



הוועדה לתכנון ותקצוב | Planning & Budgeting Committee

Israel Council for Higher Education's Planning and Budgeting Committee:
Fellowship Program for Outstanding Post-Doctoral Researchers
from China and India

Applications for Academic Year 2015/2016: 2nd Cycle

Regulations and Guidelines:

Program Goals

1. To enhance the academic and research relations with China and India.
2. To increase the number of outstanding foreign post-doctoral researchers in Israel and strengthen the research groups in Israeli universities.

Fellowships

3. The Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC) will award at least 45 fellowships to outstanding post-doctoral researchers from China and India for the academic year 2015/2016. Each fellowship will be awarded for two years, with the option to extend to a third year. For this cycle of applications, up to 15 scholarships will be awarded.
4. The amount of the fellowship will be no less than NIS 100,000 per year (based on 2015/16 rates). NIS 67,000 per year of this sum will be provided by the PBC, and a sum amounting to no less than NIS 33,000 per year will be provided by the Israeli university. The fellowship is intended to cover room, board and living expenses.
5. Each fellow will receive an additional amount of NIS 16,000 for use towards international travel only ("travel budget"). The travel budget can be utilized for the following purposes: arrival in Israel at the beginning of the fellowship, travel

abroad for conferences, workshops, and work meetings throughout the duration of the fellowship, and travel to Israel for up to one year after the conclusion of the fellowship, for the purpose of maintaining and developing connections with Israeli researchers. The universities will be responsible for the administration of the travel budget.

5. The fellowship funding period will begin in October 2015. There will be no extensions beyond the third year of research.
6. The awarding of the fellowship is contingent upon the following conditions:
 - a. **The candidate's commitments to the university:**
 - i. To not undertake any paid employment, excluding teaching assistance in the university, which is contingent upon a written approval from the fellow's advisor. The teaching shall not exceed two hours per week of instruction, and only for a period of two years.
 - ii. To request approval from the university for each suspension in research work of two months or more. The university shall not approve suspension of research for longer than one year.
 - b. **The university shall make the following commitments to the fellow:**
 - i. To not employ the fellow at the expense of the fellowship;
 - ii. To provide the fellow with the necessary professional literature and research tools in a way that will enable optimal use of the duration of research;
 - iii. To inform the fellow with the rules of the program and with the above obligations and rights.
 - iv. To inform the fellow with the living costs in Israel.

Terms for Candidate Selection

7. The candidate shall fulfill the following requirements:
 - a. The candidate shall be a citizen of China or India, and shall not hold Israeli citizenship. Candidates who have Indian or Chinese citizenships and have

completed their doctoral degrees in a leading institution outside of China or India are also eligible to apply for a fellowship.

- b. Candidates must be holders of a doctorate or post-doctorate degree for whom, on the date of publishing the notice of the 1st cycle of applications (8 October 2014), no more than one year has passed since their last academic position and no more than six years have passed from the date of receiving a Doctor degree.
- c. It is possible to present the candidacy of a person who has not yet received his or her doctoral degree before the date of submission, on condition that he or she will provide confirmation from the relevant authority where the doctorate is being carried out, of the fact that the candidate will fulfil all of his or her academic obligations and will present his or her doctoral thesis for evaluation no later than during his first year of study in Israel. In any case, if the candidate does not receive the doctoral degree during the first year of his or her stay in Israel, he or she will not be able to continue his/her activities and the institution will terminate his/her fellowship.
- d. The candidates should intend to conduct research in their scientific field for a limited time period, on a full time basis, in an established research team in a university in Israel, under the training of a researcher who is a faculty member in the university.
- e. Candidates who commenced a post-doctoral position in Israel prior to the publishing of the notice for the 1st cycle of applications (8 October 2014) are not eligible to apply.

The Selection Procedure

8. The selection of winners of the fellowships will be done by the steering committee, appointed by the CHE/PBC, that will evaluate the qualifications of candidates proposed to the PBC, and select the winners.

9. Candidates who have Indian or Chinese citizenship and completed their doctoral degrees in a leading institution outside of China or India will comprise no more than 50% of the winners.
10. The candidates shall apply directly to the contact person at the relevant university. Each university shall independently evaluate its candidates and shall then submit its selected candidates to the PBC, in order of preference
13. The selection of fellows will be done according to academic excellence and to the criteria set by the steering committee and at its discretion. Criteria for academic excellence shall be based, *inter alia*, on the academic activities of the candidate, future research plans, list of publications, list of scientific works and recommendations.

Evaluation Procedure

14. In the end of each academic year, an academic report will be sent from the Israeli advisor to the CHE/PBC steering committee, in order to evaluate the candidate's progress. The academic report shall include a short evaluation of each fellow's achievements, as well as a recommendation regarding the continuation of the fellowship.

Required Documents

15. Applications should include:
 - a. Completed application form (attached)
 - b. CV including diplomas (Bachelors, Masters, PhD if relevant).
 - c. An abstract of the PhD dissertation (up to one page).
 - d. Research proposal (up to two pages). Special emphasis will be placed on cooperation between the candidate and the intended supervisor in Israel.
 - e. Three recommendation letters.
 - f. List of publications. Please mention the impact factor of the journal, if it exists.

- g. A letter of undertaking from the supervisor at the Israeli university explaining his / her reasons for wishing to take on the candidate. Letters which provide detailed and well-reasoned arguments will increase the chance of the candidate's application being accepted.

Timeline for submission

- 16. The deadline for candidates to submit an application to the university is the 2nd of March, 2015, unless decided otherwise by the Israeli university.
Please contact to Israeli university to confirm the deadline.
- 17. The universities are required to submit a list of up to 6 candidates, in order of preference.
- 18. Candidates will be informed of the outcome of their application by April 2015.