

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA TRIO PROGRAMS

**Ronald E. McNair**

**Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program**

**Student Application**

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TRIO Programs  
1400 Wheat Street  
University of South Carolina 29208  
Phone 803.777.5125 • Fax 803.777.7380  
[www.sc.edu/trio](http://www.sc.edu/trio)

This application is for participation in the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program sponsored by the University of South Carolina. Additional applications are available at the TRIO Program Office and on the web at: [https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/trio\\_programs/](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/trio_programs/)

Completed application packets are due by 11:59PM on **November 15** and may be submitted by the following:

1. Mailed or Hand Delivered to:

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program  
University of South Carolina  
1400 Wheat Street  
BTW, Room 209  
Columbia, SC 29208  
or

2. Faxed to: (803) 777-7380; or

3. Scanned and emailed to: [Leesg@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:Leesg@mailbox.sc.edu)

Please contact USC TRIO at (803)777-5125 if you have any questions or require further assistance.

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Ronald Ervin McNair was born October 21, 1950 in Lake City, South Carolina. He attended North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro where he graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.S. degree in physics in 1971. In 1976, at the age of 26, he earned his Ph.D. in physics from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The second African-American to fly in space, McNair became an astronaut in 1978 and spent over 192 hours in space over the course of two flights. Known for his work in laser physics, McNair received many honorary doctorates and commendations for his academic and professional work. He was also a fifth-degree black belt in karate and an accomplished jazz saxophonist.

Out of a pool of over 1,000 applicants, McNair was selected to board the 1984 flight of the shuttle Challenger. On his second flight aboard the shuttle in 1986, McNair and six other members died in the Challenger's explosion.

Created in his honor, the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program seeks to increase faculty diversity by preparing TRiO-eligible students for doctoral studies. The Program includes faculty mentoring, support activities, and research experiences.



## **Program Description:**

The goal of the TRiO Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is to increase the number of Ph.D. recipients from groups under-represented in graduate education. Accordingly, the program prepares TRiO-eligible students for doctoral studies through research and other scholarly activities. U of SC receives grant funding from the US Department of Education to sponsor this special initiative.

Students receive a number of benefits by participating in the McNair Achievement Program:

- Research experience, including a research inquiry course offered in the Summer Research Component (SRC)
- Opportunities to publish research and to present findings at nationwide conferences
- Close relationships with faculty
- Invaluable advisement on the graduate school application process and GRE preparation
- Exposure to a variety of ways to finance graduate education (federal aid, fellowships, and scholarships)
- \$2700 stipend for one year of participation

## **Student Eligibility**

Students selected for participation as McNair Scholars must meet the following criteria:

- TRiO eligible (low-income and first-generation) or under-represented in graduate education
- At least 60 credit hours completed toward a baccalaureate degree by the end of Spring semester
- A cumulative GPA of no less than 3.0 is preferred
- A US citizenship or permanent US resident, which is indicated by eligibility to receive federal financial aid.

Students with previous TRiO involvement receive enrollment preference. All majors are encouraged to apply. However, McNair does not support professional degrees such as those for Medical School (MD) and Law School (JD).

## **McNair Scholar Selection Process**

All applicants must submit a completed application packet. Incomplete packets could result in rejection of your application. The Application packet must include:

1. A Personal Essay
2. Short Answer Question Responses
3. A short preliminary Research Proposal,
4. Two Letters of Recommendation

5. Transcript (can be unofficial)
6. Copy of Parent's previous year Tax Return and/or copy of Student's SAR report
7. Release-of-information forms.

All Applicants are required to have the support of Departmental Faculty to complete this application and participate in the program. Accordingly, applicants must do the following:

1. Work with a faculty member to define a project for the Summer Research Component.
2. If possible, continue working with this faculty member on this research in the following academic year.
3. Receive advice and guidance from this faculty member regarding the graduate application process.

### **Initial Enrollment Activities:**

Once selected, the scholars enroll in the Program during the spring semester to prepare for participation in the Summer Research Component (SRC). Each scholar must identify a topic for the Summer Research Component with the help of faculty in their departments. This could be an expansion of the preliminary proposal submitted with your application or it could be an entirely new proposal. McNair administrators and faculty approve all proposed research projects. Abstracts of the final proposed research project will be due in early spring .

Initial enrollment activities also include appointments at the University of South Carolina TRiO Programs office to meet McNair administrators and complete registration materials; and a mandatory orientation meeting to sign the official McNair contract.

### **Summer Research Component (SRC)**

The Summer Research Component (SRC) is a six-week, residency program where scholars will live with a community of their peers. Room and board will be provided in apartment-style accommodations for each scholar. Students will complete a research project, a research course, receive faculty advisement and mentoring, attend seminars on graduate school and higher education, and participate in cultural and social events designed to make students comfortable with a future in higher education.

The SRC will culminate with two activities. The first is the Annual SAEOPP McNair Research Conference. Scholars will travel to Atlanta to present their research project at this national competition designed to attract undergraduate and graduate students from all TRIO programs within the U.S. and the Trust Territories. The conference will provide opportunities for young scholars to share their research, provide exposure to the key issues in research and higher education, facilitate the interaction between graduate school representatives, graduate faculty, McNair and SSS scholars, and provide forums for

discussion of intellectual issues. The final activity for the SRC is the Annual McNair Scholars Awards Luncheon where scholars will be recognized for their achievements.

