



Call for Submission: December, 2013

The Azrieli Fellows Program Guidelines

Promoting Academic Excellence and Leadership

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AZRIELI FELLOWS PROGRAM
GUIDELINES FOR PHD FELLOWSHIPS

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Mission

The Azrieli Fellows Program promotes excellence in graduate studies at accredited institutions of higher learning in Israel. This competitive and prestigious program provides generous financial support to the best and brightest graduate students, from Israel and abroad, who will use their training to become leaders in their respective fields.

Our goal is to create a cadre of leading professionals and academics who will increase the pool of technological and scholarly human resources in Israel.

This network of leading professionals and academics will raise Israel's profile internationally and maintain strong links between Israel and the rest of the world.

The program is funded by The Azrieli Foundation, which was established to realize the philanthropic vision of David J. Azrieli.

Eligibility - Who can become an Azrieli Fellow?

Graduate students at Israeli universities, in the fields and at the degree levels outlined in these guidelines, are eligible to participate in the Azrieli Fellows Program.

The Fellowships are awarded on the basis of outstanding academic merit and other exceptional personal achievements, without regard to race, religion, gender, ethnicity or age.

Candidates are assessed based on their past academic performance, as well as their potential to make cutting edge contributions to their respective fields. Aspects of personal merit and leadership abilities are also taken into consideration.

Students who wish to apply must be nominated by an accredited academic institution.

Academic Fields

The Azrieli Fellows Program is currently open to students in specific fields and at specific academic degree levels. The following chart outlines what is offered and the duration of the Fellowship:

Field	Track	Duration of Fellowship	Commencing
Sciences *	PhD	Up to 3 years.	October 2014
Education	PhD	Up to 3 years.	October 2014

* Sciences:

The Azrieli Fellows Program will accept nominations of PhD students who perform **cutting edge science research, interdisciplinary & applied**. The research areas may include, but are not limited to, the following areas of study, broadly defined:

Exact / Natural Sciences	Technology	Engineering
Mathematics Physics Chemistry Biology Medicine	Computer Science Materials Science Earth Sciences Nanotechnology	Electrical Chemical Biomedical Mechanical Aeronautical

Participating Institutions

The academic institutions eligible to participate in the Program 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

These institutions will be invited to nominate candidates from their student body for an Azrieli Fellowship.

Value of the Fellowship

For PhD students in Sciences	
Basic Fellowship	\$27,000
For conference travel & research expenses	Up to \$5,000
Annual Total	Up to \$32,000
For PhD Students in Education	
Basic Fellowship	\$27,000
For conference travel & research expenses	Up to \$3,500
Annual Total	Up to \$30,500

Additional Income Policy:

1. The Azrieli Fellows Program is intended to enable students to focus solely on their research at the university. The Fellowships are intended for students who are not employed and do not receive any additional income from employment or living stipends.
2. The Azrieli Foundation has no objection to the student's receipt of additional research grants provided they are intended to cover research expenses only.
3. The Azrieli Foundation has no objection to the student's receipt of supplementary funding to the basic fellowship from the academic institution at which they are enrolled, in accordance with the policies set by that institution.
4. Regarding employment, the Program will make an exception when said employment is directly connected to the students' Masters or Doctoral training, that is, teaching or tutoring at the university for no more than four hours per week.

The Number of Azrieli Fellows

The Azrieli Fellows Program has a steady state of approximately **30 Fellows from Israel** in any given year. The chart below shows the maximum number of Fellows the program can accept per year.

Field	New Fellows accepted per year
Sciences PhD	5
Education PhD	2
Architecture & Urban Planning * Masters	3
*New guidelines for the Architecture & Urban Planning Fellowships will be provided under separate cover.	

The Azrieli Fellows Program will have the capacity to accept the number of students per field as outlined in these guidelines, but reserves the right to accept less than the indicated number in a given year.

