

# THE ZUCKERMAN POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR GUIDELINES

### FOR THE 2021–2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

#### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Zuckerman Postdoctoral Scholars Program attracts high-achieving postdoctoral scholars from premier universities in the United States and Canada to do research at one of seven Israeli universities. Once they complete their research, many Zuckerman postdocs are expected to accept faculty positions at top North American universities, weaving a network of academic collaboration and goodwill that will greatly benefit US-Israeli scientific cooperation.

Zuckerman Scholars enjoy unique programming and activities organized especially for them by their host universities and the Zuckerman Institute in Israel, including touring, educational experiences, and social programs. These activities are designed to strengthen the scholars' knowledge of and connection to Israel, and cultivate an esprit de corps, exchange of ideas, and foster new relationships.

Candidates for the Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program are assessed based on their academic and research achievements, as well as on personal merit and leadership qualities, without regard to race, religion, gender, ethnicity, or age.

Five postdoctoral scholarships will be given out per participating university for the 2021-2022 academic year in two tracks.

- **Postdoc at an Israeli University Track:** A two-year postdoctoral scholarship where scholars conduct research exclusively at one of 7 participating Israeli universities. If circumstances allow, Zuckerman Postdoctoral scholarship may be renewed on a competitive basis for an additional one or two year.
- **Joint US-Israel Postdoc Track:** A two-year joint postdoctoral scholarship where scholars spend half their time at one of 7 participating Israeli universities, and the other half at a US or Canadian university. Scholars in this track can decide how to divide their time.

Participating universities are Bar-Ilan University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Tel Aviv University, University of Haifa, and Weizmann Institute of Science

Candidates may apply to more than one of the above universities.

**First deadline:**

Applications accepted through November 15, 2020. Applications will be reviewed and ranked by the Selection Committee in November. Finalists will be announced in early December, 2020.

**First Deadline for applications to the University of Haifa: November 1, 2020**

**Second deadline:**

Applications accepted through January 15, 2021. Applications will be reviewed and ranked by the Selection Committee in February. Finalists will be announced in early March, 2021.

**Second Deadline for applications to the University of Haifa: January 1, 2021**

**Third deadline:**

Applications accepted through March 31, 2021. Applications will be reviewed and ranked by the Selection Committee in April. Finalists will be announced in early May, 2021.

**Third Deadline for applications to the University of Haifa: March 15, 2021**

## ELIGIBILITY

Candidates may apply to more than one of the 7 participating Israeli universities.

**Israeli citizens are not eligible for this program.**

**Postdoc at an Israeli University Track:**

Postdoctoral candidates must be citizens of the United States or Canada or have a documented status that allows them to study and work in the US.

For the 2021-2022 academic year, international candidates who completed a PhD at a US or a Canadian university, and who plans to return to the United States or Canada to compete for an academic position may also apply (limited to two candidates per each participating Israeli Universities)

Candidates must hold a PhD degree from a leading university, or if still studying for a PhD, must submit their PhD thesis before October 1, 2021.

Postdoctoral candidates must obtain consent from a potential hosting supervisor at the Israeli university/universities to which they are applying.

**Joint US-Israel Postdoc Track:**

Joint postdoctoral candidates must be citizens of the United States or Canada or have a documented status that allows them to study and work in the US.

Candidates must hold a PhD degree from a leading university, or if still studying for a PhD, must submit their PhD thesis before October 1, 2021.

Joint postdoctoral candidates must obtain consent from potential hosting supervisors at both the Israeli university and the American or Canadian university to which they are applying.

## DURATION AND FUNDING

Zuckerman Postdoctoral Scholarships will be awarded for up to two years.

### Postdoc at an Israeli University Track:

Postdoctoral scholars receive a scholarship of \$52,000 per academic year for up to two years. Of this amount, \$50,000 is provided by the Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program (\$5,600 for research and travel to professional conferences plus \$44,400 for living expenses [\$3,700 per month]). An additional \$2,000 in research funds is directed to scholars through their supervisors at their Israeli universities.

### Joint US-Israel Postdoc Track:

Joint Postdoctoral scholars receive a scholarship of \$60,000 per academic year for up to two years. Of this amount,

\$50,000 is provided by the Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program:

\$44,400 for living expenses [\$3,700 per month]

\$5,600 for research and travel to professional conferences

An additional \$2,000 in research funds is directed to scholars through their supervisors at their Israeli universities.

