קרן עזריאלי
Azrieli Foundation
תוכנית עמיתי עזריאלי
Azrieli Fellows Program

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship in Israel
Program Guidelines for Selection of the 2022–23 Cohort

Application Deadline: Tuesday, November 2, 2021

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 eligible institutions in Israel**. Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowships are awarded without regard to religion, gender, age or ethnicity.

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellows join a network of outstanding early-career scientists and scholars. They 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 university in the EU or EFTA states, the 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 and the 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 and Weizmann Institute of Science.

3. Candidates who have received their PhD diploma **no earlier than November 1, 2018**, may apply**.** Allowances are made for parental or medical leave or other career interruptions.

4. Candidates who are currently enrolled in a PhD program may apply as long as they complete their dissertation defence successfully **no later than June 1, 2022**. Official university documentation indicating a dissertation defence date will be required.

5. Current postdoctoral researchers in an Israeli institution may apply only if they have begun their research after September 1, 2020. Preference will be given to candidates who have not commenced postdoctoral research in Israel at the time of application.

Academic Sponsor

1. 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 eligible Israeli institutions.
2. Academic sponsors can only sponsor a single candidate throughout the Azrieli Fellows application process.
3. 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.
4. In STEM fields, the academic sponsor will finance 25 percent of the stipend, totalling ILS 84,000 for two years.

Number of Fellowships

1. A maximum of 24 Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowships are awarded each year: up to 18 Fellowships in STEM fields, up to three in humanities and up to three in social sciences.

Fellowship Period

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

2. The starting date of the Fellowship is October 2022, which is the beginning of the 2022–23 Israeli academic year. However, candidates are permitted to start their Fellowship as early as June 2022, and no later than March 2023.

Fellowship Value

1. The Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship is paid by the host university in Israeli Shekels (ILS). The Fellowship value is ILS 188,000 (approximately EUR 48,000) per academic year.
2. 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.
3. The Azrieli Fellows Program does not restrict candidates from holding other funding concurrently. Candidates should be aware that constraints on additional funding may be regulated by the host university.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Academic Excellence

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

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

Leadership and Versatility

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

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 Process

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

Stage One: Preselection Screening: Teams of academics from a wide variety of disciplines conduct an initial review of applications.

Stage Two: 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: Interview Panel: A panel of interviewers will meet with the finalists. The panel is comprised of representatives of the Azrieli Fellows Program, 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 are expected to:

1. **Maintain 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 through regular progress reports. Fellows are expected to be based in Israel for at least 75 percent of the Fellowship period.

2. **Participate 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 discourse. The program's activities promote interaction among researchers in a multidisciplinary setting, introductions to world-renowned scientists and scholars and networking with a vibrant community of academics.

3. **Engage with the community:** Fellows are encouraged to engage with the local academic and general community in activities of voluntary, non-political/non-partisan nature. These activities might include participating in active field days, giving public lectures about their research, mentoring younger researchers, and involvement with the international academic community in Israel.

4. **Acknowledge the Azrieli Foundation:** 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 team for use in publicity material produced by the program and on the Foundation website.

5. **Participate in 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.

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Key Dates for Selection of the 2022–23 Cohort

September 1, 2021	Online application process begins
November 2, 2021	Application deadline
November 2021	Preselection screening
December 2021	Academic committee reviews
January 2022	Panel interviews (on video)
By February 15, 2022	Award notification