

# The Navy Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Clinical Psychology



## Navy Medical Center Portsmouth

### **ACCREDITATION**

The Navy Psychology Postdoctoral Training Program is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA). Inquiries regarding accreditation may be addressed to the American Psychological Association's Commission on Accreditation at the following address or phone number:

Commission on Accreditation  
Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation  
American Psychological Association  
750 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C., 20002-4242  
(202) 336-5979

### **APPIC**

It is the policy of the Navy Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Psychology to follow the APPIC Postdoctoral Selection Guidelines.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Navy's Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Psychology is based at the Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, located in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. The fellowship consists of an intensive twelve-month period of clinical, didactic, and leadership training.

The fellowship provides the foundation for practice within the military mental health system, but it is sufficiently broad to prepare the fellow for advanced practice in diverse non-military clinical settings as well. Furthermore, this program prepares the fellow for licensure as a psychologist in the state of his/her choosing, and is conducive to attaining Board Certification in Clinical Psychology.

Prior military experience is not a requirement nor an expectation for applicants. Most applicants have no

prior military experience. Applicants do not have to be in the military to apply, and there is no military service obligation unless an applicant is selected for the fellowship.

Applicants who are selected for the fellowship are commissioned as Lieutenants in the Navy Medical Service Corps, and serve a total of 4 years on active duty - 1 year as a postdoctoral fellow and 3 years as a staff psychologist.

### **APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS**

All applicants must be U.S. Citizens (dual citizens must agree to relinquish non-US citizenship if selected for the fellowship)

Age Limit: No more than 41 years of age at the time of commissioning (typically in June or July of the year in which the fellowship starts).

Applicants must have completed all requirements for the doctoral degree (including dissertation and doctoral internship) before attending Officer Development School, which runs from 29 August 2021 to 1 October 2021. The fellowship start date is 4 October 2021.

Your doctoral program and doctoral internship must be APA-accredited.

The fellowship program gives careful consideration to all available information about each applicant, and selects fellows on a competitive basis without regard to race, sex, religion, creed, color, or national origin (in accordance with Article 1164, Navy Regulations).

Competitive applicants should be experienced in providing "generalist" clinical services to a broad range of adult patients. Neuropsychology, health psychology, and child psychology experience is welcome and valued, but should not have been the primary focus of graduate school training. Applicants who have minimal experience with adults, or who have adult experience only in narrowly focused specialty areas such as neuropsychological assessment, would be at a significant disadvantage in our program.

Other Requirements: Applicants must meet medical and security qualifications for commissioning as a U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps officer. This part of the application is completed with the assistance of a Navy Medical Programs Officer Recruiter. (See below).

### **POSITION INFORMATION**

**Number of Positions:** Varies annually, usually 3-5

**Full Time:** All fellowship positions are full-time.

**Salary:** (For Fiscal Year 2021):

Low Salary: \$75,023.88; High Salary: \$77,759.88\*

\*"Low salary" reflects pay and allowances for a postdoctoral fellow without dependents (i.e., spouse and/or children). "High salary" reflects pay and allowances for a postdoctoral fellow with dependents. These figures include the housing allowance for the Portsmouth area, which is not taxable.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Deadline for Application: 4 January 2021** (See below for additional information about the application process).

**Officer Development School (Newport, RI).** Five-week orientation course attended prior to starting the Fellowship: **29 August – 1 October 2021**. Click [here](#) for more information about ODS.

**Fellowship Start Date: 4 October 2021.**

## APPLICATION

Applicants must work with a Navy Medical Programs Officer Recruiter to submit their fellowship application. The application includes a medical evaluation and security investigation to determine eligibility for commissioning as a Naval officer. This process can take several months to complete. **Applicants should initiate contact with a Navy Medical Programs Officer Recruiter by 1 October 2020 to allow sufficient time to complete the application before the deadline. Any application initiated after 1 October would require consultation with the Navy National Training Director (Dr. John A. Ralph, (301) 295-2476 or [john.a.ralph.civ@mail.mil](mailto:john.a.ralph.civ@mail.mil)).**

