

Blavatnik Cambridge Fellowships

Call for Applications

The Blavatnik Cambridge Fellowships enable Israeli scientists of outstanding ability to pursue their first international postdoctoral research at the University of Cambridge, while fostering a scholarly exchange and greater understanding between researchers in Britain and in Israel.

Scope of the Fellowship

Applications are invited from Israeli scholars in the fields of **life sciences, physical sciences or engineering** seeking to undertake their first postdoctoral appointment abroad and to undertake this at the University of Cambridge.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Applicants must be Israeli citizens or permanent residents; individuals with dual citizenship are eligible.
2. Applicants need to be resident in Israel at the time of their application. Applications from residents of East Jerusalem will also be accepted.
3. Applicants must be working in the field of life sciences, physical sciences, or engineering.
4. Candidates must have received their PhD from an Israeli university or other Higher Education Institution.
5. The Fellowship must be the applicant's first postdoctoral fellowship abroad.
6. Candidates must have completed their PhD degree not more than 36 months before the date of application (exclusive of periods spent in compulsory military service or on parental leave).
7. Applicants must hold a PhD degree by the start of the Fellowship; applicants may submit an application before completing their PhD studies, but the fellowship offer will be conditional on the successful attainment of their PhD.
8. Only applications that have been endorsed by the head of department in the applicant's host department in the University of Cambridge will be considered.
9. Candidates may submit only one application at a time.
10. There is no limit to the number of applicants who may apply from the same laboratory, department, or academic institution.

Funding

Fellows will receive an annual stipend of **£30,000**. Additional annual Professional Development Fund of up to **£6,000** to support direct research costs including bench fees, conference attendance and visa fees, will be available through the respective university departments at Cambridge.

Subject to set criteria and availability of funds, Fellows will be able to apply for partially paid/unpaid Parental Leave, as well as for assistance with some of the costs of pre-school childcare.

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Duration

Fellowships will be tenable for up to two years. Funding for the second year is subject to satisfactory undertaking of the Fellowship and subject to approval by the Grants Committee. Fellows are expected to begin their study at Cambridge in **October 2023**.

Responsibilities of Blavatnik Fellows

- All successful applicants must achieve the same exacting standards that would be met by any other postdoctoral Fellow appointed at the University of Cambridge.
- All Fellows will undertake to attend Blavatnik Postdoctoral Fellowships events;
- participate in peer reviews, where relevant;
- promote the Blavatnik Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme and be available, when requested, for occasional press and media work; and
- complete an annual report.

Other Compliance Matters

Please note that submitting the application form constitutes confirmation that the information provided is complete and accurate, and acceptance of all terms, conditions and notices contained in the Guidance Notes for Completion of the Application Form below. Subsequent discovery of any deliberate misrepresentation will automatically render the application null and void. If an award has been made, the British Council will require a full refund.

Equal Opportunities and Diversity

The British Council is committed to a policy of Equal Opportunities and we welcome applications from all sections of society. All applications will be evaluated solely on the basis of the award criteria as listed above.

Selection process

The selection process is threefold:

- All applications are firstly submitted for preliminary edibility checks, which are assessed according to the parameters listed above.
- Eligible applications are assessed by an academic Selection Committee, comprising of senior academics in the relevant fields at the University of Cambridge. Applications will be assessed according to:
 - general relevance to the fields of life sciences, physical sciences or engineering;
 - quality of the scientific content of the proposed activity;
 - whether the collaboration will continue beyond the period of the proposed activity;
 - compliance with Guidelines for Applicants and the relevant Application Form instructions.
- Shortlisted applications are considered by the Blavatnik Cambridge Fellowships Grants Committee, which makes the final decision on funding.

Selection decisions are final and confidential. No appeals will be considered. The British Council is unable to enter into any communication on the selection decision.

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Timeline

Launch of Call for proposals	August 2022
Deadline for applications by candidates	30 December 2022
Deadline for receiving references and statements by hosts	13 January 2023
Responses to applications	End January 2023
Fellowships begin	October 2023

Guidance Notes for Completion of the Application Form

How to apply:

- 1) **Fill in an online application form** on the [Survey Monkey Platform](#). In order to fill in the form, applicants need to register on the platform and create a user account.
- 2) **Host declaration and references** must be downloaded from the [British Council Israel's website](#) and sent to israelscience@britishcouncil.org by the deadline. Please see details below.

