


**MEMORANDUM**

To: Academic Deans, Faculty, and Staff

From: Elizabeth Garrett   
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: November 1, 2010

Subject: Provost's Postdoctoral Scholars Program in the Humanities

**Office of the Provost**

**Elizabeth Garrett**  
Provost and  
Senior Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

Frances R. and  
John J. Duggan  
Professor of Law,  
Political Science and  
Public Policy

I am pleased to announce the Provost's Postdoctoral Scholars Program in the Humanities as a new element in USC's distinctive contribution to scholarship and academic excellence in the realm of the humanities. The Provost's Postdoctoral Scholars in the Humanities will play a pivotal part in fostering the strengths of these disciplines at USC, and they will link the expertise of our faculty and doctoral students with the knowledge and insights gained from their own research and scholarship.

The program builds on other signature USC programs that champion the importance of the humanities for our academic community. These programs include Visions & Voices, faculty research grants for Advancing Scholarship in the Humanities and Social Sciences, and expanded support for outstanding humanities Ph.D. students through Provost's Ph.D. Fellowships.

The Provost's Postdoctoral Scholars Program in the Humanities will attract junior scholars from excellent academic institutions worldwide, allow them to develop and expand independent research programs, and engage them in the vibrant intellectual life of our campuses through interactions with USC's faculty, other postdoctoral scholars, graduate students, and undergraduates. The scholars will bring fresh ideas and voices to our ongoing conversations in the humanities, and infuse our scholarly community with new energy. In return, USC will help prepare these scholars for the academy, providing them with faculty mentoring, research support, and time to develop strong research and teaching portfolios.

When fully phased in, the program will support up to ten scholars, who will be appointed for two years in one of the following programs: American Studies, Art History, Classics, Comparative Literature, Critical Studies (Cinema), East Asian Languages and Cultures, English, French, History, Linguistics, Musicology, Philosophy, and Slavic Languages and Literatures. Scholars will be selected through a competitive process involving distinguished faculty from USC humanities departments. The awards will be available to recent Ph.D.'s who show promise as potential faculty at outstanding academic institutions. In addition to considering the scholarly qualifications and professional promise of candidates, the selection committee will assess the USC host department's demonstrated commitment to mentoring and professional development, including its strategy for integrating postdoctoral scholars into the life of our academic community.

Each scholar will receive a salary of \$50,000 per year plus fringe benefits, as well as a research and travel account of \$6,000 per year. Provost's humanities scholars will be expected to 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. Further information about the program can be found in the "Call for Applications" accompanying this memo, or by visiting the program website: <http://grad.usc.edu/PostDocApp>.

The Provost's Postdoctoral Scholars Program in the Humanities will significantly enhance USC's position as a leader in humanities scholarship. I look forward to working with deans and faculty as we continue to build innovative and compelling academic programs in these vital areas.

Attachment

cc: C. L. Max Nikias  
Robert Abeles  
Al Checcio  
Todd Dickey  
Martha Harris  
Jean Morrison

**University of Southern California**  
**Provost's Postdoctoral Scholars Program in the Humanities**

**Call for Applications**

The University of Southern California is pleased to announce a new opportunity for outstanding young scholars, the Provost's Postdoctoral Scholars Program in the Humanities. The program has two overarching goals. First, we seek to further the professional development of scholars in the humanities by providing time for research and writing, an opportunity to establish an independent teaching portfolio, and faculty mentoring to help scholars prepare for careers as tenure-track faculty. Secondly, we seek to add new voices from other institutions to our conversations within and across disciplines in the humanities, as well as to our conversations about the value and place of the humanities within the university and in society at large.

Appointments are for two years, with a start date of August 15, 2011. Provost's scholars will teach three courses over four semesters, with one semester free for full-time research. They are expected to reside in the Los Angeles area during the academic year and to participate in the scholarly life of the host department and the university through seminars and other scholarly activities. The salary is \$50,000 per year plus fringe benefits, with a research and travel account of \$6,000 per year. It is understood that scholars may get jobs and leave the program after the first year.

Candidates should choose one of the following programs as their proposed host department and explain the choice briefly in their cover letter: 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.

Applicants will be evaluated based on their prior academic accomplishments, the significance and intellectual merit of the proposed project, and their potential to contribute to the intellectual life of their host department and the community of scholars at USC. Candidates must have received the Ph.D. no earlier than July 1, 2007 and must have the degree in hand by July 1, 2011. The provost expects to make five to eight postdoctoral awards per year in order to maintain a full cohort of approximately 10 scholars.

**Application materials**

Applicants should submit the following items as .pdf files to <http://grad.usc.edu/PostDocApp>:

- Cover letter including explanation of desired program affiliation
- CV
- Writing sample of one chapter or one article (up to 30 pages double-spaced)
- Research proposal describing applicant's plans for the period of the grant. This may include revising the dissertation for publication and/or plans for the candidate's next academic project (up to three pages double-spaced)
- Teaching statement (up to two pages double spaced)
- Names, institutional affiliations, and email addresses of three faculty members who can supply letters of reference directly to USC.

**Notification**

Recipients of the USC Provost's Postdoctoral Scholar awards will be notified in mid March 2011.

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/>. Inquiries about the USC Provost's Postdoctoral Scholars Program in the Humanities should be directed to Vice Provost Sarah Pratt at [vpqp@usc.edu](mailto:vpqp@usc.edu).