In 2010, the Azrieli Fellows Program began to welcome postdoctoral Fellows who are Canadian citizens or who have finished their PhD at a Canadian university. The Program presently has a steady state of 12 postdoctoral Fellows, bringing the **overall yearly total of Azrieli Fellows to 42.**

Sciences Track (PhD)

1. The Azrieli Fellows Program will accept nominations of PhD students who perform **cutting edge science research, basic, interdisciplinary, or applied**. The research areas may include, but are not limited to, the following areas of study, broadly defined:

Exact / Natural Sciences	Technology	Engineering
Mathematics Physics Chemistry Biology Medicine	Computer Science Materials Science Earth Sciences Nanotechnology	Electrical Chemical Biomedical Mechanical Aeronautical

2. Candidates are eligible to apply for an Azrieli Fellowship as follows:

a) Regular Track PhD:

- Definition: A PhD study track following completion of a Masters degree.
- Regular Track PhD students may apply for an Azrieli Fellowship within the first year of their PhD studies. A research proposal is not a requirement at the time of application, if the research topic is a continuation of the same line of research as the student's Masters Degree.
- If either the topic or the supervisor/s is different, candidates may apply during their second year of PhD studies, and must submit along with their application either a research proposal, **or** an article for publication on their current research. The research proposal may be in the stages of receiving approval from the university authorities, or have received approval after October 2013.
- Applicants from the Technion should submit a Research Area statement "תחום מחקר" in place of a research proposal.

b) Combined Track PhD - also referred to as "Direct" in some universities:

- Definition: A PhD study track in which students fulfill most or all of their Masters degree course obligations, but do not submit a Masters thesis.
- Students in this track of study may apply for an Azrieli Fellowship if their change of status from a Masters to a PhD student occurred after May 2013. This candidate is not required to have an approved research proposal at the time of application.
- Technion students: Change of status from a Masters to a PhD student is subject to the passing of the academic institution's candidacy exam.

Sciences Track (PhD) - continuedc) Direct (from BA) Track PhD :

- Definition: A PhD study track in which students start PhD studies directly following their BA degree.
 - Candidates may apply for an Azrieli Fellowship following approval of their research proposal. The proposal should have been approved after May 2013.
3. Candidates must be nominated by the Rector, or academic official of similar position, of the university at which they are studying. Nominations and coordination of applications will be processed through the Academic Secretariat or the Graduate School of the institution at which candidates are enrolled.
 4. Each university is requested to submit up to four nominations for the Sciences Program track.
 5. Up to five new Azrieli Fellows will be selected each year in the Sciences.
 6. Students nominated for a Clore Scholarship or Adams Fellowship may not be nominated for an Azrieli Fellowship in the same year.
 7. The Fellowship is offered for up to three years. Fellows will be required to provide annual reports to the Program's management, which will be signed and approved by their academic supervisors. Progress Report forms will be provided by the Program management.
 8. An approved research proposal must be submitted as early as possible in order to ensure continuation of the Fellowship.
 9. The Azrieli Foundation reserves the right to halt financial support before completion of a Fellow's studies or the three years, in the event that that the Fellow does not meet his/her obligations to remain in good standing (see section entitled "Obligations of the Azrieli Fellow").

Education Track (PhD)

1. The Azrieli Fellowships are offered to PhD students in the field of Education.
2. Candidates who have submitted a research proposal to the university after February 2013 are eligible to apply. It is preferable that this proposal will have been approved by the university authorities by the time the candidate applies for an Azrieli Fellowship, however, candidates whose proposals are still in the process of receiving approval will be considered.
3. Direct Track and Combined Track PhD students are also eligible to apply.
4. Candidates must be nominated by the Rector, or academic official of similar position, of the university at which they are studying. Nominations and coordination of applications will be processed through the Academic Secretariat or the Graduate School of the institution at which candidates are enrolled.
5. Each university is requested to submit up to two nominations for the Education Program track.
6. Up to two new Azrieli Fellows will be selected each year in the field of Education.
7. Awarding of the Azrieli Fellowships in this track is conditional upon approval of the candidate's Research Proposal by the university authorities by October 2014.
8. The Fellowship is offered for up to three years. Fellows will be required to provide annual reports to the Program's management, which will be signed and approved by their academic supervisors. Progress Report forms will be provided by the Program management.
9. The Azrieli Foundation reserves the right to halt financial support before completion of a Fellow's studies or the three years, in the event that that the Fellow does not meet his/her obligations to remain in good standing (see section entitled "Obligations of the Azrieli Fellow").

