



Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship

Program Guideline and Application Instructions- 2020-2021 Academic Year

Application Deadline: Thursday, November 7, 2019

Program Guideline

Introduction

The Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship provides financial support for eligible scholars **in any academic discipline** to conduct research at accredited institutions in Israel, a country long recognized for outstanding achievements in research and higher education. Our program develops academic leaders who not only excel in their area of research, but also promote academic and professional links between Israel and the rest of the world.

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellows are integrated into the wider [Azrieli Fellows Program](#) based in Israel. They join a network of outstanding scholars at the PhD, Postdoctoral and Early-Career Faculty stages. The Fellows Program offers opportunities for interdisciplinary and cross-cultural exchange, leadership training, community engagement, professional mentorship, and a growing alumni network.

Azrieli Fellows are selected based on the candidate's record of academic and research achievement alongside personal merits, leadership qualities and engagement with society, by a multi-disciplinary review committee comprised of university faculty from Israel and Canada.

Azrieli Fellowships are awarded without regard to age, gender, religion, or ethnicity.

Eligibility Criteria

1. The Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship is open to:
 - A. Canadian citizens who have obtained their PhD degree at a recognized Canadian QR International university
 - B. Citizens of any nationality who have obtained their PhD degree at a recognized Canadian university
2. Candidates may apply no later than four years after conferral of their PhD Diploma. Allowances are made for parental or medical leave, or other career interruptions.

3. Current PhD candidates will be required to submit official university documentation or a letter from the doctoral supervisor indicating a dissertation (thesis defense) date that is no later than **June 30, 2020**. If the dissertation is not completed by the stated date, the candidate will forfeit the fellowship.
4. Applicants who hold a faculty appointment will not be considered.
5. All applicants are required to have **an academic sponsor** who is a faculty member at one of the eligible Israeli institutions below, and who will confirm the suitability of the candidate for the proposed research (see below for additional information). The Foundation will **not** consider applicants who do not have an academic sponsor.
6. The applicant's record should show outstanding ability in research and potential for groundbreaking contributions to the advancement of their area of study, as well as demonstrated aspects of leadership and community service.
7. Candidates who are not successful are allowed to re-apply once.

Eligible Host Institutions

1. Bar-Ilan University
2. Ben-Gurion University
3. Technion-Israel Institute of Technology
4. Tel Aviv University
5. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
6. University of Haifa
7. Weizmann Institute of Science

Academic Sponsor

Applicants must have the support of an academic sponsor, who is a faculty member at one of the seven participating institutions in Israel, and is willing to actively support the research proposal, share relevant expertise, and confirm availability of research facilities to carry out the research.

Applicants must submit a letter from the sponsor confirming acceptance and sponsorship of the applicant as detailed above.

Selection Criteria

The Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship is awarded to candidates with a record of academic excellence, the potential to perform groundbreaking research and personal merits such as leadership ability and engagement with community.

The applications will be evaluated according to the following rubric:

50%- Academic excellence and independent research ability

- Quality and productivity of research conducted to date
- Previous awards or scholarships
- Originality and critical thinking ability, potential for innovation, self-motivation, determination and perseverance

30%- Quality of research proposal

- Feasibility of proposed research, potential significance, unique contribution of the candidate, clarity of rationale and overall merit
- Suitability and quality of the research environment (sponsor, facilities and general academic environment)

20%- Personal Merit

- leadership experience and potential
- communication skills
- community service (inside or outside academia)

These characteristics may be demonstrated through achievement in arts/athletics or other activities, employment, and volunteering.

A multidisciplinary committee of Israeli and Canadian scholars will review and rank the applications at a meeting in January 2020. The committee has broad representation across academic disciplines, but may not have specific expertise in the areas of each applicant. The proposed Fellowship research should therefore be described in language that is accessible to non-experts.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online/video-based interview to be scheduled in early February 2020. Interview dates will be posted prior to the application submission deadline. Finalists will be announced in early March, 2020.

Fellowship Value

The value of the fellowship is **ILS 145,000 annually**.

The Azrieli Foundation does not restrict candidates from holding other funding concurrently. Candidates should be aware that constraints on additional funding might be placed by the host university. It is the responsibility of the applicant to check this with the host university.

