

CASE STUDY

Schmidt Science Fellows



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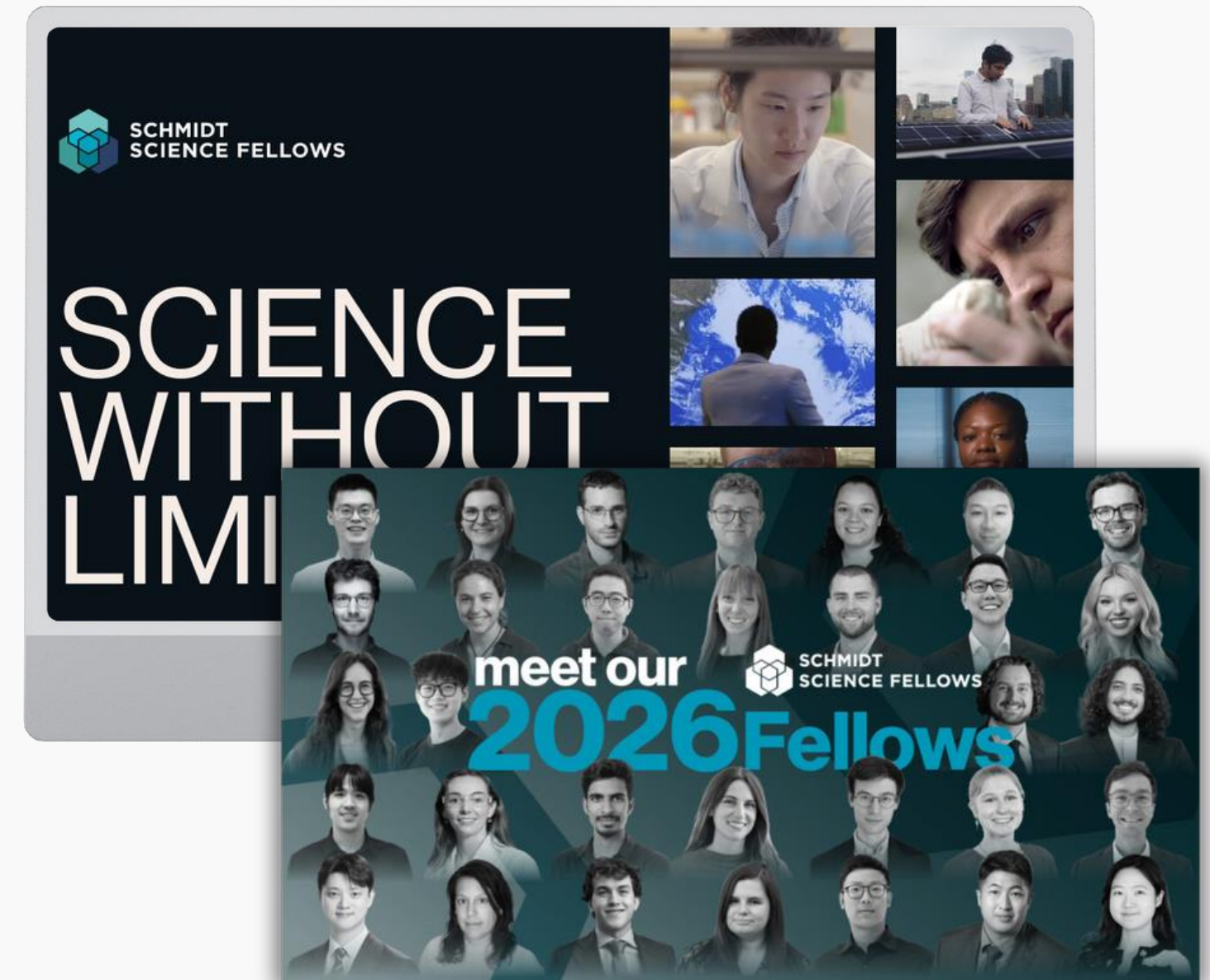
Thought Leadership Solutions:

- Content Hub
- Whitepapers
- Webinars
- Podcast
- Events
- Interdisciplinary Science Rankings

Background

Schmidt Science Fellows is a **global postdoctoral fellowship program**, established in 2018 as an initiative of Schmidt Sciences and delivered in partnership with the Rhodes Trust. The Fellowship supports early-career scientists as they pivot into a research field distinct from their PhD, pairing them with world-class postdoctoral placements and a bespoke Science Leadership Program designed to develop the next generation of interdisciplinary science leaders.