Another \$8,000 is to be provided for research and travel to professional conferences directly by the scholar US or Canadian university.

Scholars who are interested in this track, should apply to their US university to receive this stipend.

The US or Canadian university may provide supplemental funding for living expenses during their stay in the US or Canada.

Candidates applying for a Joint US-Israel Postdoc track must show a letter of support from their US or Canadian university that confirms an annual support of \$8,000

## Guidelines for Application:

### Supporting Documents

- Curriculum vitae, including a paragraph on demonstrated leadership qualities.
- Photocopy of American or Canadian passport
- PhD graduation certificate or diploma copy, with the date of graduation
- List of at least three publications, noting the impact factor of the journals in which the papers were published.
- Research proposal (maximum 3 pages).
- Recommendation letter from the hosting supervisor at the Israeli university/universities to which the candidate is applying. The letter should include the supervisor's commitment to finance the additional \$2,000 for research funds, as mentioned in the duration and funding paragraph.
- Three letters of recommendation, including a letter from the candidate's PhD supervisor. If possible, one letter should be from a university other than the one where the candidate's PhD was granted.
- Personal statement detailing the candidate's future career plans, including a statement regarding the candidate's plans to return to the United States or Canada to compete for an academic position.
- A simplified 200-word description of intended research

### **Additional Supporting Documents for the Joint US-Israel Postdoc Track:**

- Recommendation letter from the hosting supervisor at the US or Canadian university to which the candidate is applying, including a guarantee to provide the necessary funding for travel and research (\$8,000 per year).
- The research proposal must include a description of how the research will be conducted at the two hosting institutions, how the supervisors will jointly oversee the research, any prior collaboration between the two supervisors if relevant, and the added value of conducting the joint research.

### **Annual Notification of Renewal**

- By March 31 of the first year in the program, scholars must notify their hosting universities whether or not they are continuing in the program for a second year.
- By March 31 of the second year, if circumstances allow, Zuckerman Postdoctoral Scholarships may be renewed on a competitive basis for a third year.
- Renewal for a third year requires approval by the Steering Committee. Scholars must obtain a letter of request from their supervisors. They should send this, along with their own request for renewal and a summary of their postdoc research, to the Selection Committee at their Israeli university.
- Requests for a third-year renewal must be submitted before March 31, 2022.

Zuckerman Scholars are required to participate in sponsored events and activities during the academic year

These events include but are not limited to:

A day-long academic event at each participating university campus.

Visits to various departments, research programs, and research facilities, including opportunities to meet students and faculty at other universities.

A Zuckerman Institute scientific seminar with media coverage that will be open to the public, where selected postdoctoral scholars from the participating universities in the Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program will present their research.

In addition, scholars will be invited to social activities and sightseeing trips. They will be exposed to Israeli culture, meet with various sectors and ethnic groups, and visit science parks and high-tech incubators in Israel.

A Zuckerman Institute symposium featuring postdoctoral scholars presenting their research from participating universities in the Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program. This program is open to the public and is covered in the media.

## **PUBLICATIONS AND RECOGNITION**

Zuckerman Postdoctoral Scholars must identify themselves as scholars of the Zuckerman Postdoctoral Scholars Program in all academic and scientific papers, articles, publications, presentations (including web pages) of any material based on or advanced under the Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program, in the following terms: “This work was supported in part by the Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program.”

Where appropriate, for purposes of branding, clarity and differentiation, the scholar shall name himself or herself as a “Zuckerman Postdoctoral Scholar.”

## **APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION**

Five postdoctoral scholarships at each participating university will be awarded for the 2021-2022 academic year (35 total). Of these five, two at each participating Israeli university can be awarded to an international candidate as defined above, under Eligibility.

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**Third Deadline for applications to the University of Haifa: March 15, 2021**

**Applications to the Zuckerman Postdoctoral Scholarship Program should be sent by the potential hosting supervisor(s) via email in one pdf file to one or more of the participating Israeli universities.**

### **Referent for applications to the Zuckerman Program at the University of Haifa:**

Ms. Sigalit Rajuan, Head of Administration of the Graduate Studies Authority

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