Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholars Program in the Humanities
Fact Sheet

Getting the word out
Departments are encouraged to advertise the Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholars Program in the Humanities on departmental websites, listservs, job lists, at conferences, and by word of mouth, so that the best candidates will know that the opportunity is available. The announcement will be posted by the Office of the Provost in The Chronicle of Higher Education and several major humanities job listservs, including H*Net and MLA-JIL.

The program’s website can be found through a link the homepage of USC Graduate School or directly at http://grad.usc.edu/PostDocApp. The site includes basic information about the program, the call for applications, and a web-based application process.

Timeline
February 1, 2011
Deadline for applicants to submit their materials directly online through the website http://grad.usc.edu/PostDocApp.

Letters of reference are also due February 1, 2011 and are to be submitted directly through the same website. Referees will receive an email with instructions as soon as applicants list their names on the application.

February 8, 2011
Dossiers available to host departments. Departments are encouraged to make contact with the candidates to assess how they would fit into the intellectual community of the department and the university.

February 22, 2011
Departments submit a rank order list of the candidates, along with 2-3 paragraphs stating the department’s plan for mentoring the applicant(s). The plan should demonstrate the department’s capacity to promote the intellectual and professional development of the scholar, including regular, sustained scholarly exchange with faculty and students. The plan should also list the specific office space designated for the scholar.

February 23-March 2, 2011
Faculty review committee selected by the provost reviews the applications and recommends 5-8 applicants to be appointed as provost’s scholars and a substantial waiting list, based on the assumption that a number of the top candidates will get jobs between the application deadline and the announcement of the postdoctoral awards.

Mid March 2011
Offer letters are sent to the chosen applicants.

August 15, 2011
Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholars in the Humanities arrive on campus.

Further information about the program can be found by visiting the program website: http://grad.usc.edu/PostDocApp. For information regarding postdoctoral policies and benefits, look under the heading “postdoctoral research associates” at http://www.usc.edu/research/students/postdocs/.

Eligibility
Scholars in the humanities who earned the Ph.D. after July 1, 2007 and will have the degree in hand by July 1, 2011 are eligible to apply to the Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholars Program in the Humanities. The Ph.D. degree must come from an institution other than USC.

Applications will be accepted for placement in the following programs: American Studies, Art History, Classics, Comparative Literature, Critical Studies (Cinema), East Asian Languages and Cultures, English, French, History, Linguistics, Musicology, Philosophy, Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Spanish.

Terms of the award

Affiliation
Applicants request affiliation with one of the programs at USC listed above. Provost’s scholars are expected to reside in the Los Angeles area during the academic year and to participate actively in the academic life of their host department and the university.

Length of appointment
The appointment is for two academic years, although it is understood that scholars may get jobs and leave the program after the first year. Reappointment for the second year depends on the desire of the scholar to continue in the program, and on the scholar’s fulfillment of the terms of the award during the first year.

Compensation
The salary is $50,000 per year plus fringe benefits, including health insurance. In addition, provost’s scholars receive a research and travel account of $6,000 per year.

Teaching
Provost’s scholars will teach three courses over the four semesters of the appointment, one course per semester with one semester free for full-time focus on research. The courses taught should be dictated by best interests of the scholar’s professional development.

Number of awards
The provost expects to make five to eight awards per year. With scholars holding two-year terms, there will be a cohort of approximately ten Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholars in the Humanities hosted at USC each year.

Administrative Contact
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