

Research Staff 12-Month Positions

Research Associate

The research associate is the entry, or most junior rank, for staff members providing research support for one or more Mason Principal Investigators (PIs). The research associate works under the supervision of a Mason PI or associated (Senior) Research Scientist, Engineer or Scholar, and carries out research activities that require professional preparation and application of accepted research methods, principles and practices in the relevant field. Research associates may assist PIs and other research team members with the preparation of reports, documents, or manuals. They may also assist PIs with the delivery of research-intensive educational programs and coordinate activities involving a number of research collaborators. Work performed is at the exempt level, and focuses on issues related to research, research training and service, as opposed to daily administrative tasks. Research associates are not eligible to be PIs, co-PIs or co-Is. Master's degree in a relevant field is the minimum qualification for appointment as a research associate. The Provost must approve exception requests for individuals with a bachelor's degree and significant related experience before an offer is extended.

Senior Research Associate

The senior research associate rank is for individuals whose research experience and accomplishments reflect professional achievement and recognition considerably greater than that of research associates. Senior research associates generally conduct research with more limited supervision than that required for research associates. They may provide input into the preparation of proposals or supervise staff or student personnel, but typically they have limited responsibility and authority in these areas. Master's degree in a relevant field is the minimum qualification for appointment as a research associate. The Provost must approve requests for exceptions for individuals with a bachelor's degree and significant related experience before an offer is extended.

Research Scientist, Engineer or Scholar

Research Scientists, Engineers, or Scholars are involved directly in the execution, and frequently the design, of Mason Principal Investigators' (PIs') research activities. The primary purpose of the Research Scientist, Engineer or Scholar is to assist the PI in attaining the goals of the PI's sponsored research projects. Research scientists, engineers and scholars may participate in the preparation of proposals, progress, and final reports, and may be the coauthor or sole author of research results, with agreement of the PI. Although not usually engaged in formal classroom teaching, research scientists, engineers and scholars frequently assist in the guidance of postdoctoral scholars, graduate and undergraduate students in the laboratory. Research Scientists, Engineers and Scholars typically require a Ph.D. or its equivalent in research skill and subject knowledge.

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Senior Research Scientist, Engineer or Scholar

Individuals whose accomplishments reflect professional achievement and recognition considerably greater than that of a Research Scientist, Research Engineer, or Research Scholar may be appointed as Senior Research Scientist, Senior Research Engineer, or Senior Research Scholar.

Senior Research Scientists, Senior Research Engineers and Senior Research Scholars may serve as co-PIs or co-Is in collaboration with a faculty PI on research projects (and on related applications for support) in which they have a significant role. Senior Research Scientists, Engineers and Scholars are not eligible to be PIs; however, requests for PI status may be submitted to the Office of the Vice President for Rese