

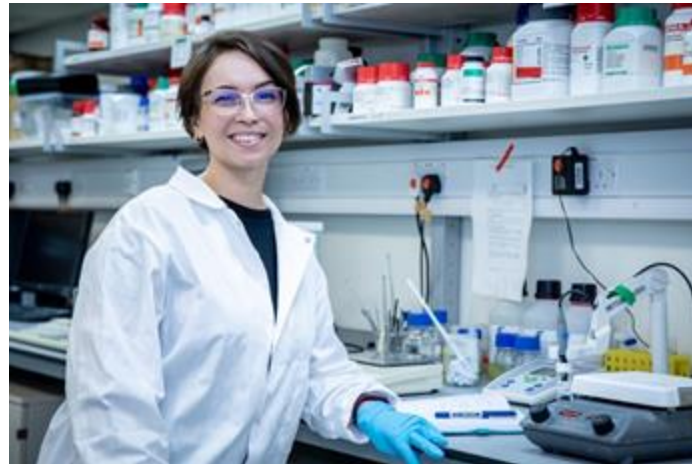


**SCHMIDT
SCIENCE FELLOWS**

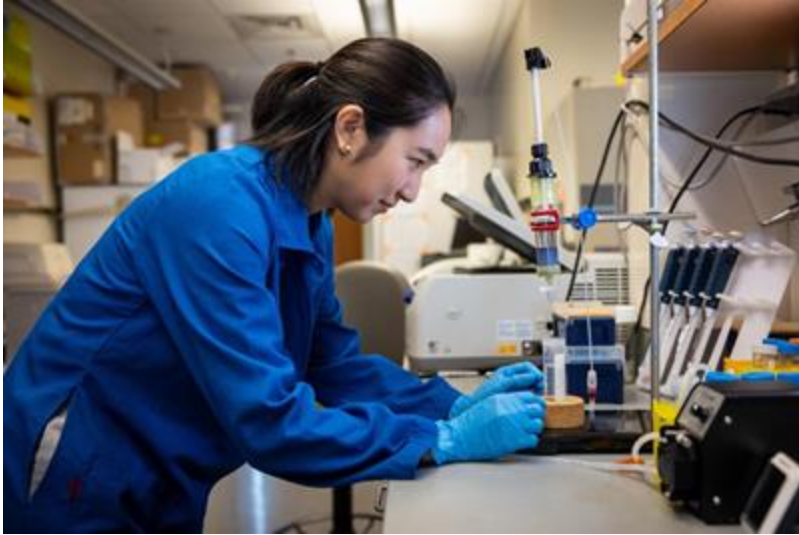
Schmidt Science Fellows 2026: Webinar for Prospective Candidates



SCHMIDT SCIENCE FELLOWS



Our vision



Our vision is a world where **interdisciplinary science** flourishes without limit, **driving innovation** and **accelerating discoveries to benefit the world.**

