



3 year

POSTDOCTORAL
FELLOWSHIP
In Tropical Biology

*STRI's most prestigious
research opportunity in Panama*

Read these guidelines and apply **by June 1st, 2023**



Smithsonian
Tropical Research Institute

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION

Deadline for submission: June 1, 2023.

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) invites applications for the Earl S. Tupper three-year postdoctoral fellowship. We strongly encourage applicants in disciplines including ecology, anthropology, paleontology, paleoecology, evolutionary biology, functional genomics, microbial ecology, sensory ecology, chemical ecology, animal behavior, neurobiology, soils sciences, and physiology of tropical plants and animals. Research should be based at one of the STRI facilities. Proposals that include comparative research in other tropical countries will be considered. The annual stipend is \$55,000 with an annual increase of \$1,000 for years 2 and 3 (*see [Tax Information](#)). The annual research budget is up to \$16,000/year.

All candidates must submit an application through SOLAA, (Smithsonian Online Academic Appointment system). Appointments will begin after May 1, 2024.

Follow these steps:

1. Go to: <https://solaa.si.edu>
2. Select "New to SOLAA? Complete the information to create an account."
3. Once you create your account and provide the information required, you can select the type of appointment.
Choose as follows:
4. Program Type: "Fellowship"
5. Unit of interest: "Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute"
6. Program: "STRI 3-Year Postdoctoral Fellowship"
 - a. Fill in the application questions
 - b. Upload the required documents
 - c. Request the reference letters, giving sufficient time for referees to submit them. It is your responsibility to send the email request to your recommenders and check in the system that the letters have been submitted.

The complete application should include the following information:

- A detailed research proposal (one page summary + a five-page project description):

The one-page project summary provides an overview of the proposed research. The project description should provide clear description of research and must not exceed a maximum 5 pages total, font size 12 pts, single spaced on 8 ½ x 11 paper size. The project description must include objectives, hypotheses or research question(s), experimental design, and significance.

- A detailed annual budget. The annual research/travel allowance is not expected to exceed \$16,000.00.
- Bibliography: The References Cited is limited to 3 pages.
- A Curriculum Vitae
- Two letters of reference (should not be from your main advisor or proposed co-advisors)

Candidates must designate a staff member to serve as STRI host/advisor and two additional co-advisors who can review the proposal. Applicants should consult with the STRI scientific staff member who will serve as their main host/advisor before submitting a final application. Staff members are listed at <https://stri.si.edu/people>

Proposals received after the application deadline will not be considered. Applicants will be informed of results by July 25, 2023. Incomplete applications will be eliminated.

Awards are based upon merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, citizenship, age or condition of handicap of the applicant.

For more information please send an email to strifellows@si.edu.

***Tax Information** – This information is being offered as a courtesy only for fellows and interns. Fellows and interns are solely responsible for determining their own tax liability and complying with all applicable tax laws and reporting obligations.

Note: Neither the Smithsonian, on behalf of STRI, nor the Republic of Panama withholds taxes on any fellowship awards. This is because fellows are performing their own, independent research and are neither treated as employees or contractors of the Smithsonian.

US citizens: Payment of income tax is a personal obligation of each individual. The Internal Revenue Service of the United States (IRS) specifies that all income of citizens and residents of the USA, and their spouses if filing jointly, that is generated from fellowship or internship appointments is reportable.

Smithsonian stipend recipients who are U.S. citizens or residents will NOT receive an IRS tax form (W-2 or 1099) from the Smithsonian because they are not employees of or contractors for the Smithsonian. Stipend recipients are responsible, however, for including the entire award (stipend, travel and research allowances) in their income tax return for each full or partial tax year during which he/she received an award. U.S. citizens who reside in the U.S. will receive a Financial Statement from the Smithsonian that includes the amount of the stipend paid but this is for the fellow or intern's personal records and is not submitted to the IRS. U.S. Citizens who reside in Panama will not receive a Financial Statement unless they request one. Persons who are residents of other countries are responsible for complying with the applicable tax reporting requirements for their home country. For those required to report their income to the IRS, various income exemptions and the tax credits on fellowship and internship awards may be available, depending in part on the length of time the fellow or intern spends in Panama during a tax year. These exemptions vary tremendously with individual circumstances and each fellow/intern is responsible for determining his/her own exemptions and tax liability. The Smithsonian cannot provide tax advice on these matters. Fellowship recipients are encouraged to consult IRS publications 970 "Tax Benefits for Education" at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf>, and publication 54 "Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad" at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p54.pdf>. You may call the IRS at 1-800-829-3676 for further information and to request forms by mail. Commercial online tax preparation services also are available.

Note on Plagiarism: STRI adopts the University of Oxford's definition of plagiarism: "Plagiarism is presenting work or ideas from another source as your own, with or without consent of the original author, by incorporating it into your work without full acknowledgement. It is a breach of academic integrity. Plagiarism is unethical and can have serious consequences for your future career; it also undermines the standards of your institution and of the degrees it issues." ([Plagiarism | University of Oxford](#).)

At the Smithsonian Institution, plagiarism is taken very seriously. If it is identified that an internship or fellowship application or any of its components has been plagiarized, the applicant will be disqualified immediately or even rescind fellowships/internships once awarded.