Advancing the next generation of scientists to work across disciplines to solve the world’s most pressing problems
The Schmidt Science Fellows program provides the world’s best emerging scientists with new skills and perspectives to develop novel solutions to society’s challenges, become scientific thought leaders, and unlock new scientific breakthroughs faster.

Our Fellows engage and coproduce with diverse thinkers in science, politics, society, and business to catalyse new ideas and connections. We create a community of lifelong fellowship and collaboration, between our Fellows and the leading thinkers with whom they connect.

Working with partners in science, policy, and society we are helping to shape the future of scientific culture, training, and discovery.

The opportunity

We have entered a new era of science, technology, and innovation. Scientific progress and cutting-edge technologies are rapidly accelerating our understanding of the natural and built worlds. Research is increasingly global and can affect a wide range of pressing societal challenges. In this new era, the best scientists should draw insights from across numerous different disciplines, be able to apply new techniques, and possess a broad world-view informed by the intersections between science and society.

The Schmidt Science Fellows program provides the world’s best emerging scientists with new skills and perspectives to develop novel solutions to society’s challenges, become scientific and societal thought leaders, and make ground-breaking discoveries.
The fellowship

Schmidt Science Fellows receive a stipend of $100,000 and support from the program to identify and undertake a year-long postdoctoral placement. This placement commences after a Fellow successfully completes his or her PhD in the natural sciences, computing, engineering or mathematics. Fellows’ placements will represent a significant disciplinary pivot from their PhD topic and are central to the program’s aim to foster greater interdisciplinarity.

The program has relationships and committed support from internationally-leading research leaders and laboratories to ensure fellows are placed into a stimulating, challenging and rewarding environment. Throughout the placement year, our Fellows will have access to personal and scientific mentoring to enable them to maximize the benefits of their fellowship and to support their career development.

Our sponsors and partners

The Schmidt Science Fellows program is supported and funded by the Eric and Wendy Schmidt Strategic Fund for Innovation. The program is delivered in partnership with the Rhodes Trust.

The program benefits from an initial commitment of at least $25 million over the next three years. It is part of a broader $100 million effort to drive scientific leadership and interdisciplinary research across society over the next decade and beyond.

“Leadership for the next generation of breakthroughs in research will require a new generation of scientist able to understand the culture, language, problems, and approaches of more than just one narrow discipline... I will be very excited to watch the careers of the Schmidt Science Fellows, who are afforded the opportunity early-on to assimilate an unusual depth in understanding in a second field.”

- Marcia McNutt, President, National Academy of Sciences
Global Meeting Series

Schmidt Science Fellows attend four convenings as a cohort during their fellowship year. This Global Meeting Series is held around the world to enable our Fellows to engage with new concepts, to visit leading science facilities and to have dialogue with internationally-renowned thought-leaders from science, business, policy, and society.

The meetings cover four main themes with focused learning outcomes:

**Interdisciplinary thinking**

- **Learning outcomes:**
  - Recognize the importance of interdisciplinarity
  - Demonstrate ability to take concepts from one field and apply them to a related field
  - Identify ways to take scientific risks and persevere in the face of failure

**Science leadership development**

- **Learning outcomes:**
  - Recognize the importance of interdisciplinarity
  - Identify personal leadership strengths and areas for growth; gain self-reflection skills
  - Demonstrate an ability to listen, communicate, team-build and problem-solve effectively
  - Identify principles of ethical leadership

**Future of science**

- **Learning outcomes:**
  - Ability to Interact with co-create new ideas with science leaders in both the private and public sectors
  - Identify the ways in which to learn from leaders who, through viewing challenges with an interdisciplinary lens, have revealed new solutions to existing problems

**Collaborative community**

- **Learning outcomes:**
  - Appreciate the importance of peer support and fellowship
  - Build meaningful relationships with other cohort members and science leaders

By the end of the final meeting we expect all Schmidt Science Fellows to be able to:
- Recognize the importance of interdisciplinarity.
- Demonstrate ability to take concepts from one field and apply them to a related field.
- Identify ways to take scientific risks and persevere in the face of failure.
Lifelong fellowship

Our postdocs are part of a community of lifelong Fellowship. Through working together, sharing experiences and interacting with new concepts they will forge bonds. They will build networks amongst themselves and with the thought leaders they will meet. The Fellowship will support, guide, and challenge its members throughout their careers to achieve more than they could on their own.

