

UC Riverside  
Academic Personnel Policy and Procedures  
**POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS FIVE-YEAR LIMIT GUIDELINES**

### Policy

UCR Postdoctoral Scholars Policy 390-17-b states: The total duration of an individual's postdoctoral service may not exceed five years, including postdoctoral service at other institutions. By exception, the Dean of the Graduate Division may grant an extension not to exceed a sixth year.

### Guidelines

What will count toward the 5-year limit?

- UC appointments as Postgraduate Researcher, Visiting Postgraduate Researcher, Postdoctoral Scholar, Postdoctoral Fellow, or Postdoctoral Trainee
- Postdoctoral experience in other educational or research institutions (universities, NIH, Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos, Salk, Scripps Research Institute, Burnham, Ludwig, Howard Hughes, Veterans Hospital, etc.)
- Mentored postdoctoral experience in industry
- Foreign research experience if similar to US postdoctoral experience
- Other mentored postdoctoral research experience

What will **NOT** count toward the 5-year limit?

- Residencies
- Clinical fellow appointments with modest or no research training component
- Appointments in industry which are not mentored
- Non-academic staff appointments

Requests for exceptions beyond the 5<sup>th</sup> year for up to a total of six years will be considered if the Postdoctoral Scholar:

- Is changing fields/disciplines
- Has five years or more of postdoctoral experience, is returning from a non-academic/non-research position or from full-time parenting, and needs research retraining
- Has a postdoctoral fellowship that was awarded through a sixth year
- Needs a few additional months beyond the fifth year to complete a research project
- Has accepted a permanent position at another institution that begins a few additional months beyond the fifth year
- Would suffer hardship as the result of personal circumstances which are beyond the Postdoctoral Scholar's control (e.g., a death in the family which delayed completion of the research training)

Requests for exceptions will also be considered in other well-justified circumstances and when the additional training time would be beneficial to the Postdoctoral Scholar.

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Process for Requesting an Exception

Written requests for exception should be submitted via the Dean of each college or school to the Dean of the Graduate Division for consideration.