

Trauma Center Training Program - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do you accept interns / externs / practica students / trainees of disciplines other than psychology?

A: The Trauma Center has three primary clinical training programs:

- 1) A postdoctoral fellowship program which recruits high level clinical psychologists-in-training who have completed their doctoral degrees.
- 2) An extern / practicum / predoctoral internship program which operates in specific collaboration with two local graduate schools, and which is not broadly open to application.
- 3) A post-graduate social work fellowship program, which is described elsewhere on our website.

The Trauma Center at JRI also has a limited number of research internships available. If you are a student interested in volunteering or interning with our research department, you may find further information about this program:

<http://www.traumacenter.org/research/Internship.php>

In terms of availability of placement for applicants who do not fit neatly into one of the above three categories, please note that we rarely accept other students in training. To help in your consideration of whether to pursue further questions regarding your eligibility or availability of positions, please note the following:

- ALL individuals accepted for training with us must commit to a two-year placement.
- We are unable to pay a stipend to students prior to post-doctoral level (post-graduate students may be eligible for fee-for-service reimbursement of clinical sessions).
- Our training placement is NOT suitable for early-level graduate students; therefore, we will not consider applications from students prior to their third year of psychology training.
- For other disciplines (i.e., students of social work, marriage and family therapy, mental health counselors), you must be able to demonstrate at least three years of clinical experience prior to your application. We typically do not consider applications from masters-level students unless they have substantial additional experience.
- Our clinical training program is not appropriate for allied / non clinical or mental health professionals (i.e., occupational therapists, speech and language professionals, yoga instructors, etc.).

The majority of the information in the remainder of this FAQ is relevant to the **postdoctoral fellowship program**.

Q: Do you accept international candidates?

A: Our training program is open to appropriate, qualified candidates regardless of nationality or citizenship, and welcomes diverse applicants. Please note, however, that our organization is unable to fiscally sponsor visas at the trainee level. International applicants must demonstrate that they are eligible to remain in the United States for the full two-year period of the postdoctoral fellowship.

Q: Do you accept individuals with primarily research backgrounds?

A: Our fellowship positions vary year to year, and some are more heavily research-focused than others. All positions, however, require clinical practice, and appropriate candidates must be able to demonstrate sufficient prior training and supervision in clinical services.

Q: Does someone need to have training / coursework / experience in research to be eligible?

A: Our fellowship positions vary year to year, and some are more heavily research-focused than others. To be considered for a research-focused fellowship track, you must be able to demonstrate that you are a good match in terms of background, interests, and training. However, we frequently offer fellowship tracks that are primarily clinically focused, as well as those that bridge the two (i.e., project coordination on service-oriented grants). We encourage candidates to thoroughly review our track descriptions each year, and apply for those positions which feel like the best match.

Q: Do candidates need to work with children? Do candidates need to work with adults?

A: Our center provides specialized mental health services to children, adolescents, families, and adult clients. Most of our trainees will see a mix of child / adolescent and adult clients during their time with us, although we certainly have candidates who have a preference for one or the other population and we will take that into account when assigning clients. We consider applications from candidates with a mix of clinical backgrounds. However, be aware that some tracks require more child / adolescent and/or more adult experience, and applicants should be certain their skill set and experience is a match for available positions. Our clinical work has tilted more heavily toward child / adolescent clients in recent years, so we prioritize candidates who have some experience with children / adolescents / families.

Q: Do candidates need to have experience with trauma work?

A: Our strong preference is that candidates come to us with some prior exposure to both academic and clinical training in the field of trauma. We are a highly specialized site, and are best matched to those who intend to pursue a career with this population. In screening applications, we look for candidates who have a track record of interest in the area of traumatic stress.

Q: What is the application process?

A: Please review the information contained at this link: http://www.traumacenter.org/training/postdoc_application.php . Applications are typically accepted in late Fall / early winter, with deadline of January 15th for entry the following September.

Q: Do you require an in-person interview?

A: A select number of applicants are invited to interview following review of all applications. Although we strongly prefer to schedule all candidates for in-person interview on a single designated Interview Day, typically in mid-February, we recognize that this may not be feasible in certain circumstances. When absolutely necessary, we are willing to schedule an alternate interview day with top candidates. Alternate interviews MUST be scheduled prior to our designated Interview Day.

Q: Do you schedule in-person interviews with all candidates?

A: The volume of applications we receive unfortunately precludes our capacity to schedule interviews with all interested candidates. We invite a small number of candidates to interview following review of all applications.

Q: Can I visit your center to learn more?

A: Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate in-person informational visits unless someone has been invited to interview. This is due both to our need to protect client confidentiality, and the volume of "visit" requests we receive from students and professionals around the world. If you are interested in "getting to know us", we encourage you to attend a training event or review our website. Truthfully, our physical plant is that of a relatively small, working clinic in an urban area, and there is little to "see" on a visit.

Q: Do you accept fellowship applications each year?

A: Although number of positions and available track varies, we do typically recruit at least one, and as many as four, fellows each academic year. Positions are typically posted in late Fall (late October / early November) for following-year positions, with applications due by January 15th.

Q: Can you describe your "ideal" candidate?

A: Because our fellowship positions vary from year to year, our ideal candidate also varies. In general, appropriate candidates will be able to demonstrate a track record of interest and training in traumatic stress; an openness to collaborating with and learning from our clients, faculty, supervisors, and project leads, and an existing skill set and area of interest that will enrich our center. Ideal fellows are bright, highly organized, avid pursuers of the latest science, research, and established and innovative approaches for traumatic stress, and are excellent communicators. Successful post-docs at our center have been diverse, but all are those who have been passionate about the work, who are willing to work hard, and who are good team players.

Q: Where do post-doctoral fellows go after completing their fellowship?

A: Many different places. We often recruit excellent and interested postdoctoral fellows to remain with us in staff positions following completion of fellowship, and our center employs numerous former post-docs (including the majority of our current administrative team). Beyond our center, in recent years our fellows have transitioned to positions including private and group clinical practices; clinical and administrative positions at mental health agencies; professorships at colleges and universities; and positions on large grant-funded projects including both service and research-oriented positions.

Q: How can I learn more?

A: If reviewing these questions and the information contained on our primary post-doctoral fellowship pages has not answered your questions, you may contact Dr. Jana Pressley, Director of Education and Professional Development, at jpressley@jri.org .