Our mission



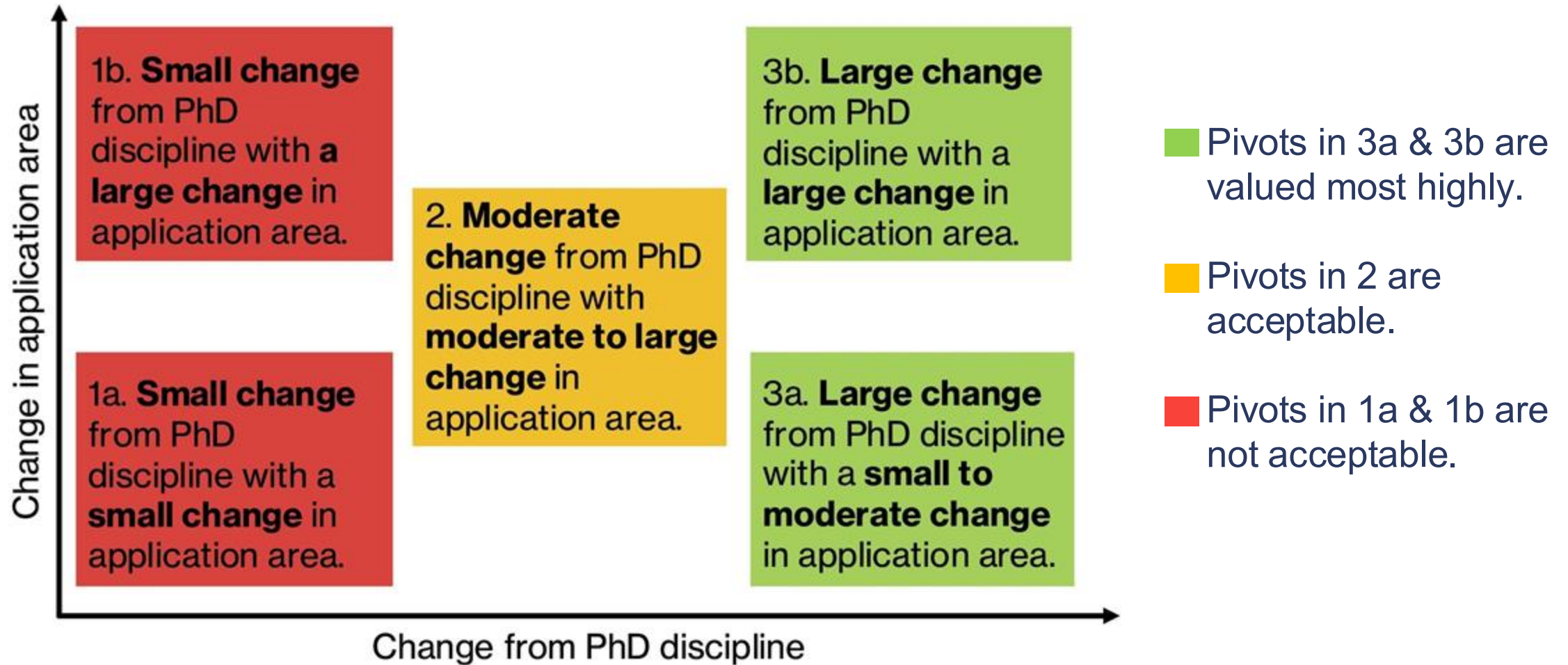
To help scientists solve **bigger problems faster**, we are identifying, developing, and amplifying the **next generation of science leaders.**

Who are we looking for?

- **Curious and creative scientists** interested in making a genuine move to intensive study in a **discipline different to their PhD.**
- **Academically excellent, risk-positive,** early-career researchers who can demonstrate a commitment to **ambitious, high-impact science.**
- **Future leaders** with the potential and character to lead teams and **unlock transformative discoveries in the future.**
- **Talented individuals** from a wide range of scientific disciplines who are motivated to **increase interdisciplinary collaboration.**



Central to our mission: The disciplinary pivot



What do we offer you?



Intellectual and scientific freedom



Bespoke Science Leadership Program



A personal stipend of US\$110,000 per year



Mentoring by globally-recognized interdisciplinary researchers

and...

Lifelong Community



Selection Criteria

Intellect



Extraordinary
Achievement



Scientific
Curiosity

Programmatic Fit



Alignment with
the Program



Collaborative
Spirit

Leadership



Global Ambition for
Social Good



Character and
Leadership

Criteria assessed during Academic Review (paper-based assessment)

Criteria assessed during Final Selection (online interviews)

Selection Criteria: Intellect

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.



Selection Criteria: Programmatic Fit

Alignment with the Program

- Commitment to pursuing a year or more of postdoctoral study in a different field from the PhD.
- A belief that interdisciplinary science and taking appropriate scientific risks are important components of discovery.

Collaborative Spirit

- Value the power of bringing people and perspectives together.
- Track record of effective collaboration with diverse team members.



