

## PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR ELIGIBILITY

### **Purpose:**

This policy defines who is eligible to serve as a Principal Investigator (PI) on an animal research protocol at the University of Virginia (UVA).

### **Policy:**

Only UVA faculty with a tenured, tenure-track, or non-tenure track title are eligible to serve as a PI on an animal research protocol submitted to the Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC). As defined in the UVA policies, these titles are:

- Professors
- Associate Professors
- Assistant Professors
- Chair Holders
- University Professors
- Research Professors (Research Instructor, Research Assistant Professor, Research Associate Professor, or Research Professor)

Faculty holding Instructor, Lecturer, Acting Assistant Professor, Visiting Professor, or Visiting Scholar titles are not eligible to serve as a PI based on their appointment of one-year or less.

The ACUC Office may request documentation of academic rank; this might be a letter of appointment from the UVA Rector and Board of Visitors (for tenure-track faculty) or a letter of appointment from the Provost or the Dean.

The following members of the University Managerial and Professional staff and University Professional Research staff are **not** considered faculty and are generally not eligible to serve as a PI on an animal use protocol:

- Research Assistant
- Research Associate
- Research Scientist
- Senior Scientist
- Principal Scientist

Students and Trainees (e.g., Residents, Fellows, Post-docs, etc.) are also not permitted to be a PI on an animal research protocol. A faculty advisor may sponsor them and serve as the PI on their research project.

In special circumstances, the Vice President for Research may approve other individuals to serve as PI on an ACUC protocol. Requests for an individual who does not meet the standard policy criteria should be made in writing and must be endorsed by the ACUC and the appropriate Chair and Dean.

The request should address the need for making the exception and how allowing the person to serve as a PI will further the University mission and institutional priorities.

The request should document the individual's relationship with the University, their appointment, any space commitments, administrative support commitments, and finally, the requested length of time for the individual to serve as a PI.

**References:**

1. [UVA Faculty Handbook 2018-2019](#)
2. UVA Policy: [PROV-029](#) Appointment Types and Titles
3. UVA Policy: [VIII.A.1: Grants and Contracts – Definition, Solicitation, Clearance, and Acceptance](#)
4. UVA Policy: [PROV-018: Emeritus Faculty](#)
5. UVA Procedure: [8-8 Request for an Individual Not Meeting Policy Criteria to Serve as PI](#)

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**Revision History:** 05-14-19; 06-13-17; 05-20-14; 02-15-11; 04-15-08; 08-20-03