

Postdoctoral Scholar Position in Developmental and Learning Science

About the Unit:

The Urban Education Institute (UEI) at the University of Chicago is an internationally and nationally renowned institute with the aim of promoting applied research on youth development and learning in formal and informal settings. UEI represents a model for how the higher education community can engage in the systemic improvement of pre- K-12 schooling through its Consortium on School Research, Network for College Success (NCS), To&Through, and Urban Teacher Education Program (UTEP). Across these entities, UEI conducts rigorous fundamental and applied research, trains researchers and practitioners, operates a preK-12 public school, and provides research-based tools and resources to schools in 62 major cities across 34 states.

Position Summary:

We invite applications for two Postdoctoral Scholar positions specializing in youth's academic and psychosocial development across multiple ecological contexts. Applicants should have a strong understanding of how sociocultural, sociohistorical, and developmental factors interact to influence risk, instill resilience, and promote equity among youth and their families.

The initial appointment will be one year with the possibility of renewal for an additional year. The position involves work on several multi-method, large-scale longitudinal studies exploring how sociocultural and psychological factors influence youth's identity development, academic learning, and socio-emotional well-being during middle childhood and adolescence. In particular, the postdoctoral scholar will work on multi-jurisdictional, longitudinal datasets to examine the individual, interpersonal, and contextual factors that mitigate or worsen the impact of school culture, family dynamics, peer networks, and pandemic-era school disruptions on youth's academic adjustment and mental health. In addition, this work aims to support equity within elementary- and secondary-school settings by using an interdisciplinary, applied approach to better understand risk and resilience among youth from historically marginalized and socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.

The postdoctoral scholar will receive direct mentorship from well-established scholars familiar with the demanding aspects of producing high-quality scholarship. The postdoctoral scholar will be expected to build a research program by formulating research questions, generating research designs, writing grants, conducting analysis, and disseminating findings through manuscripts and presentations.

Qualifications

Education: Applicants must have a doctorate.

Required experience: Applicants must have a promising publication record; substantive knowledge and background in the field of child/adolescent development, risk prevention/intervention, or learning science; and excellent academic writing and analytic skills. The position will require advanced quantitative skills (e.g., HLM, SEM, meta-analysis, and multilevel and growth modeling) or mixed methods skills and considerable experience working with large-scale, longitudinal datasets.

Preferred experience: Candidates with formal training in meta-analytic approaches, quantitative psychology, or longitudinal research methods in applied fields are preferred, but not required.

Competencies:

- Excellent research skills; advanced quantitative methods preferred.
- Independent capacity to develop goals, operating procedures, practices, and guidelines for research activities.
- Strong writing and analytic skills.
- Ability to appropriately manage time while engaging in independent and collaborative work across multiple projects.
- Maintain confidentiality and follow university policies regarding data security.
- Working knowledge of policy and practice innovations related to youth development and schooling with an eagerness to develop further knowledge in these areas.

Required Job Seeker Documents

To apply for this position, please submit (1) a cover letter describing your research goals and training, including why your background and interests are a good match for the position, (2) a Curriculum Vitae, (3) one writing sample, (4) two letters of recommendation to wang-research@crownschool.uchicago.edu.

We are actively reviewing applications and will begin the selection process immediately. We will continue to accept applications until we fill the position. We strongly encourage interested individuals to submit their applications before April 1 2024 for consideration.

Working Conditions:

- standard office environment
- sit for short or extended time periods
- stand for short or extended time periods
- extensively use computer

Work Schedule: Flexible work schedules

Start date: between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024

Contract length: One year contract, with the opportunity for renewal

Pay Range: \$55,000-60,000

Benefits: Yes

Equal Employment Opportunity Statement

All University departments and institutes are charged with building a faculty from a diversity of backgrounds and with diverse viewpoints; with cultivating an inclusive community that values freedom of expression; and with welcoming and supporting all their members.

We seek a diverse pool of applicants who wish to join an academic community that places the highest value on rigorous inquiry and encourages diverse perspectives, experiences, groups of individuals, and ideas to inform and stimulate intellectual challenge, engagement, and exchange. The University's Statements on Diversity are at <https://provost.uchicago.edu/statements-diversity>.

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