Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan - Berkeley

This proposal requests funds for one postdoc who will work primarily at University of California, Berkeley (UCB) to train graduate student instructors and leaders at all sites. UCB has an array of well-established opportunities and resources for the professional and career development of Postdoctoral Researchers. In addition to the oldest postdoctoral association in the nation, UCB has a strong infrastructure of support and oversight of the mutual responsibilities between postdoctoral researchers and their mentors. A description of the main responsibilities in this policy follows.

Mentor: The supervising faculty member is expected to be a mentor to the postdoctoral appointee, providing training and supervision. The supervisor will provide the Postdoctoral Scholar with the final goals and expectations upon which the Postdoctoral Scholars progress will be based. Accordingly, the mentor will conduct periodic Progress Assessments, evaluations of the Postdoctoral Scholars progress and accomplishment in research and professional development. The supervisor shall also provide the Postdoctoral Scholar with at least one written review per 12-month period. This Annual Review is a comprehensive assessment of the Postdoctoral Scholars research progress and achievements, and her/his professional development during the previous year. Additionally, the development of an individual development plan (IDP) is encouraged to help identify the Postdoctoral Scholars individual research goals, professional development needs, and career objectives. Mentors will review the IDP and provide advice about possible revisions as needed. Additionally, mentors have the responsibility to provide an appropriate educational experience that helps to advance the career of the postdoctoral appointee and to share their knowledge about available development opportunities.

Postdoctoral Researcher: Postdoctoral Scholars are appointed with the expectation that they will have full time involvement in scholarly pursuits and will do so in accordance with all regulations that apply. The postdoctoral appointee is expected to (1) Fulfill specific research and training objectives; (2) Conform with ethical research standards of the University; (3) Comply with all relevant federal, state and municipal regulations and guidelines that relate to the use of hazardous materials; (4) Comply with all relevant University policies; and (5) Record and document research results appropriately. This proposal requests part-time support for one postdoctoral researcher for the duration of the project.

Procedures: The mentor (Berkeley PI) will meet on daily to weekly basis with the Postdoc. The Postdoc has the opportunity to attend all collaboration meetings. The mentor is available to help the Postdoc hone skills in oral presentation, and assist with job placement at the end of the appointment, in particular by providing CV reviews and by providing detailed and effective letters of reference. Subsequent success will be monitored by the mentor, and assistance given when needed. In addition, the Visiting Scholar and Postdoctoral Affairs office offers courses on writing skills, speaking, grant preparation, ethics, and other subjects, free of charge, of which Postdocs are encouraged to take advantage. Courses on successful interviewing techniques and job offer negotiations are also available. The level of services and courses offered to Postdocs by U.C. Berkeley Visiting Scholar and Postdoctoral Affairs Office are outstanding and unique.