

In Spring/Summer 2023 the Schmidt Family Foundation is funding a call for the Schmidt Environmental Solutions Summer Research Mentorship Awards. As with all Schmidt Environmental Solutions Awards, these awards aim to advance science that has direct application for environmental problem solving. This is defined broadly and can include natural sciences, social sciences, physical sciences, engineering, policy, medicine or any field that has promise to provide near-term solutions for a pressing environmental challenge. The specific goal of the mentorship awards is to support the development of graduate and undergraduate research in these fields through a mentoring program that pairs an undergraduate with a graduate student mentor. Emphasis is placed on fostering experiences and advancing science that has direct application for environmental problem solving. Applications will be judged on the following five criteria: 1) graduate student's potential for excellence in their identified field, 2) evidence for excellence of and potential benefit to the selected undergraduate from the fellowship, 3) direct applications of the proposed project to producing solutions to an environmental problem of immediate concern, 4) quality of communication plan in facilitating transfer of research findings to the public or environmental decision makers, and 5) contribution to diversity in sciences. Stipends will be \$9000.00 per team (to be paid Spring 2024). Stipends are flexible and can be used, for example, to support field costs, or directly support both graduate and undergraduate students (e.g. through GSR, work-study, or hourly wages) to enable them to focus their time on research. Previous Schmidt fellows are eligible to apply but must be applying for an *entirely new research question*.

*Eligibility:* Graduate student applicants must be UCSB affiliated and enrolled in good standing. 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 indeed seeks to fund students from a wide range of departments. The funding must be used within 9 months of receipt. Undergraduates must not have graduated before the research effort is completed.

*Applying without a partner:* While this program has previously accepted only applications submitted as a team (graduate student and undergraduate student) we are now accepting *applications from undergraduates and graduate students submitted separately*. In this case graduate students should submit items 1-5 on the list while undergrads submit items 5-7 on the list. Students provisionally accepted without a partner will then go through a matching process facilitated by the Fellows Program before the award is finalized.

*Requirements:* Graduates and undergraduates supported on the project are both expected to engage on the project for a minimum of 8 weeks throughout the spring/summer quarter(s). All students receiving an award will be required to 1) attend an Environmental Communications Workshop in UCSB (in person, 1 day, date TBD); 2) write a summary of their team's progress and accomplishments due September 15, 2024; 3) give a public oral presentation at an

environmental sciences open house in winter 2025 and 4) provide a picture of the award recipients and a lay summary of the project prior to receiving funding.

**Applications for this award should be sent to ([schmidt.fellows@gmail.com](mailto:schmidt.fellows@gmail.com)) in electronic format as PDF files. They are due by 5 pm PT on March 15, 2024. No late submissions will be accepted. For complete applications please put SCHMIDT MENTORSHIP AWARDS PAIR – [GRAD LAST NAME] in the subject line of the email. For applications submitted only by graduate student please put SCHMIDT MENTORSHIP AWARDS GRAD – [GRAD LAST NAME] in the subject line of the email. For applications submitted only by undergraduate student please put SCHMIDT MENTORSHIP AWARDS UNDERGRAD – [UNDERGRAD LAST NAME] in the subject line of the email.**

Please include:

1. A brief description of the research project and its scientific merit and how the undergraduate student will participate and partner in it (2 pages, prepared by the graduate student). 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 students will communicate their research findings to the public. D) A statement explaining how the undergraduate will participate in the project including during what time period. References are not included in the two page limit.
2. A CV of the graduate student (2 pages maximum), including progress toward their degree and any prior mentoring experience.
3. Letter of recommendation from the graduate student's supervising professor. This letter is 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](mailto:schmidt.fellows@gmail.com)) Please put SCHMIDT MENTORS REFERENCE – [GRAD LAST NAME] in the subject line of the email.
4. A brief budget and justification (1 page maximum for both items combined). The budget should clearly describe any other funds that are available for the project and how this funding is distinct or complementary. It is expected that the budget will be split approximately equally between undergraduate and graduate student partnerships. Any deviation from such a split must be justified (e.g. if housing is paid for undergraduate then this split may vary).
5. We are strongly committed to fostering students and mentors that enhance diversity in Environmental Sciences. Please include a statement describing any contribution the graduate student or the undergraduate student makes to diversity, equity, or inclusion in the sciences. There is no limit to the length of this statement. If graduate student and undergraduate are applying separately they should each submit a diversity statement.

6. A CV of the undergraduate student (1 page maximum), including major, GPA, a list of relevant coursework, and any relevant field or lab experience. Strong preference is given to undergraduates that are UCSB affiliated during the award. However, we will consider non UCSB affiliated students when the mentored student will make a strong contribution to fostering diversity in the sciences.

7. A brief statement (1-2 paragraph) from the undergraduate regarding their professional goals and how a research experience will prepare them to meet said goals. Students that commit to continuing to work on a project for more than one quarter will be favorably reviewed. If applying separately (no mentor identified) students should also summarize their academic interests.

Please contact [schmidt.fellows@gmail.com](mailto:schmidt.fellows@gmail.com) with any questions.

Please send all documents (except letter of recommendation, which can be sent separately if preferred) as a single PDF.