

So You're Interested in Applying for a Post-Doctoral (F32) NRSA

Before You Apply:

Please meet with **Beya Johnson** (Psychology HR/Payroll), in the Psychology Main Office Suite, to discuss the differences between having a Postdoctoral Associate position through the University (salary and benefits) and accepting a Fellowship (stipend and in some cases a tuition award), and how each relates to your particular situation.

Beya can be reached at 301-405-0173 or at robeyar@umd.edu.

Things to Consider:

NRSA Postdoctoral Fellows (U.S. citizens or permanent residents) are required to pursue research training full time, which is defined as 40 hours per week OR as specified by the sponsoring institution (**Section 11.2.7**). Grantees may supplement Fellowship stipends from non-Federal funds up to a maximum of 10 hours per week, provided the supplementation does not interfere with the research training.

Postdoctoral Fellows receive stipends, rather than a salary, for independent research and training, which means that you will no longer be a University employee and will move off payroll and be paid through the Student Award System. Postdoctoral Fellows are appointed in PHR as 0% FTE Non-Paid Employees. This appointment provides a UID so they will be able to use University resources (email, library, etc.,). This change also means that you will no longer be eligible for health benefits provided by the University, and instead must purchase them either through the University Health Center or an outside source.

For information on the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP):

<https://www.health.umd.edu/SHIP>

In addition, if you accept a Fellowship and are no longer on payroll, you will have to purchase a parking pass because payments are no longer handled through payroll deductions.

However, Postdocs can work up to an additional 10 hours a week on campus payroll.

For individuals receiving postdoctoral support under individual fellowships or institutional research training grants, a payback obligation is incurred for the first 12 months of Kirschstein-NRSA support. However, the 13th and subsequent months of postdoctoral NRSA supported research training serves to pay back this obligation month by month. A Payback Agreement (PHS 6031) is required but only for the initial 12-month postdoctoral support period.

If You Decide to Apply:

Please contact Meredith Tabor (Psychology Grants and Contracts Coordinator) at 301-405-0269 or mtabor@umd.edu, and let her know that you plan to apply and arrange to meet. At that

time, please provide confirmation from Beya that you have met with her and discussed how a fellowship will affect you.

What to Do After Receiving your Notice of Award (NOA)

1. The Fellow determines their preferred start date and completes the Activation Notice and the Payback Agreement
 - a. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/416/phs416-5.pdf>
 - b. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/416/phs6031.pdf>
2. Send the signed Activation Notice (by fellow and sponsor); Payback Agreement; a copy of the NOA; a copy of an approved IRB or IACUC protocol; and the project number for an approved/current FCOI to Meredith Tabor at mtabor@umd.edu.
3. ORA will then sign and return the paperwork to NIH, and will create an account once NIH returns the official Notice of Award with project dates.
4. Once the department has an account number, Beya Johnson (Psychology Payroll) will request a Student Aid ID number so that you can start receiving your stipends.

Things to Consider:

1. If you are currently on UMD payroll as a Postdoc, keep in mind that your health insurance will terminate at the end of the month you select to activate your Fellowship. For example, if you decide to activate your Fellowship on September 1 then you will terminate as an employee as of August 31 and because it's the end of the month, your health insurance will end at the same time. If, however, you decide to activate your award starting on September 5, then you will terminate as an employee on September 4 but your health insurance will not terminate until the end of the month, which will be September 30.

Resources:

Information for Postdoctoral Research Associates (F32 and Postdocs on T32): please contact the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs in the Graduate School.

<https://gradschool.umd.edu/postdocs>

For questions concerning appointing Postdoctoral Trainees on F32s and/or T32s, please contact Dr. Blessing Enekwe, Program Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (blessing@umd.edu), or Jeffrey Franke, Interim Dean of the Graduate School (jfranke@umd.edu).