

Caltech | Funding Memo

Title: 51 Pegasi b Fellowship in Planetary Astronomy

Funding Agency: Heising-Simons Foundation

External Deadline(s):

10/10/2022 08:59 PM PDT (Full Proposal)

Cognizant Office: Office of Foundation Relations

Description:

Established in 2017, the Heising-Simons Foundation 51 Pegasi b Fellowship is named for the first exoplanet discovered orbiting a Sun-like star. The growing field of planetary astronomy studies celestial objects both within and beyond our solar system, bridging planetary science and astronomy. From accelerating understanding of planetary system formation and evolution, to advancing new technologies for detecting Earth-like worlds, 51 Pegasi b Fellows make unique contributions to the field.

Frequency: Typically annual

Total Award: \$415,000

- Each recipient will receive a three-year grant of up to \$415,000 to cover salary (\$75,700 in year 1 with 4% increases in years 2 and 3), benefits, highly-flexible discretionary spending (e.g., travel, family care, moving expenses, research equipment, personal computers, etc.), and indirect costs.

Indirect Costs: 15% of Direct Costs

- The full allowance must be taken. This award is considered a “true fellowship” and will not be subject to additional overhead beyond the Foundation allowance. Completed DAF and MORA forms are still required.

Duration: 3 years

- Assuming satisfactory progress, fellows will have the option to apply for an additional year of funding that they can use to continue their postdoc for a fourth year.
 - Alternatively, if a fellow receives a faculty or permanent staff position at a college, university, observatory, or other non-profit institution in the United States, they may apply for a grant of the equivalent amount to support their research program in their new position.
 - A maximum of one year of the fellowship may be regranted even if the fellow receives a faculty/permanent staff position after only one or two years as a 51 Pegasi b fellow. Fellows must spend at least one year as a 51 Pegasi b postdoc to qualify for the one-year regrant opportunity.

Discipline(s): Geological and Planetary Sciences; Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy

Eligibility: Grad Student, Postdoc

- Applicants may come from any academic institution or research lab, both nationally and internationally.
- Applicants are not required to have US citizenship; however, all visa and work permit paperwork is the responsibility of the fellow and host institution.
- Applicants must have received a doctoral degree in astronomy, physics, earth and planetary sciences, chemistry, mathematics, engineering, or a related discipline.
 - Doctoral degrees must be awarded after August 31, 2013 and before December 31, 2023.
- Applicants must pursue their fellowship research at Caltech, or one of the other universities listed on the [guidelines](#).
- The Heising-Simons Foundation is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. They particularly welcome applications from individuals who belong to groups that have been historically underrepresented in planetary sciences and astronomy, such as women, persons with disabilities, racial and ethnic minorities, gender and sexual minorities, and others who may contribute to the diversification of the field.

Research Areas of Interest:

- The fellowship supports research that broadly fits within the field of planetary astronomy.
 - Planetary scientists who study the surfaces, atmospheres, and interiors of the planets, moons, and small bodies in our solar system with telescopes, spacecraft, or models, are welcome to apply.
 - Planetary astronomers who study exoplanets, planet formation and evolution, protoplanetary disks, or other closely related topics such as brown dwarfs are also welcome to apply.

Post-Award Obligations:

- Annual progress and financial reports are required.

Recent Caltech Recipients:

- Luke Bouma (mentor: Lynne Hillenbrand, 2021)
- Ashley Baker (mentor: Dimitri Mawet, 2020)
- Kimberly Moore (mentor: David Stevenson, 2020)
- Jessica Spake (mentor: Heather Knutson, 2019)
- Juliette Becker (mentor: Konstantin Batygin, 2019)
- Jason Wang (mentor: Dimitri Mawet, 2018)
- Katherine de Kleer (mentor: Mike Brown, 2017)

Guidelines & Other Information:

Overview: <https://www.hsfoundation.org/programs/science/51-pegasi-b-fellowship/>

Guidelines and Application: <https://www.hsfoundation.org/programs/science/51-pegasi-b-fellowship/guidelines-and-application/>

Past Recipients: <https://www.hsfoundation.org/programs/science/51-pegasi-b-fellowship/meet-the-fellows/>

Please notify the Foundation Relations team if you anticipate making a submission or if you have any questions regarding this opportunity. We are here to help ensure that Caltech's proposals are competitive. We can assist with proposal development and advise you on the routing of your paperwork. Interested researchers should work with their division grant manager to prepare the budget, the MORA form, and the Division Approval Form (DAF). Submissions and awards for this grant program will be processed through the Office of Foundation Relations.

Opportunity ID: 1207