### **Academic Year Activities**

Scholars will enroll in a one- credit hour seminar course in the Fall semester. The seminar will be led by the McNair coordinator and will expand on the summer seminar activities. With the aid of the McNair Coordinator, those students who are in their senior year will finalize their personal statements and apply to both Masters and PhD programs. Those students who are in their junior year will complete their personal statements and apply for Internships for the following summer. Additionally, all USC-system students will have the opportunity to apply for the Magellan Guarantee grant which would support them as they continue to work on their summer project.

The McNair Program will also host additional seminars during the academic year, as well as provide opportunities for further research and conference presentations. These seminars might address the following topics:

- Vitae and résumé writing
- GRE Tutoring
- Study and writing skills
- Cultural enrichment
- Fellowship and Scholarship application preparation

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Return the following application and all of its supporting forms on or before November 15

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

Application Packet Checklist

(Please return this list with your packet)

Checklist:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Application Form
- \_\_\_\_\_ Signed copy of last year's federal income tax form (Parent's) **OR** a signed copy of most recent FAFSA or SAR
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personal essay (1-2 page maximum)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Short Answer Question Responses
- \_\_\_\_\_ Preliminary Research topic proposal (1-2 paragraphs in length)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Copy of unofficial transcripts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Academic and Financial Release of Information forms (p. 15)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Two Letters of Recommendation  
Please complete the top portion before giving them to your recommenders .  
Faculty members may write an additional letter and attach to the recommendation form if they so desire. Letters and forms should be placed in in a sealed envelope with their name written across the flap. USC faculty recommenders are welcome to send the letters/forms via campus mail. All recommenders are welcome to submit letters via email at [Leesg@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:Leesg@mailbox.sc.edu)

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
RONALD E. MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM  
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

**Personal Data**

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last/Family First Middle (complete) Jr., etc. Gender*

Preferred name: \_\_\_\_\_ (nickname) Former last name (s) if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent home address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Number and Street*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City or Town County State Zip Code*

If different from the above, please give your local mailing address:

Local address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Number and Street*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City or Town County State Zip Code* use until: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone : (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: #1 (preferably your school email) \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative E-mail address: #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of dependents \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Permanent Resident visa. \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Have you previously (or currently) participated in a TRiO Program? No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_. If Yes, which program?

\_\_\_\_\_ Upward Bound \_\_\_\_\_ Talent Search \_\_\_\_\_ Student Support Services (OSP) \_\_\_\_\_ EOC

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

First language, if other than English: \_\_\_\_\_ Language spoken at home: \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to be identified with a particular ethnic group, please check the following:

African American, Black _____	Mexican American, Chicano _____
American Indian _____	Native Hawaiian _____
Asian American _____	Puerto Rican _____
Asia (Indian Subcontinent) _____	White or Caucasian _____
Hispanic, Latino _____	Other (specify _____)

Did either of your parents complete a four-year college degree? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, who completed the degree? \_\_\_\_ Mother \_\_\_\_ Father \_\_\_\_ Guardian

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

## Academic Data

CURRENT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS STANDING: \_\_\_\_\_ freshman \_\_\_\_\_ sophomore \_\_\_\_\_ junior \_\_\_\_\_ senior

Number of course hours completed: \_\_\_\_\_ **Major:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Minor:** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of course hours currently enrolled: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Major GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST ANY ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS (You may add an additional Sheet of Paper if necessary)

AWARD	DATE(S)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

MEMBERSHIPS AND PARTICIPATION IN ACADEMIC/CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES: (You may add an additional Sheet of Paper if necessary)

ACTIVITY	DATE(S)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

LIST ALL HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED: (You may add an additional Sheet of Paper if necessary)

NAME OF INSTITUTION	DATE(S)
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Academic Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name Email Phone*

## Financial Aid Data

For financial aid purposes are you considered : \_\_\_\_\_ Dependent \_\_\_\_\_ Independent?

If **DEPENDENT** COMPLETE SECTION **A**; If **INDEPENDENT** COMPLETE SECTION **B**

### SECTION A

Number of household members, including yourself: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' taxable income (Line 43 on 1040 form): \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION B

Number of household members, including yourself, spouse, and/or other dependents: \_\_\_\_\_

Taxable income (Line 43 on 1040 form): \_\_\_\_\_

If you completed section A, please attach a copy of your parent's most recent Federal tax form or your most recent SAR. If you completed Section B, please attach a copy of your most recent Federal Tax form. *All financial documentation must be signed.*



**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**RONALD E. MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

APPLICANT ASSESSMENT

**Section I. Personal Essay**

Write a concise essay (not more than 3 pages, double spaced, 12 point font) describing a challenge (s) or obstacles you have faced in life. Explain how you overcame this challenge. Be specific about how this challenge has helped to shape the person that you are today; what you have learned about overcoming challenges; and how it has helped you set your goals for the future

**Section II. Short Answer Questions**

Please answer the following questions :

1. Why you are interested in conducting research?
2. Have you conducted any previous research projects, either independently or with a professor? If so, please explain the nature of the project.
3. What are your long-term career goals? Why are you interested in this particular career?
4. Have you considered studying for a PhD? Why or Why not?

