SGS Award Announcement

To: Graduate Chairs/Directors; Graduate Coordinators; Graduate Administrators
From: Fong Di Caterina, Manager, Graduate Awards Office
CC: Joshua Barker, Dean, Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education; Dean Luc De Nil, Vice-Dean, Students; Laura Stathopoulos, Director, Graduate Awards and Financial Aid
Date: October 17, 2017
Re: Schmidt Science Fellows

Award Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant deadline:</th>
<th>Date set by Graduate Unit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nomination deadline to SGS:</td>
<td>November 1, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value/Duration:</td>
<td>$100,000 for 11 months or longer</td>
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<td>University nominations due to Agency</td>
<td>November 13, 2017</td>
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<td>Nominee submission deadline:</td>
<td>December 31, 2017 8:00 p.m. (EDT)</td>
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<td>Eligibility:</td>
<td>Thesis submitted or expected to be submitted to SGS between May 1, 2017 &amp; June 30, 2018</td>
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<td>Required Legal Status:</td>
<td>Domestic or International</td>
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<td>Results:</td>
<td>Spring 2018 directly from Agency</td>
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Purpose

The Schmidt Science Fellows program, is administered by The Eric and Wendy Schmidt Fund for Strategic Innovation, in partnership with the Rhodes Trust and supported by many of the world’s leading scientific thinkers and institutions. The Schmidt Science Fellows program aims to expand the horizons of the next generation of leaders and innovators in the natural sciences, engineering, mathematics, and computing. Its goal is to give the world’s best aspiring scientific minds a broader perspective, the ability to engage in an interdisciplinary way, and the opportunity to make a lasting impact in society. Through a combination of group sessions at some of the world’s leading universities and a special postdoctoral study in a field different from their existing expertise, Fellows will be exposed to new topics, new ways of thinking, and new people that will help guide their future paths to success. The Program will be accepting nominations from a select set of the leading science and engineering universities around the world; the University of Toronto may nominate five candidates.

About the program
The programs seeks the brightest minds in the natural sciences, mathematics, engineering and computing who are interested in broadening their horizons and pursuing a challenging and rewarding period of study with the world’s leading academics and institutions. Fellows will receive a stipend of **$100,000** as part of the program. This will include conducting a full-time, 11-month or longer postdoctoral research study in a field-leading laboratory, focusing on a discipline in the natural sciences, engineering, mathematics or computing that is different from their existing area of expertise and planned future focus. The program will also feature four global meetings at the world’s leading academic institutions, interspersed across the duration of the fellowship.

Fellows will select their postdoctoral research laboratory, with assistance from the Schmidt Science Fellows program, the Rhodes Trust, respected researchers, and a number of leading universities. The Program will help Fellows identify leading laboratories that conduct exciting new research and provide the opportunity to “pivot” from their current area of expertise during the fellowship year.

The **Global Meetings Series** will expose Fellows to new cutting-edge science, provide them the opportunity to interact with each other and with leading thinkers in the sciences and society, and develop new skills that will help them in their future careers.

**Program Timeline:**

- July 2018: Schmidt Science Fellows program begins
- July 2018: United Kingdom All-Cohort Group Sessions
- August / September 2018: Fellows join their Postdoctoral Research Labs
- October / November 2018: Massachusetts All-Cohort Group Sessions
- February / March 2019: Northern California All-Cohort Group Sessions
- July 2019: Concluding Week at University of Oxford

**Eligibility to Apply**

Individuals must have received or expect to receive a PhD in natural sciences (including life, physical, and earth sciences), engineering, mathematics, or computing and have their thesis accepted by SGS between May 1, 2017 and June 30th 2018. Nominees should demonstrate **seven key qualities** as identified by the Program.

**Application Timeline & Process**

For the 2017-2018 competition, SGS will allow candidates to make use of already completed award applications recently prepared for other competitions (where available). Graduate Chairs are invited to submit their top ranked candidate(s), along with a completed nomination package to SGS for consideration by November 1st, the process is as follows:

1) Supervisors and/or Coordinators of interested applicants are encouraged to discuss their intent to nominate suitable candidates with the Graduate Chair/Director; and
2) Graduate Chairs/Directors nominate their top candidate(s) and submit the associated nomination package(s) to SGS by November 1st - submission instructions to follow.

The following will serve as a completed nomination package:

a) A personal statement which demonstrates the candidate’s ability to meet each of the seven selection criteria and describes why the applicant is interested in the Program and what they hope to achieve during and after it; and
b) A nomination letter from the Graduate Chair/Director; and
c) The complete contents, including associated reference letters from one of the following current competitions:
   - Banting PDF application; or
   - NSERC or CIHR Postdoctoral Fellowship application; or
   - John Charles Polanyi Prize application; or
If none of the above completed applications are available, candidates are asked to create a nomination package which includes a current CV (no page restrictions); along with any of following suggested supporting documents:

- A brief abstract or 1-page summary of the doctoral thesis written by the applicant
- A brief statement of research to be undertaken during a program of postdoctoral research
- A copy of the external examiner's pre-defence report signed and dated by the examiner (if FOE completed)
- Reference letters – may use those from another recent competition

3) SGS adjudicates the nominations, selects and submits a list of five endorsed candidates by November 13, 2017;
4) Individuals nominated by U of T will be sent an invitation by the funding agency to apply;
   - Completed applications will be due no later than December 31, 2017;
   - The application will include a curriculum vitae (CV) with relevant publications or research, reference letters attesting to the student's accomplishments and capabilities, and personal statements on why the applicant is interested in the Program and what they hope to achieve during and after it.
5) Application packages will first be reviewed by a board of senior researchers who have knowledge of a wide variety of disciplines. The best applications will then be examined by a second board and evaluated on a mixture of criteria that align with the Program’s goals;
6) A group of semi-finalists will be selected and invited to a final session for face-to-face interviews in March 2018;
7) Final selections will be made following the interviews, and publicly announced shortly thereafter.

Contacts & Resources

More about Schmidt Science Fellows
Schmidt Science Fellows Selection Process
Email: info@schmidtsciencefellows.org

For information please visit the SGS website or contact:
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