

**Simons Foundation
Fellows-to-Faculty Award 2026**

The Office of Foundation Relations is pleased to share this open call for funding from the Simons Foundation. Please forward the call to faculty and researchers in your departments and divisions.

UCSC Contact: Samantha Forde | forde@ucsc.edu

Funder: [Simons Foundation](#)

Opportunity: [Fellows-to-Faculty Award](#)

Application Deadline: January 14, 2026, 9:00am PT

Overview

The Simons Foundation's Autism & Neuroscience division offers the Fellows-to-Faculty Award program to nurture new talent and to broaden the community of scientists contributing to the scientific missions of our programs. This request for applications is intended for Ph.D. and/or M.D.-holding scientists currently in mentored research training positions who intend to seek tenure-track research faculty positions during the upcoming academic job cycle. Applicants must have a scientific vision for their future independent laboratory that advances the mission of the [Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative \(SFARI\)](#) or [Simons Collaboration on Plasticity and the Aging Brain \(SCPAB\)](#).

Please review the list of [FAQs](#).

Award Amount & Terms

Each fellow is provided up to five (5) years of financial support, split into a faculty research award over three (3) years, and an optional, preceding postdoctoral award for a maximum of two (2) years.

Faculty Research Award

The central focus of this award program is the Faculty Research Award, which is intended to support the fellow's scientific research vision over the first three years of their independent lab.

- The Faculty Research Award includes a total budget of \$600,000, inclusive of 20 percent indirect costs, intended as a supplement to a full, institution-provided start-up package.

Postdoctoral Award

The Postdoctoral Award is intended to support the fellow while on the faculty job market during their transition to the faculty position. The Postdoctoral Award is not required.

- If accepted, the Postdoctoral Award must be activated on September 1, 2026. The end date of the award is the date the fellow departs from their postdoctoral position or August 31, 2028, whichever occurs first. The Postdoctoral Award includes the following annually: \$85,000 stipend, \$10,000 career development allowance, \$15,000 health insurance and other benefits allowance.

Eligibility

- Applicants must hold at least one of the following degrees or equivalent: Ph.D., M.D., M.D./Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree.

- Applicants must be in a non-independent, mentored research training position in a faculty member's research lab, e.g., postdoctoral position, physician-scientist research fellowship position.
- Applicants must not accept a formal offer for a tenure-track faculty position or equivalent before award notification.
- Applicants may not simultaneously hold other career development awards that facilitate a transition to an independent research career.
- There are no citizenship requirements.
- Fellows are expected to apply to tenure-track (or equivalent) faculty positions starting in September 2026 and begin their new faculty position during the 2027-2028 academic year.

Timeline

January 14, 2026	Applications and Letters Due
April 29, 2026	Finalists Invited for Interviews
June 30, 2026	Applicants Notified of Funding Decisions
September 1, 2026	Postdoctoral Award Start Date

Special Instructions

Please notify the Office of Foundation Relations if you are interested in applying to this opportunity (fr@ucsc.edu). Please submit a [proposal intake form](#) prior to UCSC's internal Institutional Deadlines. For support developing your proposal, please contact the [Research Development Specialist](#) or send a request to resdev@ucsc.edu. Within the Division of Social Sciences, please contact Ashlee Tews (ashleeac@ucsc.edu).

Call Sent: November 7, 2025

The Office of Foundation Relations is a unit of University Advancement. The FR team creates and maintains mutually beneficial, long-term relationships with private organizations, matching grant initiatives with educational and research programs and centers. FR supports faculty and staff to identify and approach these and other private foundations for funding, to assist in strategic positioning of the grant application, and to facilitate funder campus visits. For a list of recent funding opportunities, please visit the FR website: [FR Calls for Funding](#).