

In Spring/Summer 2023 the Schmidt Family Foundation, in partnership with the UCSB Graduate Division, is again generously funding summer Research Accelerator Awards in ocean sciences, ecology, and environmental sciences. Emphasis is placed on *advancing science that has direct application for environmental problem solving* (leading to near-term solutions for conservation of the natural world). The goal of these awards is to facilitate graduate students to conduct research by providing salary, tuition or field costs to facilitate research that would not otherwise be possible. Applications will be judged on the following five criteria: 1) graduate student's potential for excellence in one of the identified focal areas (ocean sciences, ecology or environmental studies), 2) direct applications of the proposed project to producing solutions to an environmental problem of immediate concern, 3) quality of communication plan in facilitating transfer of research findings to the public or environmental decision makers, 4) contribution to diversity in sciences, and 5) justification of both need for and value of funding. Stipends will be \$8000.00 per student (to be paid during spring/summer quarter). Previous Schmidt fellows are eligible to apply but must be applying for an *entirely new research question*.

Applications for this award should be sent to (schmidt.fellows@gmail.com) in electronic format as a PDF file. They are due by 5 pm PT on March 15, 2024. No late submissions will be accepted. Please put SCHMIDT ACCELERATOR AWARD-[GRAD LAST NAME] in the subject line of the email.

Eligibility: Graduate student applicants must be UCSB affiliated. Both PhD and MA/MS students are eligible. Previous Schmidt fellowship recipients are eligible to apply but must be applying for a new research question. The program is open to students from all departments and seeks to fund students from a wide range of departments. The funding must be used within 9 months of receipt.

Requirements: All students receiving an award will be required to 1) attend an Environmental Science Boot Camp following award receipt (in person, 1 day, date TBD); 2) write a summary of their team's progress and accomplishments, including progress on communicating their science, due September 15, 2024; 3) give a public oral presentation at an environmental sciences open house in winter 2025 and, if requested, a private presentation to Schmidt family or foundation; and 4) provide a picture of the award recipients and a lay summary of the project prior to receiving funding.

Please include:

1. A brief description of the research project and its scientific merit. In addition to this project description the statement should include the following components: A) A project title B) A brief abstract for the project that includes a *solutions statement* explicitly stating how the research funded here will translate to near-term action for conservation of the natural world. C) A

communication plan about how the student will communicate their research findings to the public. References are not included in the two page limit.

2. A CV of the student (2 pages maximum), including progress toward their degree.
3. A brief budget and justification (1 page maximum for both items combined). The budget should clearly describe how this funding is distinct or complementary from any other current or pending funding *including* any funding that may be available from related projects to other investigators (including but not limited to funding to advisor's lab)
4. Letter of recommendation from the graduate student's supervising professor explaining both the value and need of this award in the context of the graduate student's dissertation. These letters are also due by March 15, 2024. The letter may be included as part of the application package or may be sent separately to schmidt.fellows@gmail.com) Please put SCHMIDT ACCELERATOR REFERENCE – [GRAD LAST NAME] in the subject line of the email.
5. We are strongly committed to fostering students that enhance diversity in Environmental Sciences. Please include a statement describing any contribution the graduate student makes to diversity, equity, or inclusion in the sciences. There is no limit to the length of this statement.

Please contact schmidt.fellows@gmail.com with questions. Please note that while students may apply for multiple Schmidt Awards, students awarded a Schmidt Research Accelerator Award will not be awarded any other UCSB Schmidt fellowship in spring/summer 2023.

Please send all documents as a single PDF. As noted above, references may be separate.