



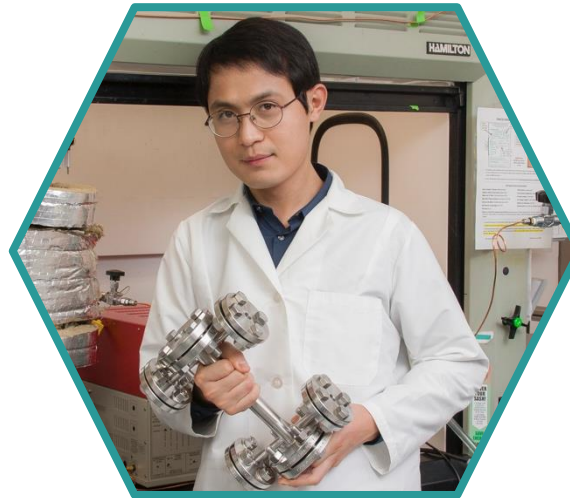
**SCHMIDT
SCIENCE FELLOWS**

Schmidt Science Fellows 2027

Information Session for Prospective Candidates



SCHMIDT SCIENCE FELLOWS



Our Fellowship

- Postdoctoral Fellowship scheme.
- Funding to pursue a 1–2-year postdoctoral placement.
- Open to PhD students who are near completion of their doctoral studies at the time of application.
- Placements can be in a broad range of research environments around the world.
- Placement location is expected to be different from your PhD institution.



Are you eligible?

- Studying for a PhD in natural sciences (astronomy, biology, chemistry, physics, and earth sciences), engineering, mathematics, computing (*and relevant sub-disciplines*).
- Expect to complete all requirements for the conferral of your PhD between **May 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027**.
- Can start your Fellowship in **July 2027** or **October 2027**, be available from **April 2027 to July 2028** to attend virtual onboarding activities, and from **October 2027** to attend in-person convenings.
- *Please note: PhDs in social sciences, MD-PhDs and veterinary PhDs are typically not eligible. If uncertain, please contact us.*

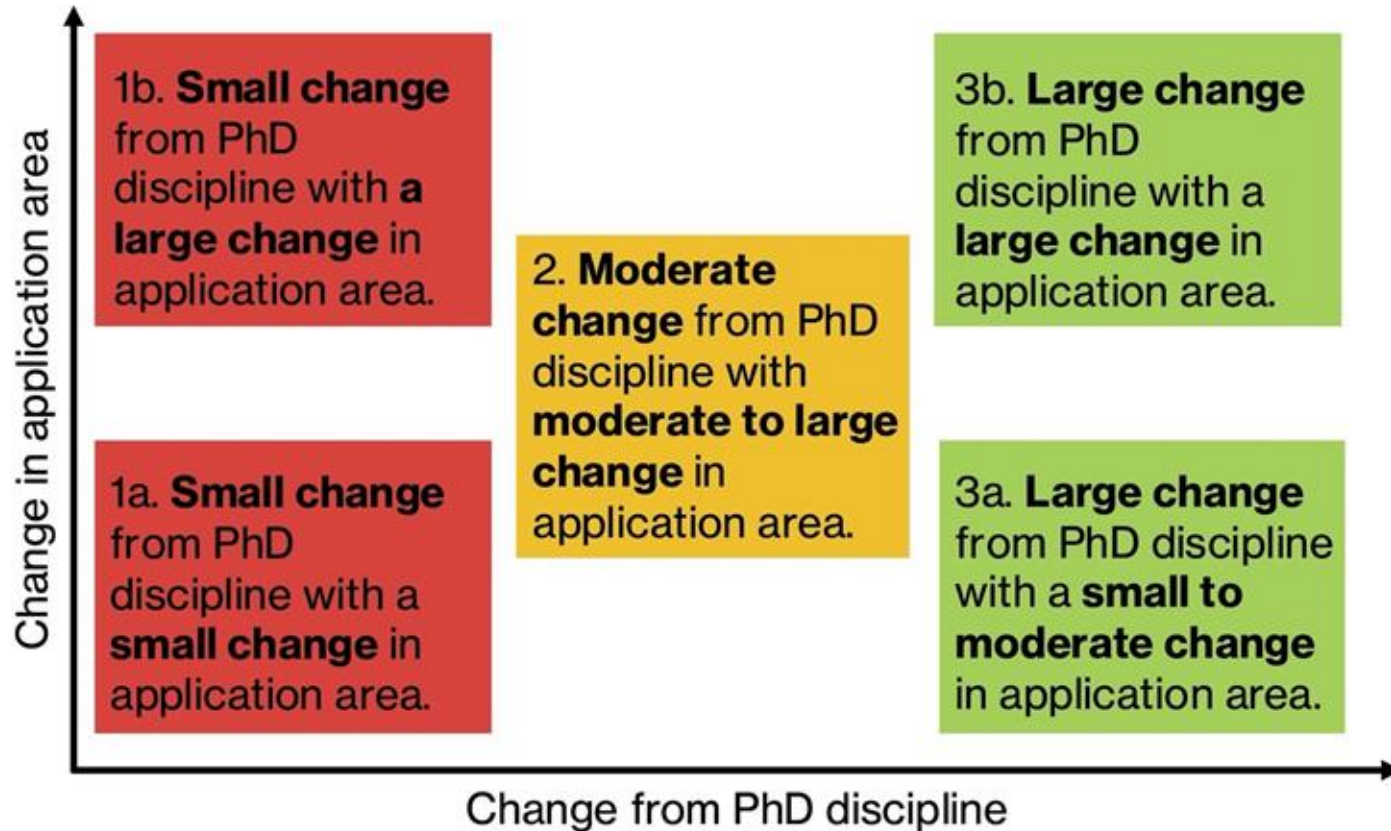


Who are we looking for?

