SGS Award Announcement

To: Div III & IV Graduate Chairs/Directors; Graduate Coordinators; Graduate Administrators
From: Fong Di Caterina, Manager, Graduate Awards Office
CC: Luc De Nil, Acting Dean, Graduate Studies and Acting Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education; Charmaine Williams, Acting Vice-Dean, Students; Laura Stathopoulos, Director, Graduate Awards and Financial Aid
Date: June 25, 2018
Re: 2019-2020 Schmidt Science Fellows

Award Overview

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Applicant deadline:</td>
<td>Date set by Graduate Unit</td>
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<td>Nomination deadline to SGS:</td>
<td>July 30, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value/Duration:</td>
<td>$100,000 for 14 months</td>
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<td>University nominations due to Agency:</td>
<td>August 31, 2018</td>
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<td>Nominee submission deadline:</td>
<td>November 30, 2018 - 23:59 p.m. (GMT)</td>
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<td>Shortlisted applicants interview period:</td>
<td>Winter 2019</td>
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<td>Eligibility:</td>
<td>Thesis submitted or expected to be submitted to SGS between May 1, 2018 &amp; June 30, 2019</td>
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<td>Required Legal Status:</td>
<td>Domestic or International</td>
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<td>Results:</td>
<td>April 2019 directly from Agency</td>
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Purpose

The Schmidt Science Fellows program is supported and funded by the Eric and Wendy Schmidt Strategic Fund for 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 provide the world’s best emerging scientists with new skills and perspectives to develop novel solutions to society’s challenges, become scientific and societal thought leaders, and unlock new scientific breakthroughs faster.

Fellows engage and co-produce with diverse thinkers in science, politics, society, and business to catalyse new ideas and connections. It creates a community of lifelong fellowship and collaboration, between Fellows and the leading thinkers with whom they connect.

For the 2019-20 intake, the Program is inviting nominations from approx. 75 leading science and engineering universities around the world; the University of Toronto may nominate seven candidates.
About the program

The program 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. The full-time year-long program is delivered through a combination of group sessions at some of the world’s leading universities and a special postdoctoral study in a field different from a Fellow’s existing expertise. Fellows are awarded a stipend of $100,000 and receive personal and scientific mentoring to enable them to maximize the opportunities from their Fellowship.

The program has relationships and committed support from internationally-leading research leaders and laboratories to ensure fellows are placed into a stimulating, challenging and rewarding environment. Throughout the placement year, Fellows will have access to personal and scientific mentoring to enable them to maximize the benefits of their fellowship and to support their career development.

Schmidt Science Fellows attend four meetings as a cohort during their fellowship year. The Global Meetings Series is held around the world to enable Fellows to engage with new concepts, to visit leading science facilities and to have dialogue with internationally-renowned thought-leaders from science, business, policy, and society. The meetings cover four main themes with focused learning outcomes:

- Interdisciplinary thinking
- Science leadership development
- Future of science
- Collaborative community

By the end of the final meeting it is expected that all Schmidt Science Fellows to be able to:

- Recognize the importance of interdisciplinarity
- Demonstrate ability to take concepts from one field and apply them to a related field
- Identify ways to take scientific risks and persevere in the face of failure

Eligibility to Apply

In order to be eligible for nomination and potential selection as a Schmidt Science Fellow, candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Have conducted their PhD degree in the natural sciences (life, physical, and earth sciences), engineering, mathematics, or computing at the University of Toronto;
- Have their final PhD thesis accepted by the School of Graduate Studies between May 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019; and
- Be available for the entire period of the 2019-2020 program, from July 2019 to July 2020.

Selection Criteria

The Program is seeking those individuals with a special degree of brilliance and inventiveness. Successful applicants will be equipped with the tools and opportunities to drive world-changing advances.

Applications for the Schmidt Science Fellows program will be judged against the following selection criteria:

- **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, pursuing knowledge that will benefit the world by engaging in ambitious research and displaying great perseverance throughout the scientific process.
- **Character** - A genuine and demonstrable interest in society and global challenges combined with a desire to use personal talents and expertise to make a positive difference in 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 their doctorate.

### Application Timeline & Process

Graduate Chairs are invited to nominate their top ranked candidate(s) by submitting a complete nomination package to SGS for consideration by July 30, 2018; 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;

2. Graduate Chairs/Directors nominate their top candidate(s) and submit the associated nomination package(s) to SGS by July 30th – see Instructions for Graduate Units document for submission instructions.

   The following will serve as a completed nomination package:
   a) Nomination letter from the Graduate Chair/Director;
   b) Up to date CV (no page restrictions), including links to relevant publications and research activities. For papers underway or pending publication, applicants should attach a copy of the final abstract (1 page or less) of the paper;
   c) Up to date transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate studies (including those from U of T) – non-U of T transcripts must include grading legend;
   d) A brief abstract or 1-page summary of the doctoral thesis written by the applicant;
   e) Proposal Statement (max 1000 words) regarding potential postdoctoral studies the applicant may wish to pursue if named a Schmidt Science Scholar. While applicants need not commit to a single postdoctoral study in order to have his/her application accepted, the statement should describe potential areas for postdoctoral research that could be considered. These potential areas of study must be sufficiently different from the field of study for which the applicant received his/her doctorate.
   f) Personal Statement (max 1000 words), which must be wholly the applicant’s original work. The statement should describe the applicant’s academic, scientific, professional and personal interests, the reason for the applicant’s interest in the Schmidt Science Fellows, medium-term career path and interests, and long-term future ambitions in the applicable fields of natural science, engineering, mathematics, or computing.
   g) Four to six (4-6) Reference letters (the Schmidt online application requires a minimum of 5 reference letter up to a maximum of 7); A minimum of 3 references must be from Academics. Letters from the applicant’s thesis supervisor(s) are expected. Letters may also come from other faculty, employers, supervisors, or collaborators. These letters should address the applicant’s intellectual ability and research accomplishments, but also markers of leadership and future research success.

3. SGS adjudicates the nominations, selects and submits a list of seven endorsed candidates by August 31, 2018;

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 November 30, 2018;
   - The application will include a curriculum vitae (CV) with relevant publications or research, 5-7 reference letters attesting to the student’s accomplishments and capabilities, proposal and
personal statements on potential postdoctoral studies, and why the applicant is interested in the Program and what they hope to achieve during and after it.

5) Completed applications 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) Short-listed applicants will be invited to face-to-face interviews in February 2019.

7) Final selection panel interviews and announcement of 2019-2020 class of Schmidt Science Fellows in April 2019.

Contacts & Resources

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

For information regarding the U of T selection process, please visit the SGS website or contact:
Fong Di Caterina, Manager, Graduate Awards Office
fong.dicaterina@utoronto.ca
416-978-2150