Letter must be on faculty letterhead

DATE

EMAIL ADDRESS

Dear NAME,

I am delighted to offer you a full-time appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) from DATE through DATE with the possibility of renewal depending on continued funding and satisfactory performance. Your position will be funded from your fellowship from [FUNDER NAME]. As a Postdoctoral Fellow, you will be under my direct supervision and will be expected to adhere to all Harvard University rules and requirements. This appointment is conditional on funding and institutional review.

I look forward to working with you on TOPIC(S) OF RESEARCH. ADDITIONAL DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES. Consider including some or all of the following and adapt to your group’s use: In addition to your research, we expect you to participate in international conferences and publish conference and journal papers, to propose new directions and projects and assist in preparing research proposals, and to supervise and interact with graduate and undergraduate students. You may also have opportunities to assist with courses and to prep grant proposals.

Due to the importance of in-person mentoring with their faculty sponsor and having the opportunity to interact with colleagues and researchers within their department, it is expected that postdoctoral fellows work on campus.

Ahead of your renewal date, I look forward to discussing your achievements and progress and to setting objectives for your reappointment. If it is determined that your performance is not satisfactory, the appointment may be terminated before the appointment end date or not be renewed.

[ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR THE POSITION, SUCH AS OFFICE/DESK SPACE, RESEARCH ALLOWANCE, TRAVEL ALLOWANCE, INSTITUTE OR CENTER AFFILIATIONS AND RESOURCES, ETC.]

As this position is unpaid, you will be responsible for covering your living expenses.

This position will not be eligible for Harvard University benefits. You are responsible for providing your own health insurance coverage, which is required of all Massachusetts residents. More information is available on the FAS Office of Postdoctoral Affairs website: <https://postdoc.fas.harvard.edu/non-harvard-benefits-eligible-postdocs>. As a member of the Harvard community, you will have access to library and computer facilities, and you can purchase a membership for the Harvard recreational facilities.

Full-time Postdoctoral Fellows are generally entitled to 20 days of vacation per year. This time may not roll over from year to year, and there can be no payout of unused vacation time when an appointment ends. Please discuss your vacation and holiday plans with me in advance. [Please visit this website](https://postdoc.fas.harvard.edu/administrative-considerations) for more information on paid time off policies and other administrative considerations.

The health of our workforce is a priority for Harvard University.  With that in mind, we strongly encourage all employees to be up-to-date on CDC-recommended vaccines.

INTERNATIONAL: For information about health insurance coverage for your visit, see the following Harvard International Office page: <http://hio.harvard.edu/health-care-scholars>. If you are coming to Harvard on a J-1 visa, the terms of your visa require you to purchase a minimum level of health insurance coverage. For details on this requirement, please see: <http://hio.harvard.edu/j-visa-regulations-regarding-health-insurance-requirements>.

INTERNATIONAL: All appointments are contingent upon approval of an appropriate visa as required by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The Harvard International Office (HIO) helps individuals secure visas and other appropriate documentation allowing them to enter the United States and pursue their activities at Harvard. If you need such assistance, and as federal regulations permit, HIO will assist you in the process of obtaining temporary visa status. The United States government, however, remains the final arbiter of all immigration-related cases. Furthermore, the United States Department of State visa services at all United States embassies and consulates may be delayed or otherwise impacted by a variety of conditions.  It is ultimately the responsibility of the individual appointee to ensure they obtain an appropriate entry visa and any other required authorization prior to arrival at Harvard for their appointed term.

All incoming faculty and researchers at Harvard University are expected to review and sign an electronic version of the [Harvard University Participation Agreement](https://seas.harvard.edu/office-faculty-affairs/research-appointments/forms-appointees) which is designed to help carry out the Harvard University Intellectual Property Policy and other research policies. Please review and electronically sign the Participation Agreement by the start of your appointment. Please also submit an electronic PDF of a signed hard copy of the [Acknowledgement of Risk and Release](http://files.vpr.harvard.edu/files/vpr-documents/files/acknowledgement_of_risk_and_release_form_12_2014.pdf) for Non-Harvard Personnel Using Harvard Research and Instructional Laboratory Facilities form by the start of your appointment.

If you received or will receive your doctoral degree within one year of your appointment start date, please note that the Harvard SEAS Office for Faculty Affairs must receive official confirmation that you have completed all requirements for your doctoral degree prior to your appointment start date.

For information on other FAS and University policies pertaining to your appointment, please see the FAS Appointment and Promotion Handbook ( <http://academic-appointments.fas.harvard.edu/>.)

The Office for Postdoctoral Affairs website is an excellent source of information for incoming Postdoctoral Fellows: <https://postdoc.fas.harvard.edu/>.

Information about Harvard’s many cultural and intellectual resources can be found at <http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/harvard-events>.

I am enthusiastic about having you join my group. If you have any questions about your appointment, please contact Gina Scribner (scribner@seas.harvard.edu) OR Nora McDonald (nora@seas.harvard.edu) OR Karen Galvez (karengalvez@seas.harvard.edu) in the Harvard SEAS Office for Faculty Affairs.

Sincerely yours,

signature

Faculty Member

Title

cc: Academic Appointments Manager