Fellowship Duration

The duration of the fellowship is for **one year**, with the option of **renewal for a second year**.

In specific fields, where the accepted period for postdoctoral research is longer than two years, the fellowship may be extended beyond two years for an additional 6 months, following review of the situation and agreement by the Foundation.

Fellows must be based in Israel. If research collaborations require a Fellow to be away from

Israel for some time, the period away from Israel should be no longer than 25% of the fellowship period.

Responsibilities of Azrieli Fellows

1. **High academic standards:** Fellows are obligated to maintain a high level of academic excellence throughout the program. Progress reports must be submitted by the Fellow to the Azrieli Fellows Program management on a regular basis. The reports will describe the research done up until that point and must be signed by the Fellow's academic sponsor who should also provide detailed comments.
2. **Community service:** Fellows are asked to participate in volunteer activities of a non-political/non-partisan nature for a total of 40 hours per year during the tenure of the fellowship. Volunteer activities must be approved in advance by Azrieli Fellows Program management, who will provide guidance on finding an activity based on interests, location and language.
3. **Participation in program-sponsored events:** In order to foster the exchange of ideas between Azrieli Fellows, the program sponsors several events during the academic year at which Fellows socialize and share their research and study activities. These events include but are not limited to: the Fellows Opening Ceremony, the Azrieli Fellows Forums and Professional Development activities, and an end-of-year Dinner.
4. **Publication & Dissemination:** Any publications that results from research activities conducted during the fellowship period must acknowledge the support of the Azrieli Foundation. Fellows may also be asked to submit an abstract of their dissertation and published works to the Azrieli Fellows Program management for use in publicity material produced by the program and on the Foundation website. The work produced by the Fellows during the course of their research in Israel may be eligible for publication in a future on-line journal.
5. **Alumni Activities:** Fellows will be part of a growing global community of Azrieli Fellows alumni. Fellows will be asked to share their experiences with others, to publicize the Program to their colleagues and to participate in information sessions for new candidates that may be held in their region.

Key Dates for Applications for 2020-2021 Academic Year

August 1, 2019	Program Announcement
Sept. 1, 2019	Online submission process opens
Nov. 7, 2019	Application deadline
January, 2020	First round decisions
Early February, 2020	Interview period
Early March, 2020	Award notification
April 2, 2020	Award Acceptance deadline
October, 2020	Start of Fellowship

Application Instructions

Please visit the [Azrieli Fellows Program](#) website to apply online for the International Postdoctoral Fellowship. **The online portal for 2020-2021 academic year applications will be available on September 1, 2019.**

Below are instructions for preparation of the documents that will be submitted through the online system.

Application Form

Applicants will be asked to fill in relevant personal information including:

- Name, Address and Citizenship
- Languages spoken
- Details of the graduate degree:
 - University and Departmental affiliation(s)
 - Supervisor name and contact
 - Title of PhD Dissertation
 - 250 word summary of PhD Dissertation
 - PhD Dissertation date (completed or scheduled)
- Previous postdoctoral positions
 - University and Departmental affiliation
 - Supervisor name and contact
 - Title of research project
- Proposed Israeli sponsor name and institute affiliation
- Title of proposed research
- 250 word summary of the proposed research
- Names and contact of 2 referees*
- Additional funding sources (awarded and applied for)

*Applicants are required to provide names and contact details for 2 referees familiar with their academic and research history. Once this information entered in the online form, the referees will receive an email with instructions for submitting a Letter of Recommendation and Confidential Evaluation document directly to the Azrieli Foundation. Guidelines for the letter of recommendation are given at the end of this document.