Beyond the Fellowship itself, Schmidt Science Fellows pursues a broader, sector-wide mission: to change how science is done by building institutional recognition and support for interdisciplinary research. Achieving that mission meant **going beyond applicant outreach, to build credibility among the university leaders, faculty, and policymakers** who shape whether interdisciplinary research is supported at all.

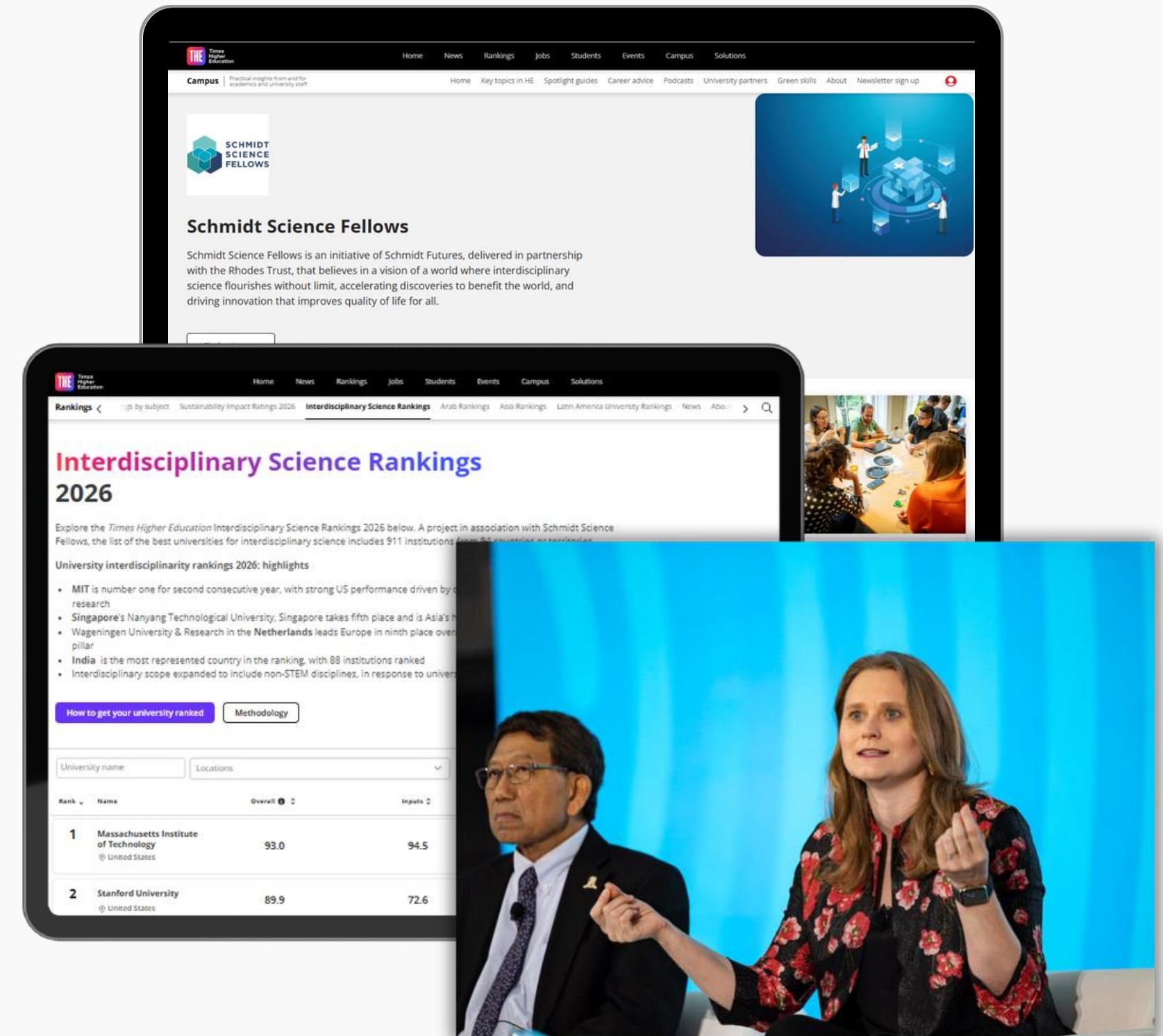


Objectives

Schmidt Science Fellows partnered with THE to build a sustained, credible voice on interdisciplinary science, reaching the university leaders, faculty, and policymakers who shape whether it gets institutional support.

