

## Definitions of Research Faculty Positions

**Regular Research Faculty:** These researchers are those who have research as their principal assignment. Research faculty can be supported by a variety of mechanisms (internal and external sources); however, the majority of salary support is derived from grant and contract funds obtained by the research faculty member. Research Faculty are not eligible for tenure. These appointments are benefits eligible and are processed through the Position Vacancy Announcement posting through the University System. These researchers are eligible for the regular promotional process through the President's Office. These researchers do have voting rights in the faculty senate.

**Term Research Faculty:** Term researchers are those who have research as their principal assignment and whose appointment can last up to two years. Research faculty can be supported by a variety of mechanisms (internal and external sources); however, the majority of salary support is derived from grant and contract funds obtained by the research faculty member. Research Faculty are not eligible for tenure. These appointments are benefits eligible and whose appointments can last up to two years per ACA guidelines. These researchers will not be processed through the Position Vacancy Announcement posting of the University System. Term researchers are not eligible for the promotional process through the President's Office.

**Postdoctoral Fellows:** Appointees should have been recently awarded a PhD or equivalent doctorate (e.g. Sc.D., M.D., DVM) in an appropriate field, typically within the past five years. The appointment should involve substantial, full-time research or scholarship under the supervision of a faculty mentor, the results of which are expected to be published. The appointment should be viewed as preparatory for a full-time academic and/or research career and as such are temporary in nature. It is recommended that postdoctoral fellows be appointed as full time, with term of at least one year and up to 3 years (and a maximum of 5 years). Postdoctoral Fellows are usually funded from Georgia Tech-administered grants, contracts, or funds and for the purposes of services and benefits are considered employees of Georgia Tech. Appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow can include responsibilities in formal instruction (typically less than 50% effort). Postdoctoral Fellows are considered to be Research Faculty without faculty senate voting privileges.

**Postdoctoral Scholars:** Postdoctoral Scholars primarily have training status; they are not considered Research Faculty. They are provided a stipend for which no specific service to Georgia Tech is required in exchange for the stipend. The stipend may be provided directly to the recipient from an external fellowship or provided by Georgia Tech from an external source (e.g., a federal training grant). These researchers are not eligible for benefits as they are not considered employees.

**Visiting Research Faculty:** Visiting faculty are senior scholars and distinguished visitors who typically hold a doctoral degree or the foreign equivalent and who hold an appointment comparable to those of Georgia Tech faculty, and are usually on temporary leave from their universities or research centers. They visit the campus for relatively short periods of time, usually no longer than a year, serve as senior researchers, collaborate on research projects and publications with faculty members, and pursue independent research. Ordinarily, visiting faculty are self-supported, or have adequate supporting funds. These positions may or may not be benefits eligible due to percent time worked (50% time or higher for 6 months or longer). Visiting Research Faculty do not have voting rights in the faculty senate.

**Visiting Research Students:** These are students who are typically registered in a degree program at another university (U.S. or abroad) who undertake research opportunities of mutual interest to Georgia Tech, the visiting student and their home institution. These appointments are usually 2 months to 12 months in nature. The proposed visit is to conduct research to fulfill degree requirements set forth by the home institution. These positions are not eligible for benefits. Students from abroad must participate in the J-1 Student Intern program through the Office of International Education. No Visiting Research Student may hold the B-1, Visitor for Business, or Visa Waiver Business (VWB) categories.

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