**Section III. Preliminary research Proposal (Abstract)**

Please submit a brief statement ( 2 to 3 paragraphs) explaining your research idea. Please include a preliminary title. Why are you interested in this particular topic? Have you discussed this with a faculty member in your department or at your institution? Please be reminded that should you be accepted a McNair Scholar you will have the opportunity to change or expound on this topic.

**Section IV. Recommenders**

Please list the contact information for your recommenders. (Please make sure to have your recommenders complete the enclosed forms)

Recommender #1

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Email</i>

Recommender #2

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Email</i>

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
RONALD E. McNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM  
FACULTY RECOMMENDATION FORM

Return to: TRIO McNair Program  
University of South Carolina  
1400 Wheat Street  
Columbia, SC 29208  
Telephone: (803) 777-5125 or fax (803) 777-7380

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT. ( PLEASE PRINT).

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>MI</i>	<i>Undergraduate Major</i>
<i>Telephone Number</i>	<i>Email</i>		
<p>OPTIONAL: I understand that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-380) as amended provides me access to this letter of recommendation. I voluntarily waive this right with the understanding that failure to grant this waiver will not alter my chances for admission into the program.</p>			
<i>Applicant's Signature</i>			DATE _____

To the Recommender:

The TRiO McNair Program prepares selected undergraduate students for graduate study in a Ph.D. program. Students conduct research under the mentorship of faculty, attend graduate education seminars, and engage in other activities that prepare them for graduate study. Please help us assess the promise and motivation of this student to benefit fully from this program.

Please ☒ the cells indicating your evaluation of this applicant's abilities and potential.

<i>In terms of the criterion below, the applicant is:</i>	<i>Exceptional</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>Not strong but has potential</i>	<i>I don't know</i>
Analytical Ability							
Quantitative Skills							
Aptitude for Research							
Written Communication							
Oral Communication							
Maturity							
Persistence							
Use of Constructive Criticism							
Potential for graduate study							
Potential for completing a doctorate							

**Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge.** (An attached letter may be substituted)

1. How Long have you known the student and in what capacity?
2. What characteristics does this student possesses that will serve him or her well in graduate school?
3. In what areas does the student need to improve before enrolling in a graduate program? Is the student aware of her/his need to improve in these areas and is he/she doing anything to address this need?
4. What individual or academic obstacles could negatively impact this student's ability to be admitted to and/or complete graduate school?

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*Name (print)* *Title* *Department*

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*Address*

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*E-mail* *Phone*

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*Signature* *Date*

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
RONALD E. McNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM  
FACULTY RECOMMENDATION FORM

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<i>Applicant's Signature</i>		DATE	

To the Recommender:

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<i>In terms of the criterion below, the applicant is:</i>	<i>Exceptional</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>Not strong but has potential</i>	<i>I don't know</i>
Analytical Ability							
Quantitative Skills							
Aptitude for Research							
Written Communication							
Oral Communication							
Maturity							
Persistence							
Use of Constructive Criticism							
Potential for graduate study							
Potential for completing a doctorate							

**Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge.** (An attached letter may be substituted)

1. How Long have you known the student and in what capacity?
2. What characteristics does this student possesses that will serve him or her well in graduate school?
3. In what areas does the student need to improve before enrolling in a graduate program? Is the student aware of her/his need to improve in these areas and is he/she doing anything to address this need?
4. What individual or academic obstacles could negatively impact this student's ability to be admitted to and/or complete graduate school?

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*Name (print)* *Title* *Department*

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*Address*

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*E-mail* *Phone*

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*Signature* *Date*

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**RONALD E. MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION FORM**

**Academic Transcripts**

**Please print a copy of your unofficial transcripts to-date to turn in with you application.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby give permission to The TRiO McNair Program at The University of South Carolina to have access to my past and future academic transcripts as provided by the Registrar's Office at all colleges and universities I have attended. These transcripts will be used only to meet the requirements for the U.S. Department of Education in qualifying for the program and maintaining records with regard to my enrollment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student ID #

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**RONALD E. McNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION FORM**

**Financial Aid**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby give permission to The TRIO McNair Program at The University of South Carolina to have access to financial aid information in order to provide income information necessary in the eligibility and advising process.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student ID #

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**RONALD E. MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

**Program Agreement**

If I am selected as a McNair Scholar I agree to honor and respect the legacy of Dr. Ronald E. McNair an former McNair Scholars. I understand that the purpose of this program is to aid students in preparation for doctoral study by helping them to conduct research, present findings at a research conference, and prepare applications for graduate program admission. As representative of the University of South Carolina TRiO Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program, I understand that I am required to participate fully in all scheduled events offered by the program, maintain a minimum 3.0 or higher GPA, update my contact information and maintain contact with the McNair Coordinator after graduation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**RONALD E. MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

**NOTES:**