

SIMONS FOUNDATION

Simons Society of Fellows

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are Senior Fellows of the Simons Society of Fellows the same or different from Simons Fellows in Mathematics and Physics?

Senior Fellows of the Simons Society of Fellows are different. They are distinguished scientists appointed at New York City institutions who have agreed to participate in the Simons Society of Fellows to provide mentoring and guidance to the Junior Fellows. Simons Fellows in Mathematics and Physics are recipients of awards to extend a sabbatical leave from a half year to a full year.

2. Can a Junior Fellow be hosted at the Simons Foundation Flatiron Institute?

No, Junior Fellows cannot be hosted by the Flatiron Institute. They must be hosted by a university.

3. Will the fields of research of the Senior Fellows range across the same set of disciplines as the Junior Fellows?

In appointing both Senior and Junior Fellows, we aim for scientific excellence and broad coverage of all relevant areas of science. A Junior Fellow may certainly expect that there will be one or more Senior Fellows working in a somewhat related area. However, there is no expectation that the research interests of Junior Fellows will precisely align with those of the Senior Fellows. The foundation's expectation is that the New York City institution at which the junior fellow is appointed will designate an appropriate research mentor who will typically not be one of the Senior Fellows but who will be in the same discipline as the Junior Fellow.

4. Is there a restriction on the number of Junior Fellows per university and field?

No, there is no limit on the number of Junior Fellows per university or field.

5. Can non-U.S. citizens be nominated?

Yes, there are no citizenship requirements.

6. Does the Junior Fellow arrange to partner with a New York City institution after being named a Junior Fellow, or should he/she already have a position or link with a New York City institution prior to being nominated? Or should the nominator contact the New York City institution prior to sending the nomination?

A prior affiliation with a New York City institution is not required, and we expect that the program will attract outstanding, young scientists to come and work in New York. However, an essential component of the nomination package is a commitment from a New York City institution to host the nominee if appointed. Please see the Request for Nominations document for further information.

7. Is it correct to say that the nominator need not be the same as the mentor at the host institution?

Yes, that is correct. Nominations are normally prepared by the scientists who are most familiar with the nominees and are typically not the research mentors.

8. Can my current supervisor nominate me?

Yes, someone from your current institution can be the nominator.

9. Am I allowed, as a member of the faculty at the institution that will host the nominee, to write his/her letter of recommendation?

Yes. The letter of recommendation can be from any knowledgeable scientist who is not at the nominee's *current* institution.

10. Can Senior Fellows provide a nomination or recommendation letter?

Yes, the Senior Fellows are welcome to submit a nomination and can write a recommendation letter.

11. If I'm an assistant professor, can I be nominated as Junior Fellow?

A Junior Fellowship cannot be held concurrently with a tenure-track faculty position. If you currently hold a tenure-track faculty position, you are not eligible to be nominated for a Junior Fellow position. If you accept a tenure-track faculty position while a Junior Fellow, your award will be terminated on the day your faculty appointment begins.

12. Is there a limit to the number of nominees an institution can submit?

There is no limit to the number of nominees an institution can support in the nomination procedure.

13. Is there a limit to the number of nominees an individual can submit?

Yes, only one nomination per individual is allowed.

14. Can someone from outside of the United States be nominated as Junior Fellow?

Yes, as long as this person can relocate to a New York City institution by the appointment start date.

15. Does the Junior Fellow nominee need to have graduated by the appointment start date?

The foundation requires that the Junior Fellow has obtained a Ph.D. by the appointment start date.

16. Does the foundation accept recommendation letters separately from the nomination package?

No, the foundation requires that all nomination materials be submitted in one PDF file as outlined in the Nomination Procedure in the Request for Nominations document.