Attachments

Applicants are required to submit the following additional attachments (instructions follow):

1. PhD Approval Letter confirming date of thesis defense (if you have not received your PhD Diploma)
2. PhD Diploma
3. PhD Transcripts (unofficial transcripts are accepted at the application stage)
4. Personal Statement (2 pages)
5. Curriculum Vitae
6. Publication & Contributions list
7. Writing sample
8. Research Statement (3 pages)
9. Research Statement Appendix: references and figures (2 pages)
10. Interruptions or Special Circumstances (optional)
11. Sponsor letter of support

Formatting Guideline for Attachments

- Set page size to 8.5”X11” (215.9mm X 279.4mm)
- Minimum margin on all sides: 1” (25.4mm)
- 11 point Times New Roman or Arial font
- All documents must be converted to PDF before uploading

Attachments Detailed Guidelines

1. PhD Approval letter

- If you have not yet defended your thesis, or you have defended, but have not yet received the PhD Diploma, attach a letter on University letterhead (either from the supervisor or from an official in the Department/School of Graduate Studies) stating the date of the defense (scheduled or completed).

2. PhD Diploma

- Colour PDF scan of the diploma

3. PhD Transcripts

- Unofficial transcripts can be submitted at the application stage
- Colour PDF scan or e-copy of transcript

4. Personal Statement

- **Maximum 2 pages**
- Describe your research, teaching, work experience and accomplishments

- Describe your future career goals
- Provide information that addresses your personal qualities and accomplishments outside research such as community service, volunteering and leadership activities, and/or athletic or artistic achievement
- Summarize your motivation to work with the proposed sponsor, and what you expect to achieve during the fellowship period, both professionally and personally towards your goals

5. Curriculum Vitae

6. Publication & Contributions list

- Provide a list of publications, conference proceedings, or other research output
- Indicate peer reviewed, invited, or in press publications (accepted; not yet published)
- After each item provide a brief statement specifying your contributions
- Do not include manuscripts that are submitted or in preparation

7. Writing Sample

Provide one example of a scholarly work (published research journal article, book chapter, etc.) that best demonstrates research accomplishment.

8. Research Statement

- **Maximum 3 pages**
- The research statement is the document that describes the research activities to be undertaken by the candidate in Israel, and how those activities will advance the chosen academic discipline, the host research group, and the candidate's future career plans
- The proposed research must be described in clear language, free of technical jargon. Specialist terminology and relevant background must be explained. The review committee is multidisciplinary, and members may not have specialist knowledge in the proposed area of study. The research statement should clarify the significance of the proposed studies and the potential to advance your field to an academic but non-specialist reader.
- Explain how the research sponsor and associated environment will be critical to accomplish the proposed research
- The document should include a statement about where the PhD doctoral work fits relative to the proposed research;
 - the fellowship may be used to further develop concepts or expand research questions that formed the thesis, but not to simply complete a research project without expanding its scope
- Hyperlinks to additional information on activities, projects, or artistic works that have relevance to the proposal may be included.
- Provide a timeline for the project, including the proposed one year of fellowship funding and longer, if applicable.

9. Research Statement Appendix: references and figures

- **Maximum 2 pages**
- Include here graphs, figures, images, and the reference list for citations in the proposal

10. Interruptions or Special Circumstances (submit only if applicable)

- The fellowship is intended for candidates who have received their PhD Diploma no more than 4 years prior to the application submission date. However, the Foundation can accommodate interruptions or leaves of absence **after the PhD** which include but are not limited to:
 - Parental leave
 - Medical leave
 - Family circumstances
 - Military service
- Use this attachment to state the start and end time of the interruption and to briefly explain

11. Sponsor letter of support

The proposed sponsor is asked to provide comments regarding the following:

- The candidate's qualifications and suitability for the research project
- What the candidate will bring to the project (knowledge, technique etc.)
- Facilities, resources, experts and wider environment that will contribute to the research project
- Synergy between the candidate and sponsor and his/her research team/environment
- Mentorship plan/agreement to achieve the proposal objectives

Late applications, or those with missing documents or extra pages will not be reviewed.

Letter of Recommendation

Referees who have close knowledge of the candidate and his/her research and academic background are requested to provide a letter on institutional letterhead, commenting on the following:

- The candidate's ability at research (independent and critical thinking, creativity, reasoning, written and oral communication, knowledge and technical ability, determination and self-discipline)
- Other personal characteristics such as collegiality, leadership, and communication skills

The Letter of Recommendation along with a Confidential Referee Form will be submitted directly to the Azrieli Foundation by each referee following entry of their contact information in the online application.