Chancellor’s Diversity Postdoctoral Fellows Program supports recent PhD recipients interested in faculty careers at Illinois and who will contribute to diversity and equal opportunity in higher education through their teaching, research, and service. The fellow’s appointment will be joint between one of the University’s ethnic studies units (African American Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, or Latina/Latino Studies) and another department or program on campus. The Chancellor’s Diversity Postdoctoral fellowship has a broad mission: to enlist the collaboration of other units across the campus in identifying and selecting jointly appointed faculty colleagues whose work advances excellence and diversity through their teaching, research, and public engagement activities. For example, the first such postdoc just selected will have a joint appointment in Entomology and African American Studies and will pursue projects aimed at broadening participation in STEM fields. Candidates are individuals who are strongly committed to advancing scholarship on historically marginalized racial/ethnic groups in the United States. The fellowships are for up to two years. Fellows are expected to teach one class per year and participate in the intellectual community of both units.

The Illinois Distinguished Postdoctoral and Visiting Scholar Program

Individuals from underrepresented groups (all fields) and women (in STEM) who are promising candidates for campus faculty positions may be nominated for the Illinois Distinguished Postdoctoral and Visiting Scholar Program. Funding is available to support up to four post-doctoral research associate or visiting scholar positions that would enhance campus diversity. Candidates do not apply directly, but are nominated by academic units that wish to hire them. Priority will be given to external candidates, preferably identified through a search. A faculty mentor/sponsor advises each Postdoc or Scholar with the goal of preparing them for tenure track assistant professor appointments at Illinois. Examples of units that have housed the Illinois Distinguished Postdoctoral Program include: African American Studies; College of Law; Department of Educational Policy, Organization and Leadership; Department of Urban and Regional Planning; and the School of Architecture.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is committed to building and maintaining a faculty that reflects excellence and diversity.

Initiatives for Recruitment

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is committed to building and maintaining a faculty that reflects excellence and diversity. The Office of the Chancellor offers a number of postdoctoral fellowships and visiting research associate positions to recruit for inclusive excellence. Three are featured below. See http://oae.illinois.edu/DRIVE.html for links to select postdoctoral and visiting scholar programs for ethnic studies, women (in STEM), and to promote recruitment of scholars who are in underrepresented racial/ethnic minority groups.

The Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellows Program in Ethnic Studies

Scholars who show exceptional promise as leaders in the study and teaching of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity are eligible for the Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellows Program in Ethnic Studies, which provides recent PhDs with the opportunity to spend up to two years in residence in one of our four ethnic studies units: African American Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, or Latina/Latino Studies. The goal of the program is to nurture the careers of fellows who will be able to pursue their research, teach and mentor students, and engage with academic peers. Fellowships are appointed for one year (and potentially renewable for a second year). Fellows are expected to teach one class per year and participate in the intellectual community of the unit.