- **Curious and creative scientists** interested in making a genuine move to intensive study in a **discipline different to their PhD.**
- **Academically excellent, risk-positive,** early-career researchers who can demonstrate a commitment to **ambitious, high-impact science.**
- **Future leaders** with the potential and character to lead teams and **unlock transformative discoveries in the future.**
- **Talented individuals** from a wide range of scientific disciplines who are motivated to **increase interdisciplinary collaboration.**



Central to our mission: The disciplinary pivot



- Pivots in 3a & 3b are valued most highly.
- Pivots in 2 are acceptable.
- Pivots in 1a & 1b are not acceptable.

Common **pitfalls** when defining a pivot:

- The **PhD and pivot fields might be too similar** (or *appear* to be too similar)
- The pivot is an **evolution/natural progression** of your PhD work
- If the pivot is **PhD + "something"**

What do we offer you?



Intellectual and scientific freedom



Bespoke Science Leadership Program



A personal stipend of US\$110,000 per year



Mentoring by globally-recognized interdisciplinary researchers

and...

Lifelong Community



Selection Criteria



Intellectual
Achievement



Interdisciplinary
Pivot



Scientific and Societal
Impact and Awareness



Curiosity



Collaboration



Character and
Leadership Potential

Selection Criteria

Intellectual Achievement

- Sustained evidence of academic scholarship in science and technology, demonstrating an exceptional intellectual ability.

Curiosity

- Demonstrated intellectual exploration, creativity, and openness to new ideas, methods, or technologies.



Selection Criteria

Interdisciplinary Pivot

- Clear readiness and motivation to move beyond the PhD discipline, supported by evidence of interdisciplinary thinking, learning agility, and comfort with scientific risk.

Collaboration

- Evidence of effective collaboration across diverse teams, including behaviors that build trust, cohesion, and shared purpose.



Selection Criteria

Character and Leadership Potential

- Early indicators of future scientific leadership appropriate to career stage, such as initiative, perseverance, humility, and positive influence.

Scientific and Societal Impact and Awareness

- Demonstrated understanding of the role of both fundamental and applied sciences in advancing knowledge and society.



How to apply

- Please contact the coordinator for nominations at your institution.
- If you don't know who this is, please email us at info@schmidtsciencefellows.org.
- Your nominations coordinator will tell you what to do for your institution's internal nomination process.
- Those nominated by their institution will be able to access the application portal when it opens on **May 19, 2026**.



Application: Preliminary Information

What we ask for:

- PhD details
 - PhD discipline
 - Expected completion date*
- Personal details
- Contact information

- You must submit this by **June 1, 2026**.
- We use this data to **determine reviewer expertise** for the first stage of application review.
- If you meet our eligibility criteria, **you can access the rest of the application form once this section has been completed.**

**Candidates applying for our 2027 cohort must expect to complete all the requirements for the conferral of their PhD, including a successful defense, between May 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027.*

Your Application

What we ask for:

- PhD description
- Future research plan
- Options for Placement
- Achievements, personal and collaboration statements
- Academic history
- Publications
- Letters of Recommendation

- **Read** all the guidance before writing **any** of your application.
- You **must** submit by July 13, 2026, 17:00 (GMT+1).



- **Please do not wait to submit on the last day.**

How will your application be reviewed?

Academic Review

- Academic Reviewers with expertise in your PhD field will review your written application.
- This evaluation will focus on intellectual achievement, curiosity, collaboration and the interdisciplinary pivot.

Final Selection

- Senior figures in science, business, and society will interview Finalists.
- You will be assessed against all selection criteria. Please note that interviewers may not be an expert in your subject area.
- Interviews will be online.



Things to consider

- Is your future research proposal a genuine pivot from your PhD research?
- What new tools and methods will you need to learn to do your future research.
- How do your interests and goals align with the Schmidt Science Fellowship?



Who are Schmidt Science Fellows?



CAN WE DESIGN A BETTER SYSTEM FOR DEMENTIA?



CAN MICROALGAE SOLVE OUR FOOD CRISIS?

schmidtsciencefellows.org/fellows/impact-stories/

Further resources

- **Sample Blank Application Form** - provides guidance around wording and sections required.
- Animation: **Your Interdisciplinary Pivot**
- **Briefing for Applicants** after the application opens on **May 19, 2026***.
- Office hours – bookable 10-minute sessions with the Selection Team available **during the final month of the application open period***.



schmidtsciencefellows.org/selection/resources

**We will share details about the Briefing for Applicants and Office Hours with nominated candidates*

Important dates

Institution-specific	Internal deadline for PhD students to apply for nomination*
May 15, 2026	Nomination deadline for institutions
May 19, 2026	Application portal opens
Jun 1, 2026	Preliminary information deadline
Jul 13, 2026	Application deadline
Aug – Nov 2026	Academic Review and shortlisting of Finalists
Jan 22-23, 2027	Final interviews
Feb – Mar 2027	Final decisions and Fellowship offers
Apr 2027	Announcement of 2027 cohort
Jul – Oct 2027	Fellowship placements begin

**Please reach out to your institution's nomination coordinator to confirm this date*

Q&A

- We are sorry we cannot answer questions about specific proposals.
- For questions about your specific circumstances or any outstanding questions please contact the Selection Team below.
- We will be sharing a recording of this presentation.



Dr. Abby Guillermo, Dr. Fiona Hamey and Dr. Chloe Hutton
info@schmidtsciencefellows.org