Working in partnership with the Rhodes Trust gives us access to a diverse community of scholars. The Schmidt Science Fellows program will work closely with the Rhodes Trust and linked communities such as the Atlantic Institute to catalyse mutual beneficial relationships.

As the Schmidt Science Fellows program develops we will build networks, platforms and events to support our growing alumni community, to provide lifelong support and fellowship.

Candidates

We are looking for the brightest minds in the natural sciences, mathematics, engineering and computing who are interested in broadening their horizons at one of the world’s leading academic institutions.

Candidates should demonstrate:

- **Scientific curiosity** - Desire to achieve a broad level of exposure to and knowledge in cutting-edge innovations and research across the sciences.
- **Extraordinary achievement** - Clear record of academic achievement in the sciences at leading institutions of higher learning.
- **Intellectual spark** - High degree of intelligence, energy, and intellectual curiosity that will drive future scientific discoveries.
- **Global ambitions** - The will to make a lasting impact in the sciences and society, pursuing knowledge that will benefit the world by engaging in ambitious research and displaying great perseverance throughout the scientific process.
- **Character** - A genuine and demonstrable interest in society and global challenges combined with a desire to use personal talents and expertise to make a positive difference in the world.
- **Collaborative spirit** - Demonstrated history of effective collaboration with diverse team members.
- **Use of innovative tools** - General interest and comfort in using innovative technological tools, such as modern computing and data science techniques.
- **Alignment with the Program** - Interest in pursuing a year or more of postdoctoral study in a field different from the topic of study for which the applicant received their doctorate.
Nomination and selection process

The Schmidt Science Fellows program works with the world’s leading science and engineering research institutions to identify the most outstanding candidates for our fellowship. We are seeking those individuals with a special degree of brilliance and inventiveness. Successful applicants will be equipped with the tools and opportunities to drive world-changing advances. We want each cohort to be diverse in terms of their fields of interest, gender, and national origin.

For the 2019-2020 intake we are inviting around 75 institutions to each nominate a small number of students who complete, or expect to complete, all of the requirements for the conferral of their PhD in the natural science, engineering, computing or mathematics between 1 May 2018 and 30 June 2019.

Institutions use their own internal processes to make this selection. Nominated candidates are then contacted by the Schmidt Science Fellows program team and invited to make an individual application.

The process and timetable for the nomination and selection of the 2019-2020 class of Schmidt Science Fellows is:

- **1 June - 31 August 2018**
  - Schmidt Science Fellows program will contact all selected institutions to invite to nominate a small number of outstanding candidates
  - Window for nominations open until the deadline of 31 August 2018

- **1 September - 30 November 2018**
  - Invitations to apply sent to all nominees, along with unique passcode for online application system.
  - Online system open for individual applications from nominated candidates.

- **1 December 2018 - 31 January 2019**
  - Initial screening of application packages by expert reviewers.

- **February 2019**
  - Expected shortlisting interviews

- **April 2019**
  - Final selection panel interviews.
  - Announcement of 2019-2020 class of Schmidt Science Fellows.

- **July - September 2019**
  - 2019-2020 class of Schmidt Science Fellows begin postdoctoral placements.
Inaugural class - 2018-2019

The inaugural class of Schmidt Science Fellows was announced in April 2018 at an event for media and invited guests in New York City.

The 2018-2019 fellows are 8 men, 6 women, representing 9 nationalities, from 12 nominating universities in 4 countries. Their PhDs covered disciplinary areas including: synthetic biology, molecular physiology, condensed matter physics, photonics, bioengineering, geophysics, computational genomics, and astrophysics.

The 2018-2019 Schmidt Science Fellows are undertaking their postdoctoral placements in leading laboratories at institutions around the world. Fellows are commencing their placements between July and September 2018. For more information please visit:

https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/fellows/fellows-2018-2019class/

"The first class of Schmidt Science Fellows have the intelligence, inspiration, and ambition to be leaders in science and society."

- Eric Schmidt

"Following their Fellowship year, this cohort will be equipped to drive new discoveries and to pioneer strategic approaches to the challenges we face for human and planetary health."

- Wendy Schmidt
Contact

For more information visit www.schmidtsciencefellows.org and connect with us on social media:

Twitter - @SchmidtFellows
LinkedIn - https://www.linkedin.com/company/-schmidt-science-fellows/
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