

SIMONS FOUNDATION

Simons Society of Fellows

Request for Nominations for Junior Fellows

The Simons Foundation invites nominations for Junior Fellows of the Simons Society of Fellows.

The Simons Society of Fellows strives to create a community of scholars and to encourage intellectual interactions across disciplines and research centers in New York City. Junior Fellows are outstanding, young scientists who receive support from the foundation for up to three years to conduct independent research at a university in New York City. In order to help create and stimulate the Society of Fellows community, the foundation has a strong expectation that Junior Fellows will attend weekly dinners, along with a two-day annual conference and a four-day weekend retreat, both organized by the foundation.

Level and Duration of Funding: Junior Fellows are appointed for up to three years. New fellowships must begin on July 1, August 1 or September 1, 2019.

In 2019/20, a Junior Fellow will receive a stipend of \$81,150, funds for fringe benefits as well as a \$5,000 research allowance. The Junior Fellow's New York City host institution will receive an additional 20 percent in indirect costs.

Eligibility: To be a Junior Fellow, one must be engaged in research in one of the following areas of science:

- life sciences, including genetics, cellular and organismic biology, neurosciences, and basic aspects of biomedical research;
- physical and engineering sciences, including astronomy, chemistry, basic aspects of engineering, earth sciences, physics and related disciplines;
- pure and applied mathematics; or
- computer and information science.

For 2019, a Junior Fellow must have received his or her Ph.D. no earlier than May 2017 and no later than August of 2019. A Junior Fellowship cannot be held concurrently with a tenure-track faculty appointment. Junior Fellows may not transfer their awards to another host institution and must remain at the host institution for the duration of their appointment. Junior Fellows cannot hold other Simons Foundation grants during their appointment.

Junior Fellows cannot have any non-voluntary teaching obligations and are expected to be in residence in New York City during the academic year. Residency in New York

City outside of the academic terms is not required.

Periods of sabbatical or research leave are not allowed during the Junior Fellowship. A Junior Fellowship may be interrupted and resumed for reasons that would normally justify a leave from his/her university, such as illness, the need to care for family members or time off for national service.

The award will be interrupted or terminated at the foundation's discretion if the Junior Fellow takes up a primary, long-term position at a research institute, national laboratory, non-New York City or for-profit organization or accepts a major administrative responsibility that significantly reduces the time available for research.

Host Institution Eligibility: A host institution must be a university in New York City (i.e., Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island, Queens, the Bronx). Institutions outside New York City are not eligible.

Host institutions will be required to designate a scientific mentor for the Junior Fellow. The Flatiron Institute is not an eligible host institution, although Fellows may spend time at the institute. Additionally, the host institution must agree to appoint the Junior Fellow as a postdoctoral research associate or equivalent, with no teaching obligations, and to provide the standard benefits package that this institution provides to postdoctoral research associates. A Junior Fellow must be considered an employee of the institution.

Selection Procedure: Junior Fellows are selected by Senior Fellows of the Simons Society of Fellows, distinguished scientists based in New York City. Senior Fellows will decide on a short list of Junior Fellow nominees to be invited for interviews and will conduct these interviews at the foundation in October 2018. Nominees must be available to attend an interview on one of the Wednesdays in October. The nominees invited to interview should be prepared to talk for 15 minutes, with approximately five minutes on the background and state of his/her field, five minutes on the nominee's previous work and five minutes on research plans. The talks should be accessible to scientists outside of the nominee's own field.

The foundation expects to notify nominators and nominees of the decision by December 31, 2018.

Number of Awards: In 2019, the foundation expects to appoint up to 10 Junior Fellows.

Allowable Expenses: The research funds provided to the Junior Fellow may be used at the Fellow's discretion to support expenses in the following categories:

- Scientific domestic or international travel by the Junior Fellow — Travel expenditures should follow the institution's travel policies. Parking, hotel, taxi,

registration and other related travel and conference costs are allowable. There are no restrictions on airline carriers.