For inquiries, email israelscience@britishcouncil.org.

Section A – Applicant's Details

A1. Details of applicant

Full contact details of the applicant must be provided.

Current Status

Please indicate if you are currently a PhD student (and if so in which year of study), a postdoc, or other. Applications are welcome from Israeli scholars applying for their first postdoctoral award abroad. Applicants need to be resident and working in Israel at the time of their application, and applications from residents of East Jerusalem will also be accepted. Applicants must be either on the point of completing their doctoral studies, or to have received their PhD degree not more than 36 months before the date of application. Candidates may apply before finishing the PhD, however any offer will be made conditional on the successful completion of the PhD before the Fellowship can be taken up.

A2. Details of Host

Please provide the details of the name, department and institution of affiliation at the University of Cambridge.

A3. Biography

The applicant should provide a brief biography in no more than 250 words. This should note education and work experience, and any other details that might be relevant to the application.

A4. Synopsis of current work

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The synopsis of current work (max. 600 words) should include any relevant references and should be designed to allow the Selection Committee to appreciate both the applicant's past experience and its relevance to the proposed activity as a postdoc.

A5. Statement of career plans

Please include a statement of career goals and indicate the relevance of the proposed activity to these goals. The future career plans statement should detail the applicant's plan for career development.

Topics to be discussed by the applicant may include:

- how the proposed activity will contribute to the applicant's independent career;
- an expected timeline for obtaining an independent position, if the applicant is not already at that stage;
- how the Blavatnik Postdoctoral Fellowship will contribute to the applicant's future career plans; and
- any other planned formal or informal activities that will aid the applicant in establishing an independent research career.

Section B– Proposed Activity**B1. Proposed Activity Title**

Please include a short, descriptive project title.

B2. Proposed Activity - Summary

Please give a summary of the activity to be undertaken in plain English. This should be a statement for a non-specialist lay audience about the research and its potential benefits.

B3. Proposed Activity – Description

Detail the proposed activity in up to 1500 words. This should include description of the essence of the project, its expected outcome, and the relevance to the fields of life sciences, physical sciences or engineering. You may attach a document up to 2 pages in length containing journal or other relevant references.

B4. Risks

This section should contain an assessment of the associated risks with the proposed activity and respective mitigation.

B5. Future Cooperation

Please indicate how the experience could help foster cooperation between the UK and Israel.

B6. Information

Please indicate how you became aware of the Blavatnik Cambridge Postdoctoral Fellowships.

B7. Declaration statement

Please tick the box to confirm that all the information submitted on your application is correct and complete.

Supporting documents

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The following documents must be received with your application:

1. **Applicant CV** - Applicants' CVs should not be longer than 3 A4 pages and uploaded to the online form.
2. **Host Supporting statement** - the [Guidelines and Form for Hosts](#) should be downloaded by the applicant from the British Council's website and forwarded to the host. **The form must be filled in, signed, stamped and sent (by the host academic) to israelscience@britishcouncil.org** by the deadline, along with the host's CV in short version.
3. **References** - two letters of reference (recommendation), and the referees' CVs in short version, should be sent by the deadline to israelscience@britishcouncil.org. One of the referees should be from the applicant's PhD supervisor. **The Guidelines and Form for Referees should be downloaded from the British Council's website and forwarded to the referees.** Alternatively, the reference can be sent by post on headed paper.
4. **Proposed activity references** – applicants may upload to the online form up to two pages of journal or other references to support the activity plan they have noted in section B3. This is optional.

Data Protection

The British Council will use the information that is provided in connection with the administration of your application for the Blavatnik Postdoctoral Fellowships programme. The legal basis for processing your information is agreement with the TERMS & CONDITIONS of the application. The British Council may share the applicant's personal data with the following partners in connection with administration of your application:

- The Blavatnik Family Foundation or its representatives;
- The University of Cambridge.

The British Council complies with data protection law in the UK and laws in other countries that meet internationally accepted standards.

The applicant has the right to ask for a copy of the information held by the British Council, and the right to ask the British Council to correct any inaccuracies in that information. If the applicant has concerns about how the British Council has used personal information, the applicant has the right to complain to a privacy regulator. Detailed information, can be found in the privacy section of our website, www.britishcouncil.org/privacy, or through the British Council Israel office, israelscience@britishcouncil.org.

Applicants' information will be retained by the British Council for a period of 7 years from the time of its collection.