Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Scholars - Frequently Asked Questions
(Last updated 11/5/18)

How long and in-depth should the research statement be? Are there any specific guidelines?
We do not have specific guidelines. We prefer research statements that are no more than 2 pages long. There are general guidelines online, including those from Penn’s own Career Services that are sound: https://www.vpul.upenn.edu/careerservices/writtenmaterials/researchstatements.php

Should the statement include a summary of past work as well as proposed research projects?
Yes; it is normal for research statements to include a summary of your research accomplishments and current work and discusses the future direction and potential of your work.

Are applicants required to contact potential faculty collaborators and/or receive faculty approval before submitting their applications?
No; but applicants should explicitly name faculty at Penn with whom they could potentially collaborate.

Do you have a list of faculty with whom the Fellows could potentially work?
We recommend that applicants browse the Faculty listed here: https://web.sas.upenn.edu/mindcore/people/faculty/ for a sense of the current work being done at Penn. That said, fellows are treated as independent investigators, and encouraged to develop research questions outside specific faculty interests.

Is this position open to international applicants that need visa support?
Yes. If you are selected as a MindCORE Fellow, we will connect you with the services on campus to process visas and other paperwork.

Does the program provide health insurance benefits, etc?
Yes; Fellows receive health insurance and a small research fund.

Who will mentor the Fellows?
Fellows are independent with financial and administrative oversight through MindCORE. While Fellows are strongly encouraged to collaborate with faculty, there is no expectation that Fellows be formally affiliated with faculty research groups. Fellows will be provided with a faculty mentoring committee and included in MindCORE networking and professional development events.

To what degree can Fellows be involved in shaping the work of MindCORE (e.g., by working with speakers, designing events)?
We anticipate that Fellows will shape the research agenda (via the portfolio of projects selected) and be engaged with the research community. But do not expect Fellows to be involved in the administration of MindCORE. We are excited for the Fellows to help develop a vibrant intellectual community around mind and brain at Penn, including through the design of symposia and other activities.

What is the review process?
Following a first-round review by the selection committee, a select group of candidates will be asked to provide reference letters and invited for a campus visit. Final offers will be made following the campus visit.

My referees want to know if it should be a concise one-page letter of recommendation or a longer letter like those for assistant professorships?
We do not have a minimum or maximum length requirement. That said, a more detailed letter is likely to be more helpful to us than a short statement of support.