Selection Criteria: Leadership

Global Ambition for Social Good

- Driven by the need to use one's talent 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.



How will your application be reviewed?

Academic Review

- Academic Reviewers with expertise in your PhD field will review your written application.
- This evaluation will focus on academic excellence and programmatic fit.

Final Selection

- Senior figures in science, business, and society will interview Finalists.
- You will be assessed against all selection criteria. Please note that interviewers may not be an expert in your subject area.
- Interviews will be online.



Eligibility

- Studying for a PhD in natural sciences (astronomy, biology, chemistry, physics, and earth sciences), engineering, mathematics, computing (*and relevant sub-disciplines*).
- Expected to complete all requirements for the conferral of their PhD between **15 May 2025 and 30 June 2026**.
- Can start their Fellowship in **July 2026** or **October 2026**, be available from **April 2026 to July 2027** to attend virtual onboarding activities, and from **October 2026** to attend in-person convenings.
- *Please note: PhDs in social sciences, MD-PhDs and veterinary PhDs are not eligible.*



How to apply

- Please contact the coordinator for nominations at your institution.
- If you don't know who this is, please email us at info@schmidtsciencefellows.org.
- Your nominations coordinator will tell you what to do for your institution's internal nomination process.



Once you have been nominated

- **Congratulations!** You have been nominated by your institution to apply to Schmidt Science Fellows 2026.
- You will receive details about how to access the application form, which will open on **May 8, 2025**.



Application: Preliminary Information

What we ask for:

- PhD details
 - PhD discipline
 - Expected completion date*
- Personal details
- Contact information

- You must submit this by **May 29, 2025**.
- We use this data to **determine reviewer expertise** for Academic Review.
- If you meet our eligibility criteria, **you can access the rest of the application form once this section has been completed.**

**Candidates applying for our 2026 cohort must expect to complete all the requirements for the conferral of their PhD, including a successful defense, between May 15, 2025 and June 30, 2026.*

Completing your application

- Please read the guidance document provided in the application portal very carefully before starting your application - it contains essential instructions.
- Your written application will be based on your PhD highlights, future research plans, achievements, collaboration and personal statements, and academic history.



Your Application

What we ask for:

- PhD description
- Future research plan
- Options for Placement
- Achievements, personal and collaboration statements
- Academic history
- Publications
- Letters of Recommendation

- **Read** all the guidance before writing **any** of your application.
- You **must** submit by July 14, 2025, 17:00 (GMT+1).



- **Please do not wait to submit on the last day.**

Things to consider

- Is your future research proposal a genuine pivot from your PhD research?
- What new tools and methods will you need to learn to do your future research.
- How do your interests and goals align with the Schmidt Science Fellowship?



Further resources

- **Sample Application Form** - provides guidance around wording and sections required.
- Animation: **Your Interdisciplinary Pivot**
- **Briefing for Applicants** after the application opens on **May 8, 2025***.
- Office hours – bookable 10-minute sessions with the Selection Team available **during the final month of the application open period***.



schmidtsciencefellows.org/selection/resources

**We will share details about the Briefing for Applicants and Office Hours with nominated candidates*

Important dates

May 8, 2025	Application opens
May 19, 2025	Nomination deadline
May 29, 2025	Preliminary information deadline
Jul 14, 2025	Application deadline
Aug – Nov 2025	Academic Review and shortlisting of Finalists
Jan 23-24, 2026	Final interviews
Feb – Mar 2026	Final decisions and Fellowship offers
Apr 2026	Announcement of 2026 cohort
Jul – Oct 2026	Fellowship placements begin

Q&A

- We are sorry we cannot answer questions about specific proposals.
- For questions about your specific circumstances or any outstanding questions please contact the Selection Team below.
- We will be sharing a recording of this presentation with Nominating Partner Organizations.



Dr. Abby Guillermo, Dr. Fiona Hamey and Dr. Chloe Hutton
info@schmidtsciencefellows.org