The Department of African American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign seeks applications for two postdoctoral research associates for 2013-2014. These positions assist scholars who study African Americans and Black populations in the U.S. and across the African Diaspora by providing association with faculty in the discipline of Black Studies and assistance in furthering the associate’s development as a productive scholar. The call for applications is open to all scholars in the humanities, the arts, and social sciences. The area of emphasis is open, but scholars in the following areas are especially encouraged to apply: African American Studies theory; 19th century history; political economy/politics/public policy; women, gender, sexuality, and families; and African American culture—film, literature, music.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, must have received a doctorate or appropriate terminal degree within the past four years or have completed this requirement before the beginning of the fellowship year. They must demonstrate promise for a tenure-track appointment at a research university and their primary research focus must be African American and/or transnational Black populations in the U.S. and across the African Diaspora.

Appointments have a target start date of August 16, 2013, and are for a nine-month period, August 16, 2013 – May 15, 2014. Contingent on funding and approval, recipients may be eligible to apply for a second year. Recipients must be in residence full-time at the University’s Urbana campus for the duration of the appointment, and may not hold other fellowships or awards during the appointment period. In addition to continuing their research, associates are expected to teach a course for the department during the spring semester, give a brown bag lecture from which a working paper may be produced, and participate in departmental activities and events. Associates will be mentored by a senior core faculty member in the Department of African American Studies, and will have networking opportunities with post-doctoral fellows/associates in American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, and Latina/Latino Studies.

Postdoctoral research associates will receive a $42,000 salary paid over a 12-month period (August 2013 – August 2014), $5,000 in research funds, and a comprehensive benefits package.

Applicants must submit a completed application form (available online at http://www.afro.illinois.edu/news/jobs/); a letter of intent; curriculum vita; a statement of the research project to be undertaken during the appointment; official graduate transcripts; a sample of scholarly writing; and three letters of recommendation, including one letter from the thesis/dissertation advisor. Applications may be submitted by email as PDF documents to sla@illinois.edu or in hard copy to Shirley Olson, Department of African American Studies, 1201 West Nevada Street, Urbana, IL, 61801. Applications must be received no later than December 14, 2012.

Applications will be evaluated and recipients selected by faculty in the Department of African American Studies. Members representing the applicant’s discipline may also review the scholarly records, letters of reference, and research proposals of the applicants. Decisions will be made by mid-February 2013.

For more information about the department, see our website: http://www.afro.illinois.edu. Questions regarding the postdoctoral research associate positions and application process can be directed to Shirley Olson, Assistant to the Head, Department of African American Studies—sla@illinois.edu.

Illinois is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and ideas who embrace and value diversity and inclusivity. (www.inclusiveillinois.edu)