

In Spring/Summer 2023 the Schmidt Family Foundation will again generously fund an Environmental Solutions Research grants program 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). These grants are intended to provide partial support of doctoral research to improve the overall quality of their research program. Applications will be judged on the following five criteria: 1) applicants 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) additional value provided to the researcher's career, 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. Awards will be \$15,000. Previous Schmidt Accelerator or Mentorship fellows are eligible to apply but must be applying for an *entirely new research question*. Previous Schmidt Research fellows are ineligible to apply for a second Schmidt Research Award.

**Applications for this award should be sent to ([schmidt.fellows@gmail.com](mailto: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 RESEARCH AWARD-[GRAD LAST NAME] in the subject line of the email.**

*Eligibility:* Applicants must be UCSB affiliated graduate students. Both PhD and MA/MS students. Previous Accelerator or Mentorship 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 award recipients will be required to 1) attend an Environmental Science Communications Workshop following award receipt (in person, 1 day, date TBD); 2) write a summary of their research 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 4) provide a picture of themselves and a lay summary of the project prior to receiving funding.

Please include:

1. A 2-3 page project proposal including the following. A) A brief abstract for the project that includes a *solutions statement* explicitly stating how the research funded will translate to near-term action for conservation of the natural world. B) A description of the research project and its scientific merit. C) A communication plan about how the students will communicate their research findings to the public. D) A description of the applicant's broader research program including its design and scientific significance, progress to date, and what new data would be

collected with the grant including its design and analysis that would not otherwise be gathered.

E) Previous Schmidt fellows should include an explicit statement as to how this work differs from previously funded work. References are not included in the three 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. A list of other current and 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)

5 Letter of recommendation from the graduate student's supervising professor explaining both the value and need of this award in the context of the applicant's research. 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](mailto:schmidt.fellows@gmail.com). Please put SCHMIDT RESEARCH REFERENCE – [GRAD LAST NAME] in the subject line of the email.

6. We are strongly committed to fostering students and mentors that enhance diversity in Environmental Sciences. Please include a statement describing any contribution the applicant 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](mailto:schmidt.fellows@gmail.com) with questions. Please note that while students may apply for multiple Schmidt Awards, students awarded a Schmidt Research Grants Award will not be awarded any other UCSB Schmidt fellowship in 2023.

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