

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship in Israel Program Guideline for Selection of 2021 Cohort

Application Deadline: Thursday, November 1, 2020

About the Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship supports the best and brightest minds in their postdoctoral research, connecting them with world-class academics and leading researchers.

The fellowship provides generous funding for eligible international applicants to conduct **research in any academic discipline at accredited institutions in Israel**. The Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowships are awarded without regard to religion, gender, age or ethnicity.

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellows are integrated into the wider Azrieli Fellows Program, joining a network of outstanding early-career scientists and scholars. Azrieli Fellows enjoy opportunities for interdisciplinary and cross-cultural exchange, leadership training, community engagement, professional mentorship, a growing alumni network, and a welcoming staff dedicated to the wellbeing of all Azrieli Fellows.

Eligibility

1. The Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship is open to candidates who have received or will receive their PhD degrees at a recognized university in the EU or EFTA states, UK and Canada.

Eligible countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK.

2. The Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship is open to candidates who will perform their postdoctoral research at one of the following Israeli institutions: Bar-Ilan University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Tel Aviv University, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, University of Haifa, Weizmann Institute of Science.
3. Candidates may apply up to three years after conferral of their PhD Diploma. **In the current Call for Applications, the conferral date will be no earlier than November 1, 2017.** Allowances are made for parental or medical leave or other career interruptions.
4. Candidates who are currently in a PhD program are expected to complete their dissertation defence successfully no later than **June 30, 2021**. Official university documentation indicating a dissertation defence date will be required.

Academic Sponsor

At the time of application, all applicants are required to have an academic sponsor who is a faculty member at one of the above-mentioned Israeli institutions.

The academic sponsor will confirm the candidate's suitability, undertake to actively support, collaborate and share relevant expertise with the candidate, and ensure availability of facilities and funding to carry out the proposed research.

In STEM fields, the academic sponsor will finance 25% of the stipend, amounting to ILS 84,000 for two years.

Number of Fellowships

A maximum of 24 Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowships are awarded each year: up to 18 fellowships in STEM fields (Science [Life and Exact], Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), up to 3 in Humanities, and up to 3 in Social Sciences. The Azrieli Foundation welcomes postdoctoral researchers who bridge diverse scientific disciplines.

Fellowship Period

The fellowship is offered for two years. Renewal for a third year will be considered favourably based on a competitive evaluation process.

The official starting date of the fellowship is October 2021, which is the beginning of the Israeli academic year 2021-22. However, candidates are permitted to start their fellowship as early as June 2021 and no later than March 2022.

Fellowship Value

The Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship is paid in Israeli Shekels (ILS). The fellowship stipend is ILS 188,000 (approximately EUR 47,000) per academic year.

This sum is divided into a monthly stipend of ILS 14,000 and an additional amount of ILS 20,000 per year, which is reserved for research expenses and research-related travel. Fellows accompanied to Israel by companions or family members will receive an additional sum of ILS 20,000 per year.

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.

Selection Criteria

Ideal candidates will have an excellent academic track record and the potential to perform groundbreaking research, alongside an intellectual curiosity that transcends their field of study. They will possess a character that facilitates teamwork, scientific and societal leadership, with traits such as empathy, humility and integrity, alongside communication capabilities.

Selection Criteria (continued)

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

50% Academic Excellence

- Quality, originality and productivity of research to date
- Research independence
- Previous awards or scholarships

25% Proposed Research

- Quality and feasibility of the proposed research
- Unique contribution of the candidate
- Potential for research innovation
- Suitability and quality of the proposed research environment

25% Leadership and Versatility

- Leadership qualities
- Intellectual curiosity
- Engagement with society
- Communication skills

Selection Process

The selection process will take place in four stages. At the end of each stage, a shortlist of candidates will advance to the next stage.

Stage 1: Preselection Screening: Initial review of applications by teams of academics from a wide variety of disciplines.

Stage 2: Academic Review by Committees: Shortlisted applications are reviewed by one of four multidisciplinary committees, composed of internationally renowned scientists and scholars of Life Sciences, Exact Sciences, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

Stage 3: Preselection Interviews: Candidates are interviewed individually by a Foundation representative.

Stage 4: Interview Panel: A panel of interviewers will meet with the finalists. The panel is comprised of representatives of the Azrieli Foundation, representatives of the academic committees, the Senior Academic Advisor of the Azrieli Fellows Program, and experts on issues of leadership and personal merit.

Azrieli Fellows' Obligations

Alongside unique benefits, Azrieli Fellows have a number of obligations:

1. **Maintaining high academic standards at their host university:** Fellows are expected to maintain a high level of academic excellence at their host university throughout the program. This is evaluated and closely monitored through regular progress reports. Fellows are expected to be based in Israel for at least 75% of the fellowship period.
2. **Participation in program-sponsored enrichment activities:** The Fellowship's program activities and events are aimed at creating a welcoming environment, developing skills, promoting leadership and encouraging interdisciplinary research. Involvement in the program's activities promotes interaction with researchers in a multidisciplinary setting, introductions to world-renowned scientists and scholars, and networking with a vibrant community of academics.
3. **Community Engagement:** Fellows are encouraged to engage with the local academic and general community in activities of voluntary, non-political/non-partisan nature. These might include giving public lectures about their research, mentoring younger researchers, and being involved with the international academic community in Israel.
4. **Publication & Dissemination:** Any publications that result 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.
5. **Alumni Activities:** Fellows will become part of a growing global community of Azrieli Fellows, past and present, and act as ambassadors for the program. Azrieli Alumni often share their experiences with others, publicize the program to their colleagues and participate in information sessions for new candidates.

Key Dates for Selection of 2021 Cohort

September 1, 2020	Online application process begins
November 1, 2020	Application deadline
December 2020	Preselection Screening ends
January and February 2021	Committee meetings and interviews
By February 15, 2021	Award notification