The channels work together to build that credibility from different angles, from everyday visibility to sector-wide recognition:

- **Content Hub:** always-on presence surfacing Schmidt Science Fellows' thinking wherever HE leaders are already looking
- **Whitepaper:** co-created research carrying Schmidt Science Fellows' thinking with THE's editorial credibility
- **Podcast:** association with independent academic voices, extending reach into the sector's existing conversations
- **Events:** sustained, high-visibility presence at THE's flagship gatherings
- **Interdisciplinary Science Rankings:** a data-backed benchmark giving Schmidt Science Fellows' point of view institutional weight



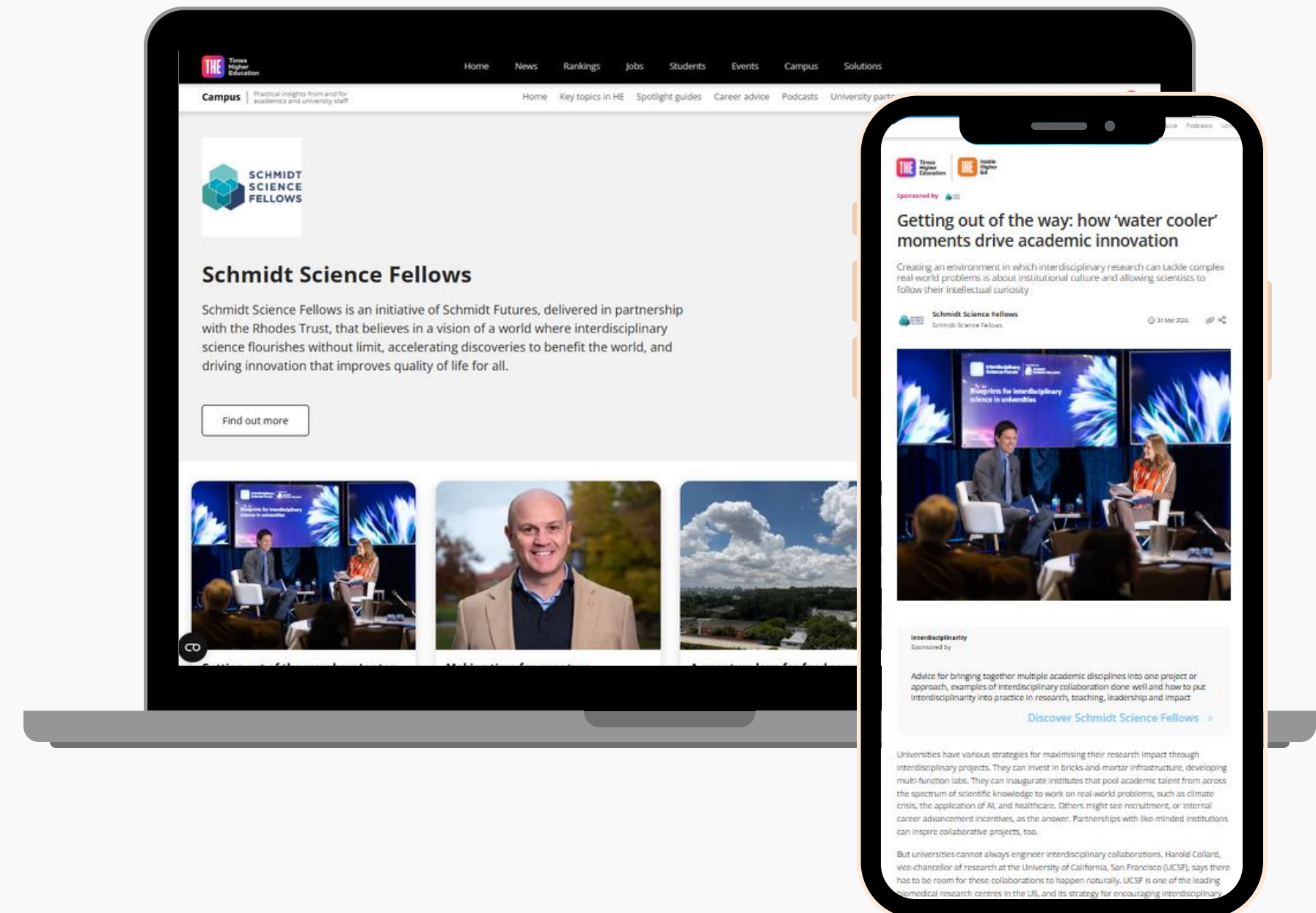
Solutions: Content Hub

An Always-On Platform for Institutional Voices

Schmidt Science Fellows' Content Hub on THE Campus runs as an ongoing series, but the pieces are rarely written by Schmidt Science Fellows itself. **Senior voices from across the sector, including vice-chancellors and deans of research at institutions** such as UC San Francisco, Colorado Boulder, Northwestern, the National University of Singapore, and the University of Hong Kong, write on how their own institutions build and reward interdisciplinary research, alongside Schmidt Science Fellows' own Academic Council and Fellows.

This makes Schmidt Science Fellows less a single voice talking about interdisciplinary science, and more the convenor of an ongoing, cross-institutional conversation, with every new contributor lending their own institutional credibility to the series.

An always-on presence on THE Campus, part of a platform reaching **60M+ annual visitors across THE and IHE worldwide**.



Solutions: Whitepaper

Bespoke Research, Not a Sales Brochure

Schmidt Science Fellows worked with THE to produce a **series of bespoke research reports**, including Interdisciplinary Futures: Global Approaches and Insights from the ISR 2026, each written and designed by THE's team around Schmidt Science Fellows' strategic priorities and drawing on findings from the Interdisciplinary Science Rankings.

Each report carries Schmidt Science Fellows' point of view on interdisciplinary science with THE's editorial standard behind it, giving the findings institutional weight beyond what Schmidt Science Fellows could produce alone.



