**Schmidt Science Fellowship Information for the Purdue COE and COS Nomination Selection Committee and Nominees’ Research Advisors**

Website: <https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/>

College of Engineering Nomination Process:

* From the fellowship website: “The Schmidt Science Fellows are chosen from a pool of nominations provided by many of the world’s leading science and engineering research institutions, followed by a rigorous screening and interview process.”
* The College of Engineering and the College of Science will each select two nominees who will have their full applications submitted to the Schmidt Science Fellowship reviewers. **To select the two nominees, both colleges will conduct their own selection process and then announce their nominees to the Graduate School.**
  + All nominations will be reviewed by the College’s Awards Selection Committee, and the two official College nominees will be given to the Graduate School by their deadline.
* **The four nominees will provide additional documents to make up their full application, which will be due to the Schmidt Science Fellowship by July 18 with initial information to be submitted by June 1.**

Who can request nomination? PhD students who…

* must have completed, or expect to complete, all the requirements for the conferral of their PhD, including a successful defense, between June 1, 2022 and July 30, 2023. The fellowship program will start in July 2023.
* are earning their graduate degrees in the natural sciences (Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth Sciences), Engineering, Mathematics, or Computing – and all sub-disciplines therein
* are pivoting into a different discipline than what they studied for their PhD

**Writing coaching and guidance is available to those seeking nomination by contacting Dr. Lisa Nielsen in the Fellowship Office (**[**lnielse@purdue.edu**](mailto:lnielse@purdue.edu)**). Dr. Nielsen can provide additional information on how to compose the fellowship research proposal and personal statement, as well as a letter of recommendation guide for your letter writers.**

Applicants are encouraged to look at the profiles of past Schmidt Science Fellows at <https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/fellows/>.

What does the fellowship provide for the fellow?

* 12 – 24-month postdoc position in a lab with placement coordinated by the Schmidt Science Fellowship – the applicant does not need to contact labs but can suggest labs that they are interested in
* $100,000/year postdoc stipend
* Travel expenses covered for Schmidt Science Fellow events
* Mentorship from a scientist associated with the fellowship (in addition to the lab mentor)

What do the Schmidt Science Fellowship reviewers judge for those who are nominated?

Competitive applications will include these components that follow the notes provided:

* a brief description of the PhD research
* Fellowship Research Proposal: future research to be conducted as a postdoc during the 1 – 2 year Schmidt Science Fellowship; avoid over-use of jargon and write for a non-expert reviewer; include the following sections/content: introduction, background, hypothesis, methods and analysis, big picture idea/application; include the big-picture view for the specific and detailed project plans; Applicants are encouraged to state the skills they will gain to help make their proposed project successful.
* Options for placement: outlines of three different laboratories that the applicant thinks would be a good fit for their proposed research – no contact with the lab is needed; Applicants are recommended to consider laboratories within as well as outside of the United States.
* Personal Statement: focus on applicant’s personal motivations for their research and pivot in discipline, explanation of interests and experiences along with their career aspirations; explanation of relevant interests and activities outside of research; how they would benefit from the Schmidt Science Fellowship as well as what they would bring to the Schmidt Science Fellowship program; applicant should discuss a few previous experiences to elaborate upon instead of providing an essay version of their CV
* Academic History: provided transcripts from all institutions of higher education that they have attended
* Publication List: may include sections for published works, papers under review, and papers in preparation
* CV: tailored to the Schmidt Science Fellowship with information on the applicant’s academic, research, and extra-curricular/leadership experiences and achievements
* 3 – 5 Letters of Recommendation: recommended to have 5 letters of recommendation; letters should speak to the six review criteria and be written specifically for the Schmidt Science Fellowship; letters should be two pages long and should address the applicant’s future career potential; should have at least one letter writer from outside of their current PhD program

The full applications will be reviewed by both experts in the nominee’s field as well as non-experts. The documents above should include information that directly relates to the review criteria below.

Review Criteria:

**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.

**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

**Global Ambition for Social Good:** Desire to use one’s personal talents and science 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 personality.