Kavli Institute for Brain and Mind

PROGRAM GUIDELINES
2027-28 KIBM Postdoctoral Scholars Program

Program Overview

The KIBM Postdoctoral Scholars Program provides both financial support and networking opportunities for exceptional postdoctoral scholars at UC San Diego and The Salk Institute to pursue innovative research in neuroscience. The award will be $60,000 for a 12-month period and is renewable for a second-year contingent on good progress and the faculty mentor's continued sponsorship. Scholars will present their work at the annual KIBM Symposium in the spring.

Timeline

Application Due Date:	Fri, January 15, 2027
Reference Letter Due Date:	Mon, January 25, 2027
Notification of Interview:	Fri, February 26, 2027
Earliest Start Date:	Wed, April 01, 2027 (must be activated no later than July 01, 2027)

Program Overview

- Applicants must hold a Ph.D. degree.
- Open to US citizens and non-US citizens.
- The program is only open to those who currently hold a full-time postdoctoral position in neuroscience at UC San Diego or The Salk Institute.
- The applicant must have a minimum of six months of postdoctoral experience working in the laboratory of their sponsor at the time of application but no more than four years of cumulative postdoctoral training (including appointments at other institutions) by the time of award activation. Please consult with your department HR contact to confirm the maximum allowable duration of your postdoctoral appointment based on institutional guidelines.
- The award cannot be held concurrently with a fellowship that supports salary (or stipend) and benefits.

Award Amount

The award will be $60,000 for a 12-month period and is renewable for a second-year contingent on good progress and the mentor's continued sponsorship. The award is to be used to cover the postdoc's salary and benefits but up to 10% of the award ($6,000) can be used for the postdoc's research expenses and/or travel to scientific meetings. The sponsor must make a financial commitment to cover the remaining costs for the full-time postdoctoral appointment (salary, benefits and any associated payroll costs) for the duration of the award period on research grants and/or discretionary funds. Up to three awards will be issued for this review cycle. Indirect costs are not allowable on this award.

Application Instructions and Formatting Guidelines

Candidates should submit all the following application materials via the online application form found on https://kibm.ucsd.edu/postdoc-scholars.

- Postdoctoral Applicant's Biosketch (using provided template; 4 pages maximum)
- Description of Proposed Research. Word or PDF files accepted. (2 pages maximum, not including references, figures, and figure legends. Figures and figure legends have a 1 page maximum. There is no page limit for references.)
- Description of Past Training, Future Training Goals, and Career Objectives. Please include a brief statement of prior and planned contributions to academic leadership and public service. (1 page maximum)
- Upload the biosketch for the applicant's primary postdoctoral sponsor/advisor. Any biosketch format or template is acceptable. Word or PDF files accepted. Review criteria for faculty sponsor that should be addressed in the biosketch includes: expertise in the field, mentoring record, and adequate financial support. (5 page maximum)

Paper Size: Letter (8.5”x11”)
Font Size: 11 point Arial or Helvetica
Margins: at least one-half inch margins all around
Spacing: Single Line Spacing

Reference Letters

Two confidential reference letters are required. Each letter should be no more than 2 pages in length.

- One letter of support must be from the applicant’s primary postdoctoral sponsor. If a postdoc has two sponsors, one letter signed by both sponsors is acceptable. The letter from your sponsor(s) should confirm what funding is available for the candidate’s support to supplement the KIBM award and their commitment to mentoring the postdoc.
- A second letter should be from the applicant’s Ph.D. advisor or other individual who is familiar with the candidate’s work and accomplishments.

The applicant must enter the name and email address of each referee in the online application form. The referees will receive an email with instructions on how to submit their letter in support of the applicant.

Review Criteria

Postdoctoral Applicant:

- Research Experience
- Scholarly Achievements
- Track Record of Productivity
- Potential for Independence

Faculty Sponsor:

- Expertise in the Field
- Mentoring Record (sponsor should address in biosketch personal statement and/or reference letter)
- Adequate Financial Support

Research Plan:

- Significance - Does the proposed work address an important question in neuroscience and have high potential to improve scientific knowledge?
- Innovation - Does the project reflect original ideas and utilize novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, or instrumentation?
- Approach - Is there a clear description of the experimental design and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems or barriers to feasibility addressed with consideration of alternative strategies?
- Sustainability - Does the project have potential to generate future grant funding for the research at the conclusion of the award?

Questions

Please contact KIBM at kibm@ucsd.edu with any questions about the KIBM Postdoctoral Scholars Program.