- Small equipment, supplies and other expenses directly benefiting the Junior Fellow's research, such as computers, computer support, publication expenses, stationery, books and membership fees.
- Expenses related to travel or hosting scientific visitors and collaborators.

Expenditures in other expense categories may be possible but must be approved in advance by the foundation.

Unexpended Funds: Unexpended research funds are automatically carried over from year to year during the period of appointment. Any unexpended funds at the conclusion of the appointment must be returned to the foundation. No-cost extensions will not typically be considered.

Reporting: An annual progress report and financial statement are due no later than 60 days after the completion of each grant year.

Nomination Procedure: Only one nomination per individual is permitted. The nomination materials outlined below must be submitted by the nominator via the nomination form on the Simons Foundation website:

<https://www.simonsfoundation.org/simons-society-of-fellows/junior-fellow-nomination-form/>

Please note that the URL is password protected. Enter **jfnominations:2019** to access the nomination form. The deadline to submit nominations is **September 13, 2018**.

In the form, please enter the requested information for the nominator, the Junior Fellow nominee, the nominee's scientific mentor at the host institution and the host institution's signing official, financial officer and fringe-benefit rate for year one of the award. This information must match that provided in the host institution letter noted below.

Additionally, for each nominee, nominators must provide the following documents in a single PDF file in the order indicated below, to be uploaded in the form where indicated. All documents should be single spaced and in typeface no smaller than 10-point font. Margins, in all directions, must be at least ½ inch. PDF files should be labeled ***LastName FirstName Junior Fellow Nomination***. Nominations that do not adhere to these requirements will not be considered.

- Nomination letter (up to two pages), written and signed by someone other than the nominee, explaining the distinctive scientific contributions of the nominee.
- Recommendation letter (up to two pages) written and signed by an expert outside the nominee's current university — The recommendation letter cannot be written by the nominator.

- A statement (up to one page, plus up to an additional half page for links to published work and references) written by the nominee summarizing his or her Ph.D. thesis work and research plan if the fellowship is awarded — The statement should be written for a general scientific audience.
- The nominee's curriculum vitae, including Ph.D. year, institution, advisor and positions held subsequent to award of doctorate.
- The nominee's up-to-date publication list (if not already included in the CV).
- Letter of support from a New York City host institution (up to two pages in length), signed by the designated signing official as noted below, confirming:
 - The provision of space and resources and the designation of a scientific mentor for the nominated Junior Fellow.
 - Agreement to appoint the Junior Fellow as a postdoctoral research associate or equivalent, with no teaching obligations, and to provide the standard benefits package that this institution provides to postdoctoral research associates. A Junior Fellow must be considered an employee of the institution.
 - The applicable fringe-benefit rate that will be charged to postdoctoral research associates or equivalent for the first year of the fellowship (2019/2020). If the same rate will apply to all three years of the award, this should be noted. If the rate is unknown, the current rate should be provided, and this should be noted.
 - The names and email addresses of a signing official and financial officer who would be involved if an award is made. The foundation defines these roles as follows:

A **signing official (SO)** has institutional authority to legally bind the institution in grants administration matters. The individual fulfilling this role may have any number of titles in the grantee organization. The SO is responsible for the proper administration of the grant, including but not limited to overseeing the submission of the grant activation agreement and progress reports. Additionally, the SO is required to certify that all information submitted is accurate, the terms of the award are acceptable and the institution will comply with all applicable laws and Simons Foundation policies. For most institutions, the SO is located in its Office of Sponsored Research or equivalent.

The **financial officer (FO)** is responsible for the proper accounting of grant funds. The individual fulfilling this role may have any number of titles in the grantee organization. In this role, the individual is required to complete the required annual financial statements and submit any changes to budgets or payment information as needed. Additionally, the FO is required to certify that all information submitted is accurate, the terms of the award are acceptable and the institution will comply with all applicable laws and Simons Foundation policies.

Important Dates:

Nomination Deadline	Notification	Award Start Date
September 13, 2018	December 31, 2018	July 1, August 1 or September 1, 2019

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