

Call for Applications: Schmidt Science Postdoc Fellowship Nomination

Purdue has been selected by the Schmidt Science Foundation to submit up to four nominees for the prestigious Schmidt Science Fellowship which funds interdisciplinary postdoctoral research experiences. Purdue has had three finalists and one winner over the past two years!

****Deadline to submit your nomination application: Friday, March 27 at 11:59 PM ET****

What does the fellowship provide?

- A personal stipend of **US\$110,000 per year** for up to two years of postdoctoral study **in a different area from your PhD**, at any approved location worldwide.
- **Scientific freedom** to pursue ambitious research goals, take risks, and have bold ideas.
- Personalized mentoring to help 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 through the **Science Leadership Program**.
- A **lifelong fellowship community** with continued support, interaction, and collaboration opportunities. This stimulating and caring fellowship community is at the heart of the Schmidt Science

Who is eligible?

- You must be studying for a PhD in natural sciences (Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Sciences), Engineering, Mathematics, Computing – or any of the sub-disciplines. Individuals on clinical track MD-PhD or Veterinary-PhD programs are not eligible.
- You must expect to complete all requirements for the conferral of your PhD between **May 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027** and be able to start your Fellowship in **July 2027** or **October 2027**.
- You must be nominated by Purdue University.

How different should my proposed postdoc research be from my PhD research?

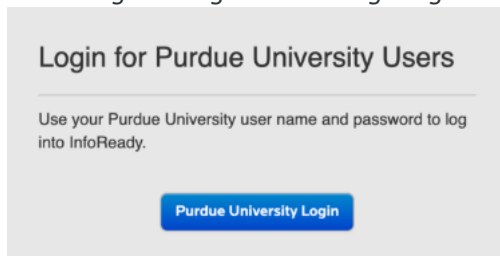
- **Your project should NOT be a continuation of your PhD research or an incremental progression.** The fellowship website states: “We expect your Fellowship Research Proposal to represent a genuine and ambitious change of focus from your PhD studies, with a clear and positive rationale for the change in direction you are proposing. In all cases, you should make a clear case for the genuine development of new skills and widening of perspectives and networks. If the new area is very far removed from your previous research experience, you should take care to evidence your investigation of both the novelty and feasibility of the proposed research. “
- Proposals requiring candidates to **immerse themselves fully in a new discipline from their current expertise** and to **address different or broader questions than those posed during their PhD** are aligned most closely with the program and will be **valued most highly**. Proposals with less ambitious changes in discipline and application will be considered but valued less highly.
- Proposed pivots must be to the natural sciences (Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Sciences), Engineering, Mathematics, or Computing or any sub-disciplines of these subjects. Applications proposing a pivot into social science, political science, or economics are typically not eligible.

How can I learn more about the program?

- Visit the fellowship website here: <https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/>
- Attend an internal Purdue webinar to learn more about the Schmidt Science Fellowship and what we are looking for in the nomination application.
 - Thursday, February 19 at 3:30 PM ET. [Register here.](#)
 - Friday, February 20 at 10:30 AM ET. [Register here.](#)
- Schmidt will host a webinar in April; we will email all applicants with a registration link once it becomes available.

How do I apply to be a Purdue Nominee?

1. Open the following online application:
<https://gradschoolfellowships.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/2006511>
Please log in using the blue single sign-on button:



2. **Download the Review Panel Commitment Form** under Supporting Documents and share it with your Director of Graduate Programs or Chair of the Graduate Committee for them to nominate a faculty member to serve as a reviewer. **Share this form with the appropriate representative in your department ASAP!** This form must be emailed to trainee-funding@purdue.edu by the application deadline of March 27, 2026.
3. **Provide contact information for your primary advisor in the application section for submitting a letter of recommendation.** Select "Send Reference Letter Request" when saving your draft so they will be provided with instructions and a link to upload their letter. **Complete this step as soon as possible** so they have ample time to submit a letter of recommendation by the deadline of March 27, 2026.
4. **Complete the remaining requirements in the application**, including short answer questions, a description of the postdoctoral research you plan to pursue, and your CV.

When will I learn if I am selected to apply to the fellowship?

- Nominees will be notified by OGSPS by May 4, 2026.

If I am nominated to apply, what happens next?

- You will need to confirm acceptance of your nomination with Purdue by May 7, 2026.
- You are required to provide additional documents for the full application **before July 13, 2026**, including: CV, personal statement, additional letters of recommendation, transcripts, publication list, and three potential options for placement in a research group (subject to change year to year).
- **Guidance for completing these additional documents will be provided by Trainee Funding Support in OGSPS!**

Questions or requests for support with your nomination application can be sent to OGSPS,
Trainee Funding Support at trainee-funding@purdue.edu