BRAIN Post Doctoral Fellowship
Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** Are current UVA postdocs eligible to apply?
**Answer:** No - internal, currently UVA-employed post docs were initially eligible to apply in 2023 if they were no more than 2 years into their postdoc here at UVA and no more than 3.5 years from their PhD (based on K99 eligibility restrictions). Subsequent cycles are restricted to external postdoc recruits.

**Q:** What are the eligibility requirements for external postdoc recruits?
**A:** Postdocs who are currently applying to or being recruited for an existing neuroscience-related postdoctoral researcher position at UVA are eligible to apply if they have received their doctoral degree ≤ 12 months from the time of application to the BRAIN postdoctoral fellowship.

**Q:** What are the expectations of BRAIN postdoctoral fellows, if selected?
**A:** Selected postdocs are required to participate in professional development workshops, meet regularly with a mentorship committee, and write F32s, K99s, or similar grants.

**Q:** Are BRAIN postdocs required to pursue a specific career path?
**A:** The BRAIN postdoctoral fellowship is designed to support UVA postdocs in neuroscience who are committed to pursuing a career in academia. While we recognize the value of all scientific careers, the goal of this program is to encourage and promote the future of excellent neuroscience faculty at this institution and others.

**Q:** What are the expectations of the BRAIN postdoctoral mentors?
**A:** Mentors of selected postdocs must be committed to the training and development of the selected postdoc and agree to continue to pay the postdoc at the elevated salary rate after the BRAIN fellowship expires (2 years).

**Q:** Are there any restrictions on how the $5,000 research and professional development funds may be used?
**A:** The research and professional development funds may be used to purchase research supplies (including laptops or other technology used for research projects), cover travel and conference expenses, enroll in professional development or continuing education courses, etc. Expenses must be approved by the faculty mentor.

**Q:** How do I apply to be a BRAIN postdoctoral fellow?
**A:** Applications should be submitted through our online form. The application is comprised of 4 required components prepared by the postdoctoral applicant and their mentor:

1) **Applicant biosketch**
2) **Mentor biosketch** - must include trainee record and UVA neuroscience research community engagement record (e.g. NGP directorship, serving on review committee, etc.)
3) **Mentoring Statement** - the mentoring plan should be written by the mentor specific to the applicant, similar to what would be submitted for an NIH F or K award
4) K99 Plan - must include specific aims (1 page) and proposed timeline for submission of a K99 or other proposed grants (up to 1 additional page)

**Q: How will applications be reviewed and postdoctoral fellows selected?**

**A:** Applications will be reviewed by a small, multidisciplinary committee on a rolling basis. Candidates who pass the initial committee review may be asked to interview with Brain Institute leadership and/or members of the review committee during the recruitment process. For selected postdocs, the Brain Institute will work with the designated department to coordinate offer letters and financial set up.

**Q: How does the recruitment process work for new postdocs who are external to UVA?**

**A:** UVA PIs who are interested in recruiting a new postdoc for their lab should follow the normal departmental process for posting a position for hire and interviewing candidates. The postdoc recruit and mentor can apply to the BRAIN fellowship during the recruitment process and, if selected, the Brain Institute will coordinate to provide language for the offer letter and access to the additional funds after hire.

*With additional questions, please contact us at [uvabrain@virginia.edu](mailto:uvabrain@virginia.edu). Thank you!*