

Jumpstart Postdoctoral Program

**Florida Atlantic University
Charles E. Schmidt College of Science**

Rationale

Solving complex societal challenges increasingly requires multidisciplinary and team-based approaches. Recent innovations in biotechnology, data science, green infrastructure, neuroscience and behavior, coupled human-natural systems, among many others, offer exciting opportunities for novel partnerships to solve a wide range of problems in new ways. There is a pressing need to meet the food, water, and energy needs of a growing human population. Simultaneously, minimizing adverse impacts of habitat alteration, climate change, invasive species, overexploitation, and pollution on human health and ecological systems is also critical. These problems operate at scales from molecules to ecosystems, and there is an urgent need to develop the science that can cross these scales to identify real-world solutions. As more and more of our approaches to science, as well as our daily activities, rely on digital and computer-based systems, issues related to the management, integration, interpretation and security of large amounts of data need to be integrated into much of this work.

Program Aims

The overall aim of the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science Jumpstart Postdoctoral Program is to stimulate synergistic interactions between faculty and postdoctoral associates interested in collaborating on multidisciplinary research that addresses societally relevant problems. Postdoctoral projects are for up to two years (assuming satisfactory progress toward research goals in year one). Postdoctoral associates will be encouraged to participate in grant proposal development workshops and other professional development activities. While in residence, the postdoctoral associates will be expected to be visible members of the College of Science (COS) community, actively engaging with faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, and contributing to furthering our collaborative culture. [FAU's Office of Postdoctoral Affairs](#) supports faculty and their postdocs by offering career development, networking opportunities, and a sense of community to this group of scholars.

Application Process

Applications should be submitted by teams consisting of one postdoctoral researcher and two faculty advisors, at least one of whom must be a faculty member in the College of Science (COS). The other advisor(s) may be from a different department within COS, from any other College at FAU or from a local entity external to the university (e.g., private company, government agency, NGO). Since an important aim of the program is to jumpstart the formation of new teams, **the faculty advisors and/or postdoc should not have collaborated previously** (as evidenced by jointly authored publications or grants). Current FAU faculty, postdocs, and students may find the Division of Research's team-building platform, [TeamSparX](#), helpful in identifying potential collaborators.

We seek postdoctoral candidates who through their research can contribute to the diversity and academic excellence of the College.

Applications must be submitted as a single pdf containing the following:

- Complete curriculum vitae for postdoc and faculty applicants
- One-page description of previous or current research of the postdoc
- Three-page (maximum) description of the proposed research containing: a statement of the problem to be addressed; methods/approach; relevance and potential impact of the work; contributions of the collaborating partners; and literature cited (does not count toward the 3-page limit)
- A postdoctoral individual development plan
[<https://www.fau.edu/research-admin/postdoc-affairs/mentoring/>]
- Names and contact information for two external persons who may be asked to submit letters of recommendation for the postdoc applicant

The expected salary will follow the current NIH postdoc salary scale ([Salary Cap, Stipends, & Training Funds | NIH: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases](#)) plus benefits. In addition, the postdoctoral scholar will receive \$5,000 per year for research supplies and research-related travel. It is expected that necessary office and laboratory space, access to large equipment and any other research needs will be provided by faculty advisors. **It is expected that by the end of the two-year project period, the collaborating team will have submitted at least one proposal to an external funding body.**

Application Deadline: Friday, 5 January, 2024. Send applications to Hannah Cohen (hannahcohen@fau.edu) with subject title COS Jumpstart Postdoctoral Program.

Position Start Date: May – August, 2024 (specific date negotiable)

Additional Details:

- Positions are for a maximum of two years and postdocs are expected to be physically located at Florida Atlantic University (FAU).
- Early-career scientists with a high potential to springboard their careers to future faculty positions are especially encouraged to apply.
- Applications will be evaluated by the COS Dean's Office, who will also be responsible for evaluating the postdocs' performance at the end of the first year.
- Applicants should have obtained their Ph.D. degree by the time of employment and be able to be on campus by the agreed start date.
- Graduates of FAU are eligible to apply for these positions, but we also hope to recruit a strong pool of external applicants.
- Faculty are encouraged to actively recruit potential candidates through personal and professional networks.

- For faculty advisors with joint appointments, their tenure home will count as their official affiliation.
- As the aims of the program are to jumpstart new collaborations among faculty, enhance diversity of our postdoctoral community, and promote the professional development of young researchers within a few years of attaining their Ph.D. degrees, these criteria will be considered in evaluating applicants, in addition to the usual criteria of scholarly excellence.
- Diversity and inclusion are core values of COS. We believe that the research environment is enhanced when diverse groups of people with diverse ideas come together to learn. FAU is designated as a Hispanic-serving institution and is the most diverse public university in Florida. We embrace our shared responsibility to create and celebrate a diverse, welcoming, inclusive, and equitable campus environment for all. Our community features excellent schools, a vibrant and safe community, and a sub-tropical climate conducive to year-round outdoor activities.
- Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodation, please call 561-297-6075, TTY/TTD 711.

Postdoc Advisors and Co-Advisors Are Expected to:

- Meet regularly with their postdoc to support their research program.
- Empower (and encourage) their postdoc to pursue professional development opportunities offered by FAU and relevant professional societies.
- Encourage their postdoc to present at scientific meetings and support them in these endeavors.
- Support, encourage, and advise their postdoc to apply for external sources of research funding.
- Support their postdoc in career progression and job searches.