

Frequently Asked Questions

November 1, 2017

Question: *What are the characteristics of an ideal Schmidt Science Fellow nominee? What type of person are you looking for?*

Answer: We are looking for nominees who exhibit extraordinary and unusual brilliance in the sciences, along with the ambition and drive to be future leaders in science and society.

Nominees should exhibit the following key qualities:

- **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, conducting research and pursuing knowledge that will benefit 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 his/her doctorate

Our goal is not just to identify talented future scientists - it is to identify those individuals with a special degree of brilliance and inventiveness, and equip them 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.

Question: *What information needs to be provided by the university by November 13 in order to nominate an individual?*

Answer: In order to submit your nominations, please send an email that includes the following information for each of the maximum 5 individuals whom you are nominating:

- Name of nominee
- Email address of nominee
- Scientific field in which the nominee received their PhD

No additional information is required. After receiving nominations, we will reach out directly to the nominees with an invitation to apply and details on how to access the application portal.

Question: *What other universities are eligible to nominate Schmidt Science Fellows?*

Answer: For the first year of the program, we have identified a broad range of select universities that are eligible to nominate potential Fellows, based on a strong track record of producing field-leading PhD candidates and objective third-party rankings of the leading scientific research universities worldwide. We are not planning to publicize the list of participating universities, but if you have questions, please feel free to contact us directly for further information.

We will continually assess the list of participating universities and plan to expand the program in subsequent years to ensure that the world's leading young scientists have the opportunity to become Schmidt Science Fellows.

Question: *If an individual received their PhD after May 1, 2017 (and is therefore within the eligibility window), but has subsequently started a separate postdoctoral or junior faculty position, are they still eligible to be nominated? Or must the Schmidt Science Fellows program be their first postdoctoral experience?*

Answer: For the first year of the program, we are accepting nominations of individuals who have already begun a separate postdoctoral or faculty engagement, provided they meet all of the other eligibility requirements. The Schmidt Science Fellows program does not have to be their first postdoctoral experience. However, this is a full-time program, so in order to qualify, the individual would have to have either completed their separate position by July 2018 or receive a deferral from that program.

Question: *If an individual is accepted into the Schmidt Science Fellows program, are they able to defer their acceptance for a year or more while completing other commitments?*

Answer: No. All individuals who are accepted must be able to begin the program on a full-time basis in July 2018.

Question: *May individuals apply to the program with a specific postdoctoral laboratory / faculty advisor already in mind? Can the program be used to provide funding for a previously-planned postdoctoral placement?*

Answer: Applicants will be asked to identify potential areas of postdoctoral study as part of the application process but are not required to settle on a single proposal when applying. After being selected for the Program, Fellows will make final decisions about their postdoctoral research laboratory with the approval of the Schmidt Science Fellows program team, in order to ensure a good fit at a high-quality institution, valuable fellowship experience, and consistency with the overall goals of the Program. **The preference is that Fellows select a postdoctoral laboratory located at an institution different from where they have received their PhD or where they have already planned future research activities, in order to promote a diversity of experience.** There are no geographic restrictions on the location of institutions the Fellows may consider for their postdoctoral laboratory.

Question: *If individuals completed their PhD at one university and have already begun a separate postdoctoral or junior faculty position at another university, which university should nominate them?*

Answer: Individuals should be nominated by the university that granted their PhD, regardless of whether they have subsequently moved to another institution.