

Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellows

Program Guidelines for Academic Year 2017-18

The **Azrieli Fellows Program** promotes excellence in research and graduate studies at accredited institutions of higher learning in Israel. This prestigious and competitive program, established in 2007, provides financial support to the best and brightest scholars from Israel and round the world. These scholars become leaders in their respective fields and raise Israel's profile internationally, and maintain strong academic and professional links between Israel and the rest of the world.

The Azrieli Fellows Program welcomes candidates who wish to undertake postdoctoral research in Israel. Applicants must be Canadian citizens or have completed a doctorate at a Canadian university. The time candidates spend conducting research in Israel will provide them with valuable tools that will help them realize their professional goals through collaborative association with Israel's world-class academic institutions and researchers.

The Azrieli Fellows Program תוכנית עמיתי עזריאלי

Promoting Academic Excellence and Leadership

Participating Israeli Institutions:

The Israeli institutions at which Azrieli Fellows may pursue their research are:

1. Bar-Ilan University
2. Ben-Gurion University
3. Technion-Israel Institute of Technology
4. Tel Aviv University
5. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
6. University of Haifa
7. Weizmann Institute of Science

Eligibility

- The Azrieli Fellows Program is currently open to scholars at the postdoctoral level who are **Canadian citizens** OR who have completed their **doctorates at Canadian universities**.
- Scholars may undertake postdoctoral research in **any field of study**.
- Candidates may apply at an early stage of their professional career and **no later than four years after conferral of their PhD Diploma**.
- Candidates **must not** hold a tenure or tenure-track faculty position.
- Scholars may apply in the last year of the PhD with a letter from the supervisor stating that the candidate will receive the doctorate by the summer*. If the PhD is incomplete by the stated time then the candidate will forfeit the fellowship.
- A candidate may **reapply** to the Azrieli Fellows Program if he or she is not accepted. **Candidates will only be considered for reapplication one time**.

The fellowships are awarded on the basis of academic excellence. Candidates are assessed on their potential to make cutting-edge contributions to their respective fields. Aspects of personal merit and leadership abilities are also taken into consideration without regard to race, religion, gender, ethnicity or age.

Scholars who wish to apply must obtain an **academic sponsor**:

- The academic sponsor must be a faculty member at one of the seven participating Israeli academic institutions.
- Candidates **must** ensure that this sponsor is willing to actively support the research proposal because it is closely connected to and complements his or her area of expertise.
- Candidates must have a written support from their academic sponsor illustrating the enthusiasm the sponsor has to actively collaborate on the proposed research.
- The Azrieli Fellows Program **we will not** be able to process an application without an academic sponsor.

How to Apply

1. Please visit the Azrieli Foundation website to apply online for the International Postdoctoral Fellowship www.azrielifoundation.org/fellows
2. Candidates must obtain an **academic sponsor*** who is a faculty member at one of the seven Israeli academic institutions. The academic sponsor should **write a letter** of support illustrating his or her interest in actively collaborating on the candidate's research while in Israel. The sponsor should submit this letter, written on institution letterhead, emailed directly to the Azrieli Foundation.**
3. Candidates must have two additional letters of reference from those familiar with their academic background. These letters should speak to the candidate's excellent academic performance and personal achievements. These letters should be written on institution letterhead and be emailed directly to the Azrieli Foundation.**
4. Deadline for online application submissions is **Wednesday, November 30th, 2016**

*Available postdoctoral positions and potential sponsors

<http://www.academy.ac.il/Ads/?nodeId=940#>

**See page 5 for email address and further details

Guidelines for Referees

- 1.** Please provide a letter of recommendation for the applicant; please also fill in the **Confidential Referee Form** – see **Appendix A** for the form.
Recommendations are key factors in the fellowship award decisions.
- 2.** The fellowships are awarded on the basis of academic excellence. Candidates are assessed on their potential to make cutting-edge contributions to their respective fields. Aspects of personal merit and leadership abilities are also taken into consideration without regard to race, religion, gender, ethnicity or age.
- 3.** In your letter, please describe in what capacity you know the candidate and identify the applicant's major strengths. Please comment on the applicant's research ability/potential and on the applicant's interpersonal and leadership ability.
- 4.** Letters of recommendation should be signed and written on institution letterhead. They should be addressed to the Azrieli Foundation and refer to the Azrieli Postdoctoral Fellowship.
These letters and referee form are confidential, and both should be submitted by the referee directly to the Azrieli Foundation by:
Wednesday, November 30th, 2016, in one of the following ways:

Option 1: Sent by email as a PDF attachment to:
fellows@azrielifoundation.org

Option 2: Sent by postal mail to the following address:
The Azrieli Foundation - Azrieli Fellows Program
22 St Clair Ave East, Suite 202
Toronto ON M4T 2S3, CANADA

Value of the Fellowship

The value of the fellowship is **ILS 145,000** annually. The Azrieli Foundation has no objection to the Fellow's receipt of additional research funds, with the exception of other postdoctoral fellowships or scholarships from Israeli sources. Funding from a sponsor's lab and from the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs is permissible.

Duration of the Fellowship

The duration of the fellowship is **for one year**, with the possibility of renewal for a second year. In specific fields, where the accepted period for postdoctoral research is longer than two years, the fellowship may be extended beyond two years, following review of the situation and agreement by the Foundation.

The fellowship is for research done at Israeli universities. One of the central goals of our fellowship program is to establish strong ties with the Israeli academic community and society. We therefore offer a full 12-month fellowship intended for research done in Israel throughout this period. If research collaborations require a Fellow to be away from Israel for some time, the period away from Israel should be no longer than 25% of the fellowship period. It is expected that the major and significant portion of research be done in Israel.

Responsibilities of an Azrieli Fellow

In order to maintain good standing, Azrieli Fellows will be required to sign a form committing themselves to the fulfillment of the following responsibilities:

1. Academic Excellence

Fellows are obligated to maintain a high level of academic excellence throughout the program. The Fellow must submit progress reports as per the request of the Azrieli Fellows Program management. The reports will describe the research done up until that point and must be signed by the Fellow's academic sponsor who should also provide detailed comments.

2. Community Work

Azrieli Fellows will be asked to volunteer **40** hours over the course of the year at a program to be approved by the Azrieli Fellows Program management. We are available to advise you regarding volunteer placement based on your area of interest, Hebrew language ability and location.

3. Participation in Program-sponsored Events

In order to foster the exchange of ideas between Azrieli Fellows, both Israeli and International, and to maintain a sense of group identification, the program will sponsor several events during the academic year at which Fellows may socialize and share their research and study activities. These events include but are not limited to: the Fellows Opening Ceremony, the Azrieli Fellows Forums and an end-of-year Dinner.

4. Publications

The work produced by the Fellows during the course of their research in Israel may be eligible for publication in a future on-line journal. Any written work published by the Fellows while participating in the program must acknowledge the support of the Azrieli Foundation in a written dedication. Fellows may also be asked to submit an abstract of their dissertation and published works to the Azrieli Fellows Program management for use in publicity material produced by the program and on the Foundation website.

5. Alumni Activities

Fellows will be part of a growing global community of Azrieli Fellows alumni. Fellows will be asked to share their experiences with others, to publicize the Program to their colleagues and to participate in information sessions for new candidates that may be held in their region. In the future, it is expected that alumni will assist in the selection process for incoming students.

Appendix A

Confidential Referee Form – Post Doctoral Track 2017/18

In addition to this form, please attach a letter of reference providing an evaluation of the candidate's academic merit, originality, and creativity. Note that the Azrieli Foundation encourages innovative, frontline research paths taken by excellent students. Therefore, please relate to the uniqueness of the proposed research, how it differs from previous work done in the field, and where possible, how it differs from the course of research pursued in the supervisor's research group in recent years.

Both the form and the letter should be submitted directly to the Azrieli Foundation*, by Wednesday **November 30th, 2016**. *see Foundation address on page 5.

Name of Candidate: _____

Field of Study: _____

Please evaluate the candidate's abilities and performance, by checking the appropriate box in the chart:

	Excellent	Very Good	Average
Academic excellence			
Originality			
Research ability			
Critical thinking and judgement			
Independence			
Perseverance			
Interest in discovery			
Communication skills			
Leadership & interpersonal skills			

If you were to compare the candidate with researchers in the same field at this stage of their academic career, how would you rate the candidate in overall academic ability and promise for research?

Please rank this applicant among the top postdoctoral researchers that you have supervised or known well.

For example, I rank **(name)** _____ among the top _____ of researchers I have known well.

Referee Name, Position, Institution:

Date: _____ Signature: _____