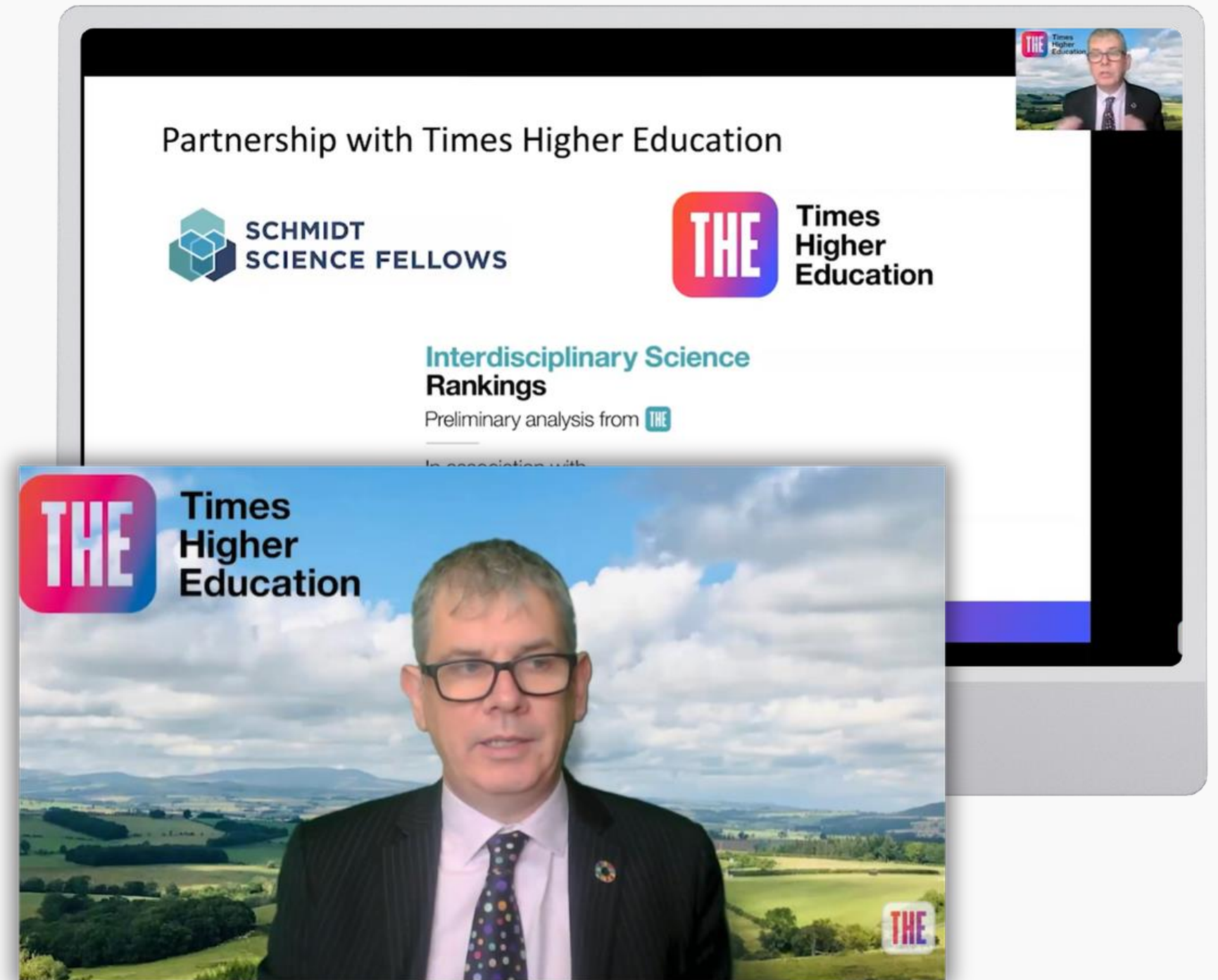
Solutions: Webinars

A Multi-Region Series, Backed by Data

Schmidt Science Fellows partnered with THE on **an ongoing webinar series** spanning multiple regions, each session grounding the conversation in findings from the Interdisciplinary Science Rankings rather than opinion alone, and discussing how the partnership seeks to reward institutions that incentivise cross-disciplinary work aimed at solving the world's biggest challenges.

Running the series across regions, rather than a single global session, let Schmidt Science Fellows speak to the specific institutional barriers each region faces, while carrying the same evidence-based argument throughout.

1,222 total webinar signups across the series in 2025, drawing HE leaders from multiple regions into a recurring conversation grounded in the Rankings' data rather than a one-off session.



