

CALL FOR PROPOSALS UK- Israel Science LECTURESHIPS 2017/8

The British Council and the Science and Innovation Network in Israel invite proposals to the UK-Israel Science Lectureship Scheme for 2017/8.

The following notes provide guidance on eligibility and conditions upon which the UK-Israel Science Lectureship grants are ultimately issued. Applicants need to complete one online [application form](#) in accordance with the guidance notes here and follow any instructions provided on the application form itself.

.....

1. Background

The UK-Israel Science Lectureship Scheme aims to strengthen academic collaboration between the UK and Israel in the priority sectors below, as set in the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) signed by the governments of both countries in 2013. The scheme was created by the British Council and the Science and Innovation Network in Israel, and was strongly endorsed and directed by the UK-Israel Science Council, a group of 25 leading scientists from both countries. The group contains Nobel Prize winners, members of the House of Lords, Presidents of universities and some of the most eminent and distinguished scientists in the world.

In addition, travel grants are available in the priority area of regenerative medicine, which are offered under the [BIRAX](#) programme in partnership with the Medical Research Council UK and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Space.



2. Scientific priority themes

The UK-Israel Science Lectureships are available in the following priority themes:

Regenerative medicine, nanoscience, neuroscience, water science, agri-science, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and cyber research.

3. Objective of the UK Israel Science Lectureship Scheme

The scheme aims to deepen connections between the UK and Israel, and promote joint UK-Israeli scientific excellence.

In particular, the scheme supports **mobility of research scientists in Britain and Israel**. It invests primarily in **senior researchers**, although not exclusively, with the aim to offer them an opportunity to meet and catalyse joint work, and/or to seed and cement partnerships.

It is hoped that, in the long run, collaborations catalysed by the UK-Israel Science Lectureship Scheme will tackle some of the most pressing global challenges and establish Britain and Israel as leading partners in the priority sectors identified.

Funding opportunities for early career researchers are currently offered under the British Council's Researchers Links programme. More information can be found on the [Researcher Links website](#).

3. Outputs of the Scheme

The UK-Israel Science Lectureships will support research visits by UK / Israel researchers to laboratories in the UK / Israel.

Itineraries may include (but are not limited to) activities such as:

- teaching new techniques/research methods that are not available in their host laboratories;
- facilitating collaboration between the home and host research groups;
- delivering keynote lectures at conferences;
- establishing new research consortia/networks;
- making use of research facilities or specific samples/equipment that are not available in their host laboratories;
- engaging with the local public on scientific issues;
- conducting a scoping visit on research capabilities;
- sharing best practice on research or science policy.

4. Priorities of the Lectureships:

The 2017/8 Lectureships will give preference to applications which demonstrate **impact**, via any or all of the following:

1. Catalysing the formation of **sustainable** UK-Israel scientific partnerships: the UK-Israel Science Lectureship Scheme will preferentially fund projects which create opportunities for long lasting cooperation and demonstrate progress toward sustainable partnerships
2. Promoting **scientific excellence** through sharing of knowledge and capacities, furthering research work and/or contributing meaningfully to impactful studies/projects
3. Maximising **reach and engagement** by involving diverse audiences – projects which engage more than one institution/university, or projects that engage diverse social audiences.

Applicants must show how their proposal addresses at least one of these priorities.

5. Eligibility

- Both researchers must demonstrate their affiliation with a UK/Israeli higher education research institution. Both higher education institutions must be officially recognised by both The UK and Israel.
- Lectureship projects must take anywhere between 5 days and 2 weeks in duration.
- The applicant must be the host of the Lectureship project
- Lectureship grants are designed to be an opportunity for established researchers, although not exclusively. We would expect established researchers to have progressed

in their research careers and to have supervised students and managed grant funding. Allowances can be made for career breaks or other extenuating circumstances

- The UK-Israel Science Lectureship Scheme will fund a visit from the UK to Israel or vice versa. We do not fund reciprocal visits
- We will not ordinarily consider applications for lectureship grants to extend visits or to bridge research visits funded by other organisations
- Individuals connected to laboratories currently supported by the BIRAX Regenerative Medicine Initiative and the UK Israel-MENA Trilateral Water Programme (STREAM) are eligible to apply, but not to the same partner laboratory
- The lectureship grants will not be awarded to individuals to visit the laboratory, institute or department in which the applicant obtained his or her PhD or to work again with the candidate's PhD supervisor
- Multiple applications from laboratories / departments / institutions are acceptable; however individuals may submit only one application at a time
- Only one application may be submitted per researcher. Duplicate applications will not be eligible, even if they relate to different visiting researchers.

