



Postdoctoral Fellow Position Description

The Pratt Research Group at the University of Rhode Island invites applications for one (1) Postdoctoral Fellow for a full-time, 12-month position with benefits. The initial appointment will be for one year, with the possibility of renewal for a maximum of one additional year, contingent on satisfactory performance and resources.

Research Program

In the Pratt Research Group, we focus on understanding chemistry teaching and learning across a variety of contexts, including informal science settings. Our work spans content and affect-specific research questions, while always taking a theory-based approach to study design, data collection, and data analysis. Current interests include understanding the impacts of chemistry outreach/informal science events and developing tools to better understand these practitioners. Additionally, we are interested in inorganic chemistry education and topics that are built upon from general chemistry, from both the student and faculty perspectives; we seek to understand how these advanced courses are structured, the impacts they have on student learning and knowledge development, and how key concepts are iteratively built upon over the course of the chemistry curriculum. Regardless of topic, our methods are guided by our research questions and theoretical perspectives and include both qualitative and quantitative approaches as appropriate. More information about the Pratt Research Group and current projects can be found here:

<https://sites.google.com/uri.edu/pratt-research-group/home>

Duties and Responsibilities

The Postdoctoral Fellow will work on discipline-based education research projects related to the described research program. The Postdoctoral Fellow will also have the opportunity to propose and conduct a research project that synergies their interests with that of the Pratt Research Group.

Successful candidates will demonstrate experience with the duties and responsibilities related to this position:

1. Project design (aligning research questions with theory, methods, interview prompts, IRB applications, etc.)
2. Data collection (conducting interviews, classroom observations, administering surveys, etc.)
3. Qualitative data analysis (using software such as ATLAS.ti, NVivo, Dedoose, etc.) and/or quantitative data analysis (using software such as R, MPlus, etc.)
4. Dissemination (writing publications and presenting at conferences/workshops)
5. Mentoring (supporting graduate and/or undergraduate students with the research process)

During the first month of the appointment, the successful candidate will prepare a professional development plan to support their overall success. This plan will include:

- Timeline for preparing application materials for post-appointment employment
- Knowledge and skills they want to develop during the appointment
- Milestones for a research project that synergizes their interests with that of the Pratt Research Group
- Professional development opportunities geared towards their interests and career goals, such as attending programs offered by URI's Office for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning or career development workshops offered by the American Chemical Society.

Education Requirement

Candidates must have a Ph.D. in chemical education, discipline-based education, science education, or a closely related field at time of appointment.

Salary

The initial full-time appointment is for one year, with the possibility of extending for a second year based on performance and the availability of funding. The salary is based on NIH postdoctoral stipend recommendations; the starting salary recommended by the NIH is \$56,484.

Application Process

Review of applications will begin on April 3, 2023 and will continue until the position is filled. Preferred start date is mid-July but is negotiable and flexible to meet the needs of the individual.

If you are interested, feel free to reach out with any questions. Questions and the following application materials can be submitted directly to Dr. Justin Pratt at justin.pratt@uri.edu:

1. Cover letter addressing interest in the position, the alignment of candidate's skills and experience with the duties and responsibilities of the position, and the skills or expertise that the candidate seeks to develop as part of this experience (2-3 pages)
2. Curriculum Vita
3. Name and contact information for three references

Top candidates will be interviewed using Zoom (or equivalent) with the possibility of a campus visit. Letters of recommendation, a summary of research interests, a proposal for a synergistic project, and/or other supporting documentation *may* be requested from finalists for this position.