To locate the Medical Programs Officer Recruiter nearest you:

- Go to [www.navy.com/careers/healthcare](http://www.navy.com/careers/healthcare), click on "Find a Recruiter" at the bottom of the page, then type in your zip code. Click on "Officer Recruiter." Please ask specifically to speak with a Medical Programs Officer Recruiter. Not all recruiting offices have a Medical Programs Officer Recruiter. If the office you contact does not, they can connect you with the one nearest to you. For additional assistance, you may also contact Dr. John A. Ralph, National Director for Navy Psychology Training Programs; [john.a.ralph.civ@mail.mil](mailto:john.a.ralph.civ@mail.mil).

In addition to information needed to determine an individual's suitability for commissioning as a Naval officer, applicants must submit the following documents via their recruiter:

1. Resume/CV
2. Doctoral program transcript
3. Three letters of recommendation from doctoral-level psychologists familiar with the applicant's clinical competency
4. Letters of Good Standing from the applicable internship Training Director and doctoral program Director of Clinical Training. (Applicants who have completed the doctoral degree and are not yet licensed should submit proof of graduation in lieu of Letter of Good Standing.)

## AIMS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

The fellowship is designed to provide the "generalist" clinician with advanced skills across a broad array of professional competencies. It is based on an intensive, full-time period of clinical, didactic, and leadership experiences. The program emphasizes the assessment and treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, traumatic brain injury (TBI), chronic pain, family issues, and substance/alcohol abuse. It also provides an orientation to severe mental health conditions requiring inpatient psychiatric treatment within a military medical facility. Evidence-based practice is emphasized throughout the training program.

A unique aspect of the training experience is exposure to the practice of clinical psychology in operational settings. Fellows spend several days aboard a Navy ship working with the ship's psychologist, and they visit a Marine or Navy SEAL base where other Navy psychologists practice.

The program also prepares the fellow to become a clinical leader. Clinical leadership involves the ability to evaluate existing clinical programs, develop new programs, provide effective supervision of other practitioners, and organize resources so that clinical and administrative objectives can be met.

Navy Psychologists are a diverse group of men and women. At Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, a significant percentage of the core supervisory faculty members are minority psychologists. It is an important part of the fellowship program's mission to continue to increase minority representation at the training site and in the broader Navy psychology community. The training faculty is committed to providing comprehensive education and training on diversity issues. We view diversity education as a life-long process that does not end when formal training is completed.

Additional information about the fellowship can be found in the training manual [here](#).

View the Navy Psychology Postdoc brochure [here](#).

**Interviews:** An in-person interview is required.

Interviews will be conducted at NMC, Portsmouth, Virginia on **5 & 6 January 2021**. Selected applicants will be contacted by the Training Director via phone or email to schedule an interview. The point-of-contact regarding interviews is:

Captain Michael Franks, Psy.D., ABPP  
Psychology Training Director  
Navy Medical Center  
Portsmouth, VA  
Office: 757-953-6730; Front Desk: (757) 953-7641  
Michael.j.franks2.mil@mail.mil

**Alternate dates for interviews can be arranged if necessary.**

#### **ADDITIONAL BENEFITS**

Fellows receive all benefits and allowances commensurate with serving on active duty as an officer in the United States Navy. These benefits include health and dental coverage for oneself and one's dependents, enrollment in the military's Thrift Savings Plan, life insurance, access to Commissaries & Navy Exchange department stores, paid moving expenses, and the use of world-class gymnasiums and other recreational facilities.

#### **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NAVY POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY? CONTACT:**

Captain Michael Franks, Psy.D., ABPP (see contact information above), or:

John A. Ralph, Ph.D., ABPP  
CAPT, MSC, USN (ret)  
National Director, Navy Psychology  
Training and Recruitment Programs  
Walter Reed National Military Medical Center  
Bethesda, Maryland  
(301) 295-2476  
[john.a.ralph.civ@mail.mil](mailto:john.a.ralph.civ@mail.mil)