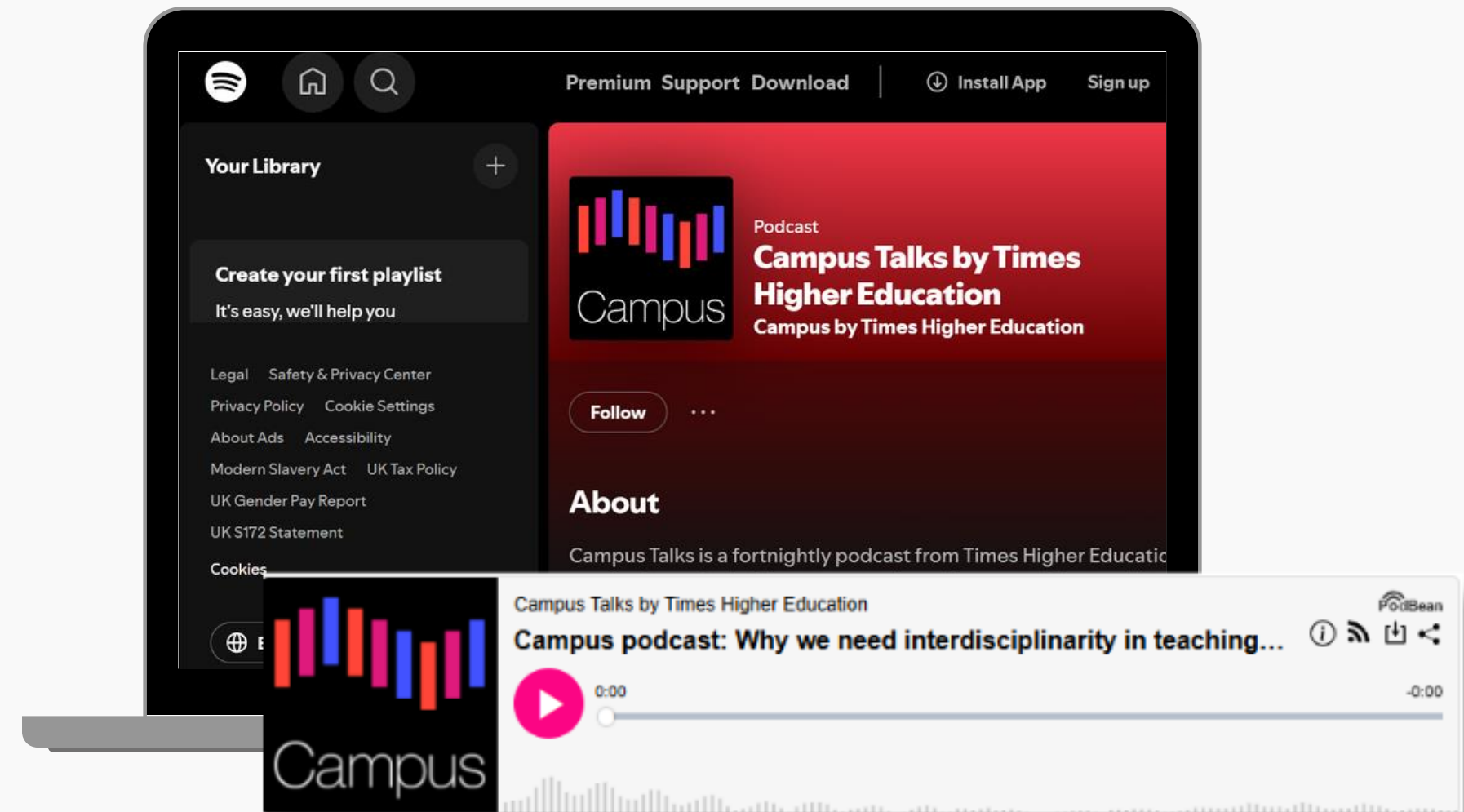
Solutions: Podcast

Independent Voices, Institutional Credibility

Schmidt Science Fellows sponsored a Campus Talks episode, "Why We Need Interdisciplinarity in Teaching and Research," part of THE's ongoing podcast series. Rather than featuring its own team, the episode brought together **two independent academic authorities, Gabriele Bammer of the Australian National University and Kate Crawford of USC Annenberg and Microsoft Research**, to discuss why interdisciplinary thinking matters and how to put it into practice.

The episode was distributed through THE's existing podcast channels on Spotify and Apple Podcasts, placing Schmidt Science Fellows' sponsorship inside a conversation that carries its own independent credibility, rather than a platform built solely to promote Schmidt Science Fellows.

A lasting, on-demand asset that continues to surface in searches on interdisciplinarity long after its release, rather than a one-time hit.



Solutions: Events

A Recurring Seat at the Table

Schmidt Science Fellows co-hosted the inaugural **THE Interdisciplinary Science Forum**, positioning itself as convenor of the sector's conversation on interdisciplinary science rather than simply an attendee at it. It also served as a Content Partner at THE's **World Academic Summit**, and ran a **Fringe Event at the Education World Forum (EWF)**, extending its presence into two of the sector's other major gatherings of university and policy leadership.

That consistency, appearing across multiple flagship events in different formats rather than a single one-off appearance, is what builds recognition among the VC and dean-level audiences these events attract.



Outcomes

Across content, data, and live engagement, Schmidt Science Fellows built a credible, recurring presence among the university leaders who shape institutional support for interdisciplinary science:

- **1,351 universities contributed their own data** to the Interdisciplinary Science Rankings, turning Schmidt Science Fellows' benchmark into one the sector actively participates in
- **1,222 webinar signups** across a multi-region series in 2025
- An always-on Content Hub presence, hosted on a platform reaching **60M+ annual visitors across THE and IHE worldwide**
- A recurring seat at the sector's flagship gatherings, from co-hosting THE's Interdisciplinary Science Forum to Content Partner and Fringe Event roles at the World Academic Summit and Education World Forum



**Interdisciplinary Science
Rankings 2026**

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Times Higher Education and Schmidt Science Fellows combine strengths and expertise to build a stronger global ecosystem for interdisciplinary science.

Working with Times Higher Education has enabled us to develop new ways to identify and share best practice and create platforms that foster connection and the exchange of ideas across the global higher education and research community.

Chris Buratta
Head of Communications, Schmidt Science Fellows



Learn More
About our solutions



Thought Leadership



Contact us at [*partnerships@timeshighereducation.com*](mailto:partnerships@timeshighereducation.com)
if you'd like to speak to one of our team.