Please note that preference will be given to new collaborations although individuals involved in existing cooperation will be considered.

If in doubt, for a ruling on eligibility, please submit details to the British Council by e-mailing: israelscience@britishcouncil.org marking the subject box "Eligibility Query: Lectureships". Please note that we will not advise on the eligibility of the application in relation to the priority areas. Advice will only be provided to inquiries about the eligibility points listed above.

Please note that we are unable to comment on the content of applications. Answers to general questions will be published periodically on the British Council's website.

6. Funding

- Lectureship grants can fund up to **£2,000**, subject to approval of the budget submitted.
- The lectureship grant will be paid to the institution of the applicant (i.e the host) in the currency of the country where it is residing.
- Lectureship grants are intended to support the travel and subsistence of eligible individuals. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to, reasonable expenditure for the items below:
 - Return air travel
 - In country local transport (bus, rail, taxi etc.)
 - Accommodation costs
 - Meals / subsistence costs
 - Media costs (eg around public events)
 - VISA costs

Successful applicants should take out adequate insurance as the British Council cannot take responsibility for any problems which may occur during the visit. Successful applicants will accept full responsibility for all aspects of the visit and take out insurance for any risks associated with taking part in travelling abroad, including all unexpected and uncontrollable events. The British Council will not be liable for the consequences of any such risks or any costs incurred.

Please note that successful applicants are expected to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, and that the British Council will not be able to assist in requesting visas or taking out insurance required to carry out their visit. Successful applicants are responsible for any tax-related issues.

7. Inadmissible costs:

- Costs related to writing up previous research.
- Costs related to an accompanying spouse or children
- Any contributions towards salaries or pension costs.

8. Assessment

Applications are assessed by an Academic Selection Board. The Board will evaluate applications using the following criteria:

1. General relevance to the scientific theme noted in section 2 (as applicable)
2. Impact of the proposed activity on UK-Israel scientific collaboration as defined by the scientific priorities in section 4:
 - a. Quality of the scientific content of the proposed activity
 - b. Sustainability of the emerging collaboration
 - c. Outreach and engagement

Applications must meet at least one of the priorities, but are not expected to meet all three.

The Academic Selection Board's decision is final and confidential. No appeals will be considered. The British Council is unable to enter into any communication on the Selection Board's decisions. Feedback will not be provided to unsuccessful applicants.

9. Responsibilities of Lectureship Grantees

- Grantees will provide the British Council with a report of their activity (up to 1,500 words) within 60 days of concluding the programme. A final report template will be sent to successful applicants and will include a financial and a narrative segment.
- The UK-Israel Science Lectureship Grants should be acknowledged in all pertinent publications.
- Grantees will be expected to:
 - Support activity of the Science and Innovation Network and the British Council Israel where appropriate
 - Attend Science and Innovation Network/British Council events, where relevant
 - Participate in peer reviews, where relevant
 - be available for press and media work
 - Ensure all elements of the proposed itinerary are completed satisfactorily, and inform the British Council of any substantive changes to the visit agenda
 - Ensure that the British Council and Science and Innovation Network names and logos appear on all materials relating to the Lectureship – eg. Invitations to departmental seminars / workshops etc.

In the event of early termination of the Lectureship Grant, any payment made after the date of termination will have to be repaid as will the return portion of the travel money. When the Lectureship is terminated after before its agreed end date, the entire travel allowance will have to be returned.

Failure to comply with demands will result in the British Council, responsible for the administration of UK-Israel Science Lectureship Scheme, seeking reimbursement of the full award plus administrative costs.

10. Other Compliance Matters

Please ensure that support from both the home and host institutions has been obtained. The applicant must attach to the application an official letter by the department or institution stating its support to the application. The letter should be printed on official headed paper and signed by the head of the relevant department or a signatory of equivalent position.

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.

11. Equal Opportunities and Diversity

The British Council and the British Embassy are 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.

12. Provisional timeline

Date	Action
4 April 2017	Launch
13 June 2017, 22:00 GMT	Deadline for applications
September 2017	Selection process
October 2017	Responses distributed *
November – December 2017	Contract signature*

Dates marked with * are provisional.

Please note that all UK-Israel Lectureship projects are expected to be completed by the end of December 2018.

12. Application Process

1. The proposed HOST of the collaboration is the grant holder and is responsible for submission of the online [application form](#). The form can be found on our website.
2. All communications will be made with the HOST, who will be responsible to pass on to their partner
3. Funds will be disbursed directly to the HOST institution to administer the proposed programme.
4. For application enquiries please e-mail: israelscience@britishcouncil.org

Thank you for your interest in the UK-Israel Science Lectureship Scheme, and good luck!