

Office of the Vice Provost for Research Non-Faculty Research Position Titles	Non-Faculty Research Position Title Descriptions and Guidelines
Post-Doctoral Fellow	Individual with a recently acquired doctoral degree with research training as primary role who contributes to WPI research programs under supervision of a Principal Investigator. This person is engaged in a temporary and defined period of mentored advanced training and professional development. This is a full-time, paid salaried by WPI position, holding an appointment of 6 – 24 months in duration.
Research Associate	Individual who contributes to the research programs of WPI under supervision of a Principal Investigator; typically holds a Master’s degree in the appropriate field of research. Skills and experience requirements are defined by specific research program. This is a full-time, paid salaried by WPI position, holding an appointment of 6 – 24 months in duration.
Research Scientist	Individual who contributes to the research programs of WPI under the supervision of a Principal Investigator; typically holds a post-graduate degree appropriate to the field of research with previous research experience specific to the field and/or project. Skills and experience requirements are defined by specific research program. This is a full-time, paid salaried by WPI position, holding an appointment of 6 – 24 months in duration.
Research Engineer	Individual who contributes to the research programs of WPI under the supervision of a Principal Investigator; typically holds a post-graduate degree appropriate to the field of research with previous research experience specific to the field and/or project. Skills and experience requirements are defined by specific research program. This is a full-time, paid salaried by WPI position, holding an appointment of 6 – 24 months in duration.
(International) Non-Degree Student (International) Non-Degree Graduate Student	Individual who is currently <u>enrolled</u> in a graduate or undergraduate program at another institution who is invited to WPI by a WPI faculty member on a short-term basis for purposes such as professional development or meeting course requirements. This is typically an unsalaried by WPI position.
(International) Visiting Scholar	Individual visiting that is employed by another academic institution that has been invited to WPI by a WPI faculty member to conduct research, observe or consult in connection with a research project. This individual typically has obtained a doctoral degree , or equivalent. This is typically an unsalaried by WPI position. (Note: Cannot return until 2 years later after prior appointment has ended)
Affiliate Research Associate; Affiliate Research Scientist; or Affiliate Research Engineer	Individual who contributes to the research programs of WPI offsite or onsite that currently holds a similar position (or retired) from another organization. This is an unsalaried by WPI position that <u>cannot</u> receive any visa sponsorship from WPI.

- Please allow at least 6 weeks from when the completed offer request and all supporting documentation is received at vpr@wpi.edu for the start date.
- There is a 2-week turnaround time from when the completed request and required documentation is received for an offer letter to be sent.