

# Caltech | Funding Memo

**Title:** Simons Dissertation Fellowship in Mathematics

**Funding Agency:** Simons Foundation

**External Deadline(s):**

03/31/2025 09:00 AM PDT (Full Proposal)

**Cognizant Office:** Office of Sponsored Research/Office of Foundation Relations

**Description:**

The Simons Foundation's Mathematics and Physical Sciences (MPS) division invites applications for the new Simons Dissertation Fellowship in Mathematics to provide research support to excellent graduate students in the final years of their Ph.D. studies. This program has been created to honor the work of the Foundation's late co-founder, Jim Simons, and his commitment to supporting the field of mathematics. The foundation expects to award up to 40 dissertation fellowships for 2025.

**Frequency:** First-time opportunity

**Total Award:** \$38,400

- \$15,000 per year in general research support, to be used at the sole discretion of the Fellow, in areas such as:
  - Fellow summer stipend
  - Domestic or international scientific travel to conferences and meetings that further the Fellow's research and professional development, as well as visits to other institutions to pursue research. These funds cannot be used for the travel of others, whether collaborators or visitors.
  - Research related expenses for the Fellow, such as computers, computer support, publication expenses, stationery, supplies, books and membership fees to professional organizations.
- \$1,000 per year to the Fellow's department as discretionary funds, to be used at the sole discretion of the department chair, to enhance the research atmosphere of the department. Funds may be used for such expenses as:
  - Support for departmental colloquia and seminars, as well as refreshments and other research-related amenities;
  - Support for student orientations, prospective student visits and other departmental activities;
  - Subsidizing meals for faculty, students and visitors;
  - Furniture and research infrastructure, such as copiers, computers and software.
- An additional 20 percent for indirect costs (\$3,200 per year).
- Funds may not be used for tuition.

**Indirect Costs:** 20% of Modified Direct Costs

- Indirect costs to the primary institution are limited to 20 percent of direct costs with the following exceptions: equipment, tuition and any portion of each subcontract in excess of \$25,000.
- **Caltech's minimum overhead rate is based on the award's annual gross funding. Please refer to the [FY25 Annual Rate Memo](#) for applicable minimum overhead requirements. Applicants must work within their division to account for the required overhead via an approved MORA form.**

**Duration:** 2 years

- The grant will commence September 1, 2025, for a two-year period, to coincide with the final fourth and fifth years of the Fellow's Ph.D. program.

**Discipline(s):** Engineering and Applied Science; Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy

**Eligibility:** Grad Student

- An applicant must be enrolled as full-time Ph.D. student in a Ph.D. granting mathematics department at an institution in the United States and must be in their third year of study of a five-year Ph.D. program.
  - Applicants must apply in the third year of their Ph.D. program.
- There are no citizenship requirements.

**Research Areas of Interest:**

- Mathematics. All mathematics departments are eligible, as long as the department has a Ph.D. degree granting program.

**Post-Award Obligations:**

- The grant will require the submission of a countersigned award letter. No additional reporting will be required.

**Recent Caltech Recipients:**

- None, New Opportunity

**Guidelines & Other Information:**

RFA: <https://www.simonsfoundation.org/grant/simons-dissertation-fellowship-in-mathematics/>

How to Apply: <https://www.simonsfoundation.org/grant/simons-dissertation-fellowship-in-mathematics/?tab=how-to-apply>

FAQ: <https://www.simonsfoundation.org/grant/simons-dissertation-fellowship-in-mathematics/?tab=faq>

Simons Foundation Policies and Procedures: <https://www.simonsfoundation.org/funding-opportunities/policies-and-procedures/>

Submissions and awards for this grant program will be processed through the **Office of Sponsored Research (OSR)**. However, please notify the Office of Foundation Relations (OFR) if you anticipate making a submission, have any questions, or would like a content review of your proposal. OFR is available to help ensure that Caltech's proposals are competitive and 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).

Opportunity ID: 2170