

The Kavli Scholars Program: FAQs for Applications

Q: What letters of support are required?

Materials beyond what is requested may not be considered in an application. Every application must include:

1. **A Nomination Letter** from an eligible Kavli-affiliated nominator (e.g., a Kavli Institute member/director, Kavli Prize Laureate, Kavli Professor, current Kavli-supported investigator, or other Kavli-affiliated individual; with pre-approval from The Kavli Foundation)
2. **A Letter of Institutional Support** from the Office of Sponsored Research or comparable designated authority, confirming support for the nomination and the institution's ability to host and administer the award. This may take some time to obtain; it is the responsibility of the applicant to determine who the appropriate authority is, for the organization that would host the Kavli Scholar.
3. **A Mentor/PI Letter or Endorsement** is required if the scientific host, mentor, or principal investigator is different from the nominator. If a nominee is beyond a stage of mentorship, an academic dean or comparable leader from the host organization may provide a letter of endorsement.

Q: What qualifies as an “unanticipated challenge”?

The Kavli Scholars program is intended to address significant, unanticipated challenges that impair a scientist's ability to continue their research. Examples may include: sudden loss of funding due to withdrawal of previously awarded funds; natural disaster; geopolitical disruption in a homeland.

The definition of “unanticipated challenges” or “unexpected circumstances” is intentionally broad to accommodate a range of circumstances. This award is not intended as a mechanism for support if another grant proposal was unsuccessful, or to initiate a new project or research area.

Q: Who submits the application?

Applications must be submitted through The Kavli Foundation's [Funding Application Portal](#) by the host organization's Office of Sponsored Research, or a comparable authorized administrative office, on behalf of the nominator. If technical difficulties are encountered with the application portal or materials cannot be submitted electronically, contact science@kavlifoundation.org.

Potential Kavli Scholars must be nominated by an individual who has a current, substantive affiliation with a Kavli-funded program (examples: Kavli Prize Laureate, Kavli Exploration Award recipient, member of a Kavli Institute).

Potential recipients may not self-nominate or apply directly. Applications submitted by nominees or nominators will not be reviewed.

Q: Must the host organization be a Kavli Institute, or at University with a Kavli institute?

No. Any qualified university, institute, laboratory, or other research organization that is willing and able to host the nominee and administer the award may serve as the host organization, with some exceptions based on the ability to receive US funds as a non-profit equivalent organization.

If the host organization is a Kavli Institute, the Kavli Institute Director should be informed that a nomination is being submitted. Under usual circumstances, an organization may only have one Kavli Scholar at a time.

Q: Is there a required format for CVs, biosketches, budget, or letters?

No. There is no specified format for CVs, biosketches, budgets, budget justifications, or support letters unless otherwise indicated in the Funding Application Portal instructions.