Junior Research Associates program: How to Complete Your JRA Application

Loyda B. Méndez, Ph.D.
Student Research Program Director
10/2/26

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IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence

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Timetable

STEP	DATE
Call for proposals	9/1/26
Orientation	10/2/26
Submission deadline	11/8/26
Notification sent	12/15/26
Start date	1/15/27

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Who can apply

Full-time undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a Biomedical/Behavioral related sciences program

Network Institutions:

- UPR System
- UAGM
- Interamerican University
- PUCPR/UCB
- UCC
- PHSU
- SJBSOM

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Selection criteria

- Academic excellence (GPA ≥ 3.00)
- Biosketch
- Research proposal
- Letter of recommendation from research mentor
- Official transcript*
- Certified full-time student status*

- **Factor 1 : Importance of the Research**
  - Significance, Innovation
  - Scored 1 - 9
- **Factor 2 : Rigor and Feasibility**
  - Approach (also includes Inclusion and Clinical Trial (CT) Study Timeline)
  - Scored 1 - 9
- **Factor 3 : Expertise and Resources**
  - Investigators, Environment

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Where research can be performed

Any institution within the PRINBRE network

- Mentoring: UPR-RCM, UPR-RP, UPR-MSRC
- PUIs: UPR, UAGM, IUPR, PUCPR, UCB
- Outreach: PHSU, UCC, SJBSOM

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What does the JRA program provides

- Salary
- Mentoring
- Professional development opportunities
- Networking opportunities

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Application documents

https://inbre.hpcf.upr.edu/index.php/students-fellowships/index.html

- Application Form
- Transcript
- Resumé
- Letters of recommendation
  - UG: 1 from mentor
  - GS: 2 (mentor, faculty)
- NIH Biosketch
- NIH Project Summary/Abstract
- NIH Project Narrative
- NIH Proposal
  - UG: 2-page
  - GS: 5-page
- Advice on Application Sections | Grants & Funding

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Application form



Student's information

Sociodemographic

Educational information

Transcript



Previous experience

CV or resumé

Research Experience, presentations, publications, extracurricular activities



Proposal documents

Project Summary/Project Narrative

Research proposal, mentoring plan and literature cited

NIH Biosketch including personal statement with professional goals

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Research proposal

Main sections:

- Specific Aims
- Significance
- Innovation
- Approach

Additional sections

- Timetable
- Mentoring plan
- Literature cited

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NIH Biosketch

A. Personal statement
B. Positions and honors
C. Contribution to science
D. Scholastic performance

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.
Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.**

NAME:

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

POSITION TITLE:

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE *(if applicable)*	Start Date MM/YYYY	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY

A. Personal Statement

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments and Honors

C. Contributions to Science

D. Scholastic Performance

YEAR	COURSE TITLE	GRADE

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Mentoring plan

- Mentee Career Goals
- Research skills development
- Communications skills development
- Professional development skills
- Training in Responsible conduct of research
- Resources provided to support mentee

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Mentoring plan(2)

- Include items such as classes, seminars, opportunities for interaction with other groups and scientists, and any professional skills development opportunities.
- Indicate the relationship of the proposed research training to the applicant's career goals.
- Describe the skills and techniques that the applicant will learn. Relate these to the applicant's career goals.
- Briefly describe plans for how the mentor will provide instruction in professional practices to the mentee on a regular basis.
- Briefly describe the resources that will be provided by the primary mentor and/or division to support the mentee's attainment of the goals outlined in this plan
- Proposed presentations, meeting abstract and journal submission

Mentoring plan:

[redacted] goal after obtaining her B.S. in Microbiology is to complete a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences. To this extent, I will continue mentoring her in areas such as: career planning, professional development, research skills, and effective science communication among others. In addition, [redacted] will sign up in the National Research Mentoring Network to connect with other mentors. At the beginning of the academic year, [redacted] will complete the skills assessment form of the Individual Development Plan (ScienceCareers.org) to identify the specific skills that she needs to strengthen at her current career stage. Together we will decide on which specific skills she will work during each semester and the strategies that will be used. We will review the plan every two months to keep track of her progress. Among the skills and strategies that she will work are:

- *Research skills development*: As part of her project, [redacted] will learn tissue culture techniques, immunoassays (i.e. western blots, ELISAs), fluorescent assays, and statistical analysis.
- *Communication skills development*: [redacted] will be presenting her work at various forums in both oral and poster format. These include [redacted] Undegraduate Symposium, [redacted], ABRCMS, and Junior Technical meeting. In addition, she will participate in lab meetings and journal clubs, and attend writing workshops organized by [redacted]
- *Career advancement*: Under my guidance, [redacted] will work on her applications to summer research internships. In addition, she will be attending career-related events such as ABRCMS and the Society of Toxicology Undergraduate Diversity Program, among others.

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EVALUATION

JRA Application Orientation:

How to Complete Your Junior Research Associate Application

For more information:

Ms. Sandra Charriez

STCE Assistant Project Coordinator

- (787) 772-8300 ext. 1126
- sandra.charriez@upr.edu
- stce.inbre.pr@gmail.com

Dr. Loyda B. Méndez

SRP Director

- lbmendez@uagm.edu

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