

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship in Israel Program Guidelines for Selection of the 2024–25 Cohort

Application Deadline: Wednesday, November 15, 2023

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 officially been awarded their PhD degrees (signified by the date on their diploma) no earlier than November 1, 2020, in all countries except Israel. Allowances are made for parental or medical leave or other career interruptions.
2. Candidates currently enrolled in a PhD program may apply as long as they complete their dissertation defence successfully no later than June 1, 2024. Official university documentation indicating a dissertation defence date will be required.
3. All nationalities are eligible to apply for the Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship, except those who have Israeli citizenship or a resident of Israel.
4. The Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship is open to candidates who have secured an academic sponsor and will perform their postdoctoral research at one of the following Israeli institutions: Bar-Ilan University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Reichman University, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Tel Aviv University, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, University of Haifa and Weizmann Institute of Science.
5. Candidates who commenced a postdoctoral or an academic position in Israel prior to September 1, 2023, may not apply.

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 the availability of facilities, office space, and funding to carry out the proposed research.

4. The sponsor must submit a progress report for the candidate twice a year, at dates determined by the Azrieli Fellows Program.
5. 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 2024, which is the beginning of the 2024–25 Israeli academic year. However, candidates are permitted to start their Fellowship as early as June 2024, and no later than March 2025.

Fellowship Value

1. The Fellowship consists of a basic stipend of ILS 168,000 per academic year, with an additional ILS 20,000 granted annually for research expenses and research-related travel (altogether approximately EUR 53,000 in total).
2. The basic stipend is divided into monthly payments of ILS 14,000. Fellows accompanied to Israel by a companion will receive an additional sum of ILS 20,000 per year.
3. The Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship is paid by the host academic institution in Israeli Shekels (ILS).

4. 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 academic institution.

5. Research expense funding is available only for the stipulated duration of the fellowship, and these expenditures are subject to academic institution regulations and approval.

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 academic institution:** Fellows are expected to maintain a high level of academic excellence at their host academic institution 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.

Key Dates for Selection of the 2024–25 Cohort

September 1, 2023	Online application process begins
November 15, 2023	Application deadline
November – December 2023	Preselection screening
December – January 2023	Academic committee reviews
January – February 2024	Panel interviews (on video)
By March 2024	Award notification