

Job Announcement

Postdoctoral Associate in Science Assessment Research

Position Title: Postdoctoral Associate in Science Assessment Research

Reports To: Project lead

Start Date: October 15th, 2022 **FLSA Status:** Exempt

Applications are invited for a full time postdoctoral associate in science assessment research at BSCS Science Learning in Colorado Springs, CO. The successful candidate will work as a researcher and assessment developer on an assessment validity project. The associate will serve as a researcher on an NSF-funded project led by Dr. Cari Herrmann Abell, who will serve as the associate's postdoctoral advisor. The Postdoctoral Associate will be appointed for a two-year period with the possibility of extension for two additional years.

Postdoctoral Associate Appointments at BSCS

A postdoctoral associate position at BSCS is a mentored apprenticeship. Postdoctoral associates play a significant role in research, instructional materials development, and/or professional learning projects and engage in a customized postdoctoral learning program with the mentorship of a BSCS research scientist. BSCS provides postdoctoral associates with a salary, full benefits, and an annual budget for professional development and participation in academic conferences. At the completion of a postdoctoral associate appointment, an individual will have acquired additional understanding and abilities required for a research and/or development career in science education and will have authored additional publications and other scholarly works. In collaboration with their mentor, every postdoctoral associate develops a professional development plan with a set of specific goals for the period of their appointment. BSCS research scientists will also provide postdoctoral associates with mentorship in grant writing, manuscript writing, and presentation skills. Postdoctoral associates often serve as mentors to research assistants and associates.

This Postdoctoral Associate in Science Assessment Research position

This postdoctoral associate will work with research scientists to co-develop and validate assessments, conduct student interviews, collect and analyze data, present research findings at conferences, and author manuscripts. The postdoctoral associate will have the opportunity to work on one or more projects during their time at BSCS, including the NSF-funded research project: *Exploring the Validity of Three-Dimensional Assessments (EVA)*. The project involves conducting empirical studies to explore what phenomenon-driven, three-dimensional, science assessments are actually assessing and whether they are suitable for use as outcome measures in studies of instructional effectiveness. The primary duty of the postdoctoral associate will include working collaboratively with the project team to collect and revise extant assessments and study how validly the assessments measure middle school students' three-dimensional science understanding. They will also conduct cognitive think-aloud interviews with these assessments to understand how students apply their understanding to make sense of the phenomena that drive the assessments.

Required Qualifications

- Ph.D. in science education, measurement, statistics, or evaluation;

Desirable Qualifications

- Strong understanding of one or more of the natural sciences;
- Familiarity with the *Next Generation Science Standards* and OpenSciEd instructional materials, particularly at the middle school level;
- Knowledge of the educational literature on three-dimensional science assessment, reliability and validity, and equity in assessment;
- Strong skills in two or more of the following areas: assessment development, measurement theory, statistics, psychometrics, and mixed-methods research.

Essential Qualities and Abilities

- a commitment to improving science education;
- a commitment to equity and social justice in education;
- strong internal motivation;
- flexibility and openness to learning;
- ability and desire to work collaboratively, to be mentored, to work independently, and to mentor younger researchers;
- project management, time management, communication, and writing skills

About BSCS Science Learning

BSCS Science Learning is an independent, nonprofit organization that develops, studies, and disseminates powerful approaches to science education. Our mission is to improve science teaching and learning through research-driven innovation. Founded in 1958, BSCS has brought the experience of inquiry learning to millions of students and teachers across the U.S. and around the world. Today, BSCS conducts research on how to improve science teaching and learning, develops instructional materials, offers professional learning programs for teachers, and conducts leadership development programs. Underlying all this work is our commitment to providing all young people with equitable, inclusive, and just science learning opportunities.

Additional Information

The full-time, annual salary for this position ranges from \$65,000 to \$70,000 depending on experience and qualifications. The position also includes a \$5,000 budget for professional development activities, including conference attendance. This position requires public speaking and travel.

BSCS offers competitive compensation and a generous package of benefits, including paid time off, medical and dental insurance, and a retirement plan. We also offer a flexible and inclusive work environment, with a strong commitment to the professional growth of all staff.

BSCS's offices are in Colorado Springs, the #2 city in *US News & World Report's* 2022 Best Places to Live. Located along the Front Range of the Rockies one hour south of Denver, Colorado Springs is known for a mild climate, a vibrant arts community, and year-round outdoor recreation. Preference will be given to candidates who live or are interested in relocating to Colorado Springs or are living in the DC metro area to be in close proximity to colleagues. For additional information about BSCS and our work, prospective applicants are encouraged to review the BSCS website (bscs.org).

BSCS Commitment to Diversity

BSCS is committed to advancing science learning that is inclusive, meaningful, and advances the work of social and environmental justice. To learn more, visit

<https://bscs.org/our-work/equity-social-justice/>.

BSCS Science Learning is committed to the recruitment of a diverse staff so that we can bring the broadest possible range of perspectives to our mission of improving science teaching and learning for a diverse audience. We are an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, sex, color, religion, national origin, disability (physical and/or mental), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, military obligations, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, or any status protected by federal, state, or local law.

To Apply:

Applicants should send the following to careers@bscs.org. Please put "Postdoctoral Associate" in the subject line.

1. Research Statement (1 page) that describes their relevant prior research experiences and current research interests.
2. Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Statement (1 page) that describes (1) relevant prior experience responding to the interests, social identities, and obstacles to learning faced by marginalized populations, and (2) your views about equity, inclusion, and social justice in science education and how they have been shaped by your educational, personal, and/or professional experiences.
3. Curriculum Vita
4. Cover letter describing your interest and qualifications in the position. In your cover letter include a list of three professional references and whether you prefer to work in Colorado Springs, DC, or remotely.

We will review complete applications as they are received and will continue to accept and review applications until the positions are filled. Employment could begin as early as October 15, 2022 or as late as December 1, 2022. In your cover letter, please indicate your earliest available start date.