



Schmidt Science Fellows

Application Guidelines for the 2027 Fellowship Year

Internal Application Due: April 24, 2026 (12:00PM)

Schmidt Science Fellows brings scientific disciplines together to create novel ways of thinking and develop creative solutions. This Fellowship enables the world's best emerging scientists to pivot from their PhD discipline and pursue their goals through bold interdisciplinary research.

Please visit their overview page here for more information: <https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/program/overview/>

The Fellows program offers:

- Opportunity to study in a different area from your PhD in any country, including your home country.
- \$110,000 per year of personal stipend for up to two years of postdoctoral study
- Personalized mentoring program delivered by experienced international interdisciplinary science leaders to help you develop as scientific and societal thought leaders
- A bespoke professional development curriculum delivered across three week-long residential convenings and a rich set of virtual offerings
- A lifelong fellowship community

Eligibility

To be eligible to eventually apply to Schmidt Science Fellows, the student must be nominated by Emory University. To meet this goal, the student must first submit their materials for consideration by the internal deadline listed above. Only the student selected by an Emory faculty committee will then submit their full materials through Schmidt's preliminary application portal in May and their full application by July. From August to February there is a multi-stage review of applications.

- The student must be studying for a PhD in natural sciences (astronomy, biology, chemistry, physics, and earth sciences), engineering, mathematics, or computing.
- Candidates applying for the **2027** cohort must expect to complete all requirements for the conferral of their PhD including a successful defense, between May 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027.
- The following applicants are typically not eligible:
 - o Individuals on clinical track MD-PhD
 - o PhD in social and political science or economics
 - o Applications proposing a pivot into social or political science or economics

Final Selection Criteria

Intellect:

- Extraordinary achievement: clear record of academic achievement of the highest quality in the sciences and an extraordinary degree of intelligence
- Scientific curiosity: high degree of intellectual curiosity combined with energy and creativity; a record of continuous innovation and/or use of new technologies

Programmatic Fit:

- Alignment with the program: interest in pursuing a year or more of postdoctoral study in a field different from the applicant's PhD discipline and a belief that interdisciplinary science and the taking of appropriate scientific risks are important for the advancement of discovery.
- Collaborative spirit: history of effective collaboration with diverse team members.

Leadership

- Global ambition for social good: desire to use one's personal talents to make a positive difference in society and the world.
- Character and leadership: genuine and demonstrable potential for science leadership; displaying perseverance, resilience, a moral compass, and a galvanizing force of a personality.



Application Submission

Please submit the following materials below as ONE PDF file in the order listed.

1. **CV**
2. **Overview of your PhD** which includes the following (brief description of your PhD research in up to 5500 characters and lay summary of your PhD research in up to 750 characters)
 - a. Summarize main aims and outcomes
 - b. Make your individual contributions clear
 - c. Emphasize aspects of your PhD work that are particularly exciting and innovative
 - d. Highlight any outputs that you believe may have significant impact or that you take great pride in
3. **Your research proposal** which is the interdisciplinary “pivot” that Schmidt is looking for:
 - a. This should display the freedom in pursuing an ambitious project and this pivot should enable you to achieve a scientific goal that is not possible while continuing your current course, allowing you to overcome a scientific challenge using different approaches or perspectives.
 - b. This should include:
 - i. Outline of hypothesis/objectives regarding the research proposal (up to 7000 characters)
 - ii. Describe the new tools and skills you need to learn (up to 1500 characters)
 - iii. Explain how this proposal is a change in discipline; show how this is a pivot (up to 1250 characters)
 - iv. Provide a lay summary of research proposal during the fellowship (up to 750 characters)
 - v. Describe any potential short- or long-term impacts (up to 200 characters) in 1-2 short sentences
 - vi. Provide enough detail to demonstrate an understanding of the new research area
 - vii. Explain what is innovative
 - viii. Balancing “big-picture” thinking and long term goals with practicality of a 12-24 month fellowship.
4. **Name, email, and title of three references.** They *may* be contacted to provide a brief letter of support so please let them know in advance that you are including them as a reference.

Application must be submitted by email as one PDF file to: LGS.profdev@emory.edu

Deadline

April 24, 2026 (12:00PM)

Notifications

The final decisions will go out by early May 2026.

- The selected students will be forwarded their information to Schmidt and detailed guidance will be available to them within the online application.

Questions?

Please contact LGS.profdev@emory.edu