



Review these guidelines carefully and submit your proposal by June 15

5-YEAR STRI/MPI POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

Deadline for submission: June 15, 2022

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), headquartered in the Republic of Panama, and the Max Planck Institute (MPI) for Animal Behavior, Department for the Ecology of Animal Societies headquartered in Konstanz, Germany, are seeking an outstanding behavioral biologist for a joint **five-year fellowship in tropical animal behavior**. The successful candidate will apply a deep understanding of natural history to resolve basic questions about behavioral mechanisms, evolutionary processes, and adaptive function. Areas of specialty may include, but are not limited to, behavioral ecology, evolution of social behavior, sensory and neuroethology, ecology of animal societies, behavior developmental physiology, functional morphology, and the genetic basis of behavior. Candidates working on any animal taxa, marine or terrestrial, will be considered. Previous experience working in the tropics is not required. **The successful candidate will be based in Panama**, and will have opportunities to work with scientists from an international research community, including MPI and Smithsonian staff. The annual stipend is \$55,000 USD (*see tax information below). The annual research budget is up to \$16,000/year.

All candidates must submit an application through SOLAA (Smithsonian Online Academic Appointment system) as follows:

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: "5-Year STRI/MPI Postdoctoral Fellowship in Animal Behavior"
 - 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

(a one-page summary + a five-page project description):

The one-page project summary should provide an overview of the proposed research. The project description should provide clear description of research and should not exceed a maximum 5 pages total with the following formatting: 12 pts font size, single-spaced, 8 ½ x 11 inch paper size. The project description should be aimed at an audience of scientists who are not necessarily experts in the field of animal behavior. It should communicate the objectives and significance of the research, describe clear research questions and/or hypotheses, and detail the project's methodological approach.

- **A detailed annual budget.** The research/travel expenses should not exceed \$16,000 per year.

- **References cited.**

- **A curriculum vitae.**

- **A diversity statement** (a statement that reflects your views and experience in working to the goal of promoting a diverse, inclusive, collegial, and rigorous scientific workplace, and how you would hope to contribute to building a more diverse, equitable and inclusive community during your time at STRI).

- **Contact information** for three individuals who can serve as references.

Incomplete applications and applications received after the June 15, 2022 deadline will not be considered. Selection decisions will be communicated by September 15, 2022. The start date is flexible. The position can begin as early as October 15, 2022, and should start within six months of notification of the award, but flexibility is possible. 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 for fellows. Fellows 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 awards may be available, depending in part on the length of time the fellow spends in Panama during a tax year. These exemptions vary tremendously with individual circumstances and each fellow 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.