



**Elizabeth G. Lobo, Ph. D.**  
**Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**  
**Office of the Provost**

March 6, 2023

Dear Colleagues:

The Office of the Provost, in partnership with the George W. Bush Institute, is pleased to announce the second year of supporting new post-doctoral fellowships with the goals of encouraging collaborative research between SMU and the Institute and increasing the number of post-doctoral fellows at SMU. Under this program three post-doctoral positions will be funded annually; please see the attached RFP.

All SMU tenured and tenure-track faculty are eligible to submit proposals and to serve as PI. All faculty, including non-tenured-tenure-track faculty, may serve as co-PI on proposals and awards. Proposals must be submitted by **April 14, 2023**, to [provost@smu.edu](mailto:provost@smu.edu) in 11-point or greater font and not exceed two, 8.5. x 11 pages in length.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth G. Lobo, PhD  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Southern Methodist University  
<https://www.smu.edu/provost>

**World Changers Shaped Here**

# SMU-George W. Bush Institute Post-Doctoral Program

## Request for Proposals

### Introduction

The Office of the Provost in partnership with the George W. Bush Institute is pleased to announce the creation of a new post-doctoral fellowship program with the goals of encouraging collaborative research between SMU and the Institute and increasing the number of post-doctoral fellows at SMU. Faculty are invited to submit proposals to support post-doctoral fellows on projects that both advance SMU strategic research objectives and address topics that are central to the research themes of the Institute.

### Program Requirements

This program will provide financial support for post-doctoral fellows whose research align simultaneously with SMU strategic objectives and address the research themes of the George W. Bush Institute.

Improving teaching and learning, enhancing academic quality and stature of the University, and strengthening scholarly research, creative achievement, and opportunities for innovation across the disciplines are leading strategic goals of SMU's strategic plan, and essential to advancing the University's reputation as reflected in the USNWR ranking of National Universities and its rank in the Carnegie Classification of Research Universities. Essential components of a 21<sup>st</sup> century research university of national standing, post-doctoral scholars support expanded research, creative achievement, and innovation by faculty, and import knowledge from their degree-granting institutions that enriches the University's intellectual environment and contributes to the education experience of graduate and undergraduate students.

The George W. Bush Institute, an action-oriented policy organization within the Bush Center, pursues topics that are central to national and global issues of the day, such as education, immigration, place-based policies to promote economic growth, trade, veteran transition, global health, freedom and democracy, and women's advancement. Work of the Institute focuses on the following three themes:

1. Ensuring Opportunity for Everyone
  - Making free market economies work for everyone, preparing Americans for the new economy, and ensuring all students are prepared for college and career.
  - Ensuring veterans and their families make successful transitions to civilian life.
2. Strengthening our Democracy
  - Strengthening our nation's institutions and reasserting the value of civics and civic engagement.
  - Developing the next generation of leaders who are focused on solving today's most pressing challenges.
3. Advancing Free Societies
  - Establishing a new vision for how America leads and why it matters.
  - Making the case for freedom, liberal democracy, and democratic values.
  - Strengthening the Western hemisphere.
  - Promoting education, healthcare, and economic opportunity for women around the world.

You can also learn more about the work of the Bush Institute by reviewing its [2023 Policy Recommendations](#)."

## Award Information

**Award number:** 3 post-doctoral positions will be funded each year under this program.

**Award size:** post-doctoral salaries will be based on disciplinary standards; standard benefits for post-doctoral scholars will be included in each award.

**Award duration:** awards provided under this program are limited to one year (12 months) per post-doctoral fellow.

**Preference:**

- Preference will be given to proposals that provide a second year of funding for the requested post-doctoral fellow.
- Preference will be given to proposals from Assistant-Professor PIs.

## Eligibility

All SMU tenured and tenure-track faculty are eligible to submit proposals and to serve as the principal investigator (PI).

All faculty, including non-tenured-tenure-track faculty, may serve as co-PI on proposals and awards.

One proposal may be submitted per year per PI.

There are no restrictions on the number of proposals on which a faculty member can serve as co-PI.

## Proposal Instructions

**Format:** Proposals must be submitted in 11-point or greater font and not exceed two (2) 8.5x11 in pages in length.

**Submission Deadline:** April 14, 2023

**Submission Procedure:** Proposals should be submitted to [provost@smu.edu](mailto:provost@smu.edu).

**Proposal Content:** the following information must be provided in the following order.

1. **Proposal Title**
2. **PI name, title, school, department**
3. **Co-PIs (if appropriate), titles, schools, departments**
4. **Description of the problem**
5. **Relevance of the problem to the strategic priorities of the Office of the Provost and the George W. Bush Institute**
6. **Role of the post-doctoral fellow(s)**
7. **Plans to support the post-doctoral fellow(s) beyond year one**

## Review

Proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis by a committee composed of representatives from the Office of the Provost and the George W. Bush Institute.

Awards will be based on identification of the proposals that most effectively contribute to the strategic objectives of the Office of the Provost and the George W. Bush Institute.