

General Guidelines

Blavatnik Postdoctoral Fellowships Call for Proposals

The Blavatnik Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme enables Israeli scientists of outstanding ability to pursue their 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

We are inviting applications from Israelis seeking to undertake their first postdoctoral funding in the fields of **life sciences, physical sciences and engineering** at the University of Cambridge.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be Israeli citizens; individuals with dual citizenship are eligible
- applicants must be working in the field of life sciences, physical sciences and engineering
- applicants need to be resident in Israel at the time of their application
- candidates must have received their PhD from an Israeli university or other Higher Education Institution
- the fellowships must be the applicant's first postdoc posting abroad
- candidates must have completed their PhD degree not more than five years before the date of application
- it is expected that applicants will have spent less than 12 months as a post-doc in Israel prior to starting their fellowships (however exceptions may be made)
- applicants must hold a doctorate 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
- we will only consider applications that have been jointly endorsed by heads of departments in both the applicant's home and host institutions
- individuals may submit only one application at a time. Multiple applications from laboratories / departments / institutions are acceptable

Funding

Fellows will receive an annual stipend of **£30,600**. Additional annual funding 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.

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 of the grant committee. Fellows are expected to begin their study at Cambridge in **October 2021**.

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

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- attend Blavatnik Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme events
- participate in peer reviews, where relevant
- promote the Blavatnik Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme Initiative and be available for press and media work
- Complete an annual report.

Other Compliance Matters

Please ensure that support from both the home and host institutions has been obtained. Applications that are not validated and /or not received by the specified deadline will not be accepted.

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 Guidelines for Applicants. 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 panel, 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 Foundation Financing 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.

Timeline

Launch of Call for proposals	13 July 2020
Deadline for applications	8 November 2020, 23:59 IL time
Responses on applications*	January 2021
Fellowships begin	October 2021

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Guidance Notes for Completion of the Application Form**How to apply:**

- 1) **Fill in an application form:** please in the applicant form online on the [Survey Monkey Platform](#). In order to fill in the form, applicants need to register on the platform and create a user account. Applicants must also upload a current CV and may upload a proposed activity references.
- 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.

Applicants, lab hosts and referees should consult the respective guidelines before filling in the application.

For inquiries, email us at israelscience@britishcouncil.org. Please note that we are unable to comment on the content of applications.

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 post-doc or other. Applications are welcome from Israeli scholars applying for their first postdoctoral award. Applicants need to be resident and studying in Israel at the time of their application or complete and be awarded a PhD degree not more than five years before the date of application. You may apply before finishing your PhD, however an offer will be made conditional on your completing your studies.

A2. Details of Host

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

A3. Biography

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

A4. Synopsis of current work

The synopsis of current work (max 600 words) should include any relevant references and should be designed to allow the Selection Panel to appreciate both your past experience and its relevance to the proposed activity.

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;

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- an expected timeline for obtaining an independent position, if the applicant is not already at that stage;
- how the Blavatnik Postdoctoral Research 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 as 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 Postdoctoral Research Initiative.

B7. Declaration statement

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

Supporting documents

The following documents must be received with your application:

1. **Applicant CV** - Applicants' CVs should not be longer than 3 pages and uploaded onto the online form.
2. **Host Supporting statement** – please download the [Guidelines and Form for Hosts](#) from the British Council's website and forward to your host. **The form must be filled in, signed, stamped and sent (by the host) to israelscience@britishcouncil.org** by the deadline, along with the host's CV in short version.

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- References** - two reference submissions, and the referees' CV in short version, should be sent by the deadline to israelscience@britishcouncil.org. One of the referees should be from the institution to which the applicant is affiliated. **Please download the Guidelines and Form for Referees from the British Council's website and forward to your references.** Alternatively, the reference can be sent on a letter headed paper.
- Proposed activity references** – applicants **may** upload onto the online form up to two pages of references to support the activity plan they have noted on section B3. This is optional.

Data Protection

The British Council will use the information that you are providing in connection with the administration of your application for the Blavatnik Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme. The legal basis for processing your information is agreement with TERMS & CONDITIONS of application. We may share your personal data with the following partners in connection with administration of your application:

- The Blavatnik Foundation;
- 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.

You have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on you, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information. If you have concerns about how we have used your personal information, you also have the right to complain to a privacy regulator. For detailed information, please refer to the privacy section of our website, www.britishcouncil.org/privacy, or contact the British Council Israel office, israelscience@britishcouncil.org.

We will keep your information for a period of 7 years from the time of collection.