



## 2024-2025 Southeastern Conference Emerging Scholars Program Call for Applications – Postdoctoral Scholars

*Submission deadline for applications is Friday, May 3, 2024 at 11:59 pm CDT*

The Southeastern Conference (SEC) Emerging Scholars Program is a competitive 1-year fellowship program. *Two postdoctoral fellowships will be awarded.*

**Selected scholars MUST participate in the inter-institutional SEC Emerging Scholars Career Preparation workshop hosted by the University of Georgia, September 15-18, 2024. Faculty advisors must commit to supporting this participation.**

### **Description of program:**

The SEC Provosts established the SEC Emerging Scholars Program to aid in preparing future faculty members. The program is designed to provide professional development and networking opportunities for current doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers who are considering careers in higher education.

### **Eligibility:**

This program call is only for postdoctoral trainees that aspire and have the potential to pursue a career in academia. All active TAMU postdoctoral scholars (U.S. citizens, permanent residents and international postdocs) seeking an academic faculty position are eligible to apply. Postdocs must remain as a TAMU postdoc through the academic year (until August 2025) to receive full benefit and compensation for the program. The funding is subject to proration if the program is not completed.

Primary intents of the program are for the Scholar to participate in professional development events, and prepare application materials for next-stage academic positions. *This fellowship is NOT intended to finance data collection or the completion of on-going research work.*

### **Funding and Benefits of the SEC Emerging Scholars Program:**

- 1) 2024-2025 Fellowship will consist of \$8,000 that could be used for professional development opportunities by participating at professional conferences (including SEC 2024); travel costs to visit labs at other universities or participate in skill-building courses/workshops to learn new skills, etc. The fellowship funding will be deposited in an account in the postdoc department and subject to proration if the program is not completed.
- 2) Formal professional development opportunities
- 3) Job networking opportunities with other SEC institutions through participation at the SEC Workshop
- 4) Faculty-provided feedback of common academic job application materials

### **Selection criteria:**

Scholars will be selected based on their potential to establish a successful academic faculty career.

### **Requirements of the SEC Emerging Scholars:**

If selected, the following will be required of a Scholar:

- 1) Prepare an academic C.V., Research Statement, and Teaching Statement for the LOCAL Preparation Workshop to be held late August 2024 (date TBD).  
*Texas A&M University offers a LOCAL Preparation Workshop ahead of the SEC conference as detailed below.*





- 2) Attend the LOCAL Preparation Workshop late August 2024 (date TBD) hosted by the Graduate and Professional School in collaboration with the Texas A&M Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (duration ~ 2 hours)
- 3) Attend the Fall 2024 SEC Emerging Scholars Conference hosted by the University of Georgia September 15-18 (travel and accommodations paid and included in this scholarship). Each participant is responsible for their own travel arrangements.
- 4) Participate in at least 2 professional development workshops organized by the Texas A&M Office of Postdoctoral Affairs in the 2024-2025 academic year. These workshops are typically 1 to 2 hours in length.
- 5) Provide a half-page reflection of your overall experience of the program in Spring 2025 (date TBD).

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

#### **Required Application Materials:**

Postdoctoral Scholars apply directly in [InfoReady](#). Each applicant is responsible for writing or acquiring the materials and submitting them according to the guidelines below. *Please assemble the materials as a single PDF containing the 5 required components listed below.*

- 1) **Personal Statement** (half-page max, 1-inch margins, 11-point Arial) must address the following points: a) describe why you want to pursue a career in academia, your academic career goals, and commitment to professional advancement in higher education, and b) state how your experiences and viewpoints are unique and will contribute to the academic missions of teaching, research, and service.
- 2) **Research Statement** (2-page max, 1-inch margins, 11-point Arial). Minimal statement content should include: 1) research program overview and contextual importance, 2) past and ongoing research projects, 3) research accomplishments and list of papers/products, 4) short- (2-5 years) and long-term (career) research goals, and 5) impact of past research and potential impact of future research within your discipline and/or beyond.
- 3) **C.V.** (3-page max)
- 4) **Faculty Advisor - signed support letter** (1-page max on letterhead): Faculty advisors are required to provide the postdoc applicant with a signed letterhead that includes a clear assessment of the postdoc's potential for an academic career and potential to contribute to the research advancement and teaching mission in their field. The letter should also include the acknowledgement statement below:

“I verify that Dr. {applicant name} is a postdoctoral researcher in my group and is planned to continue in this position until August 2025. I acknowledge the five requirements of the SEC Emerging Scholars program (as outlined in the Call for Applications) and thus, fully support Dr. {applicant name}'s participation in this Program.”

- 5) **Faculty Statement Reviewer - signed support letter** (on letterhead): Recruit a *faculty* member with expertise in your discipline to serve as a SEC Emerging Scholar *Reviewer*. This faculty will serve as a reviewer of yours and one other Scholar's research and teaching statements and attend the LOCAL Preparation Workshop to provide constructive feedback on the statements. Expectations for content in research and teaching statements can vary among disciplines. Thus, it is important to have field-specific feedback. We recommend trying to find a newly hired (within the last 5 years) faculty member to have a fresh perspective of the academic job market. Provide on signed letterhead from the faculty who agreed to serve as your *Statement Reviewer*, the following statement:





“If Dr. {applicant name} is selected as an SEC Emerging Scholar, I agree to review Dr. {applicant name}’s and one other Scholar’s teaching and research statements and provide constructive feedback on these statements during the LOCAL Preparation Workshop.”

Note: Due to the timing of the SEC Emerging Scholar Conference in September, the Preparation Workshop will likely be scheduled late August 2024 (TBD).

**Applications that fail to adhere to all components of the application procedure (e.g., page limits, incomplete application documents, missing letters) will not be considered.**

**NOTE: PLEASE ALSO READ [FAQs](#) POSTED AT THE WEBSITE.**

**Application process and due dates:**

**Applications are due Friday, May 3, 2024**

The applicant should submit the application (ONE single PDF originally assembled by the applicant) online through the InfoReady submission portal by 11:59 p.m. CDT on Friday May 3, 2024. There will be no exceptions to this deadline.

**The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs will notify the selected SEC Scholars by May 31.**

The announcement will be followed by an informational meeting soon thereafter.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact [opa@tamu.edu](mailto:opa@tamu.edu).