How to Apply

1. The Azrieli Fellows Program management will send out Calls for Submission of applications, Program guidelines and Application Forms to the Academic Secretariat or Graduate School of all participating institutions. This information will also be disseminated to the relevant faculties and departments.
2. Students interested in applying should approach the Academic Secretariat or Graduate School administration at their university, where they will be provided with the relevant forms and instructions. **Applications should be submitted through the university administration, and not directly to the Foundation.**
3. The university will select and rank nominees and submit their applications to the Azrieli Fellows Program management.
4. Guidelines and application forms may be downloaded from The Azrieli Foundation website at: www.azrielifoundation.org/fellows .
5. The deadline for receipt of university nominated and approved applications by The Azrieli Foundation is February 15th, 2014. **Candidates are advised to check with their academic institutions regarding internal deadlines for submission of application materials.**
6. The Selection Committees will meet between May 11, 2014 and May 30, 2014. Candidates may be called upon to participate in an interview during that period.

Obligations of the 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 obligations:

1. Academic Excellence:

Fellows are obligated to maintain a level of academic excellence throughout the Program – as defined by the university in which they are enrolled.

2. Progress reports:

Regular progress reports must be submitted by the Fellow to the Program management on a semi-annual basis. These reports should outline the Fellow's coursework including marks where relevant, describe any teaching done by the Fellow during this period, and include a list of papers published up to that point. The report must be signed by the Fellow's academic supervisor who may comment where relevant.

3. Community Work:

Azrieli Fellows are expected to volunteer 40 hours over the course of the academic year at one of the branches of the Azrieli Institute for Educational Empowerment *, or at an alternative Program to be approved by the Azrieli Fellows Program management. Travel expenses will be covered by the Foundation.

*The Azrieli Institute for Educational Empowerment is a program focusing on high school dropout prevention. Program branches are located in cities throughout Israel, from Kiryat Shmona to Eilat. For more information see www.azrieli.org.

4. Participation in Program-sponsored events:

In order to foster the exchange of ideas between Azrieli Fellows, 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. Some of these events might include: a 'Fellows Forum' series (see section 5 below), the annual celebration, informal dinners sponsored by the Program, and an end of year party.

5. Azrieli Fellows Forums:

The Azrieli Fellows Forums are held five times a year, providing the opportunity for Fellows to socialize and share their research and study activities in a multi-disciplinary environment. At these meetings, Fellows present lectures in English on elements of their research. Fellows are encouraged to consult their supervisors for guidance in preparing these lectures.

Obligations of the Azrieli Fellow - continued**6. Publications:**

The work produced by the Fellows during the course of their graduate studies (research papers, Masters and Doctoral theses) will be eligible for publication in an on-line journal that the Foundation will establish and fund entitled "The Azrieli Review." If possible, the Foundation will also enter into an agreement with one of the university presses in Israel to publish the best dissertations in book form through a program to be called "The Azrieli Series."

Any written work published by the Fellows while in the Program (eg: articles published in journals, etc.) must acknowledge the support of the Azrieli Foundation in a written dedication. Fellows will also be asked to submit an abstract of their dissertation and published works to the Azrieli Fellows Program management for use in any publicity material produced by the Program, or for presentation on the Foundation website.

7. Alumni Activities:

Fellows will be asked to act as ambassadors for the Azrieli Fellows Program – to talk about their experiences with others, to publicize the Fellowship to their colleagues and to potential candidates, and to participate in information sessions for new candidates that may be held in their region. Alumni will be invited to attend ongoing Program activities and events. In the future, it is expected that alumni will assist in the selection process for incoming students.

Obligations of the Academic Institution

1. To submit no more than the number of nominees requested by the Azrieli Fellows Program management in a given year.
2. To submit no more than one nominee per supervisor.
3. To ensure that nominees at the PhD level have finished their first year of doctoral studies prior to the beginning of the Fellowship.
4. To ensure and sign the Nominating Institution Statement Form (attached to the Application Form) which states that the nominee:
 - is a full time research (PhD) student
 - has an academic advisor who is a senior faculty member in his field of study
 - will be exempt from tuition and other institutional payments should s/he win a Fellowship.
5. To ensure and report to the Program management on a semi-annual basis that each Fellow is continuing her/his studies and progressing with research and coursework in a manner that is satisfactory to the university. Progress Report Forms will be provided by the Azrieli Fellows Program management.
6. To report on any halting of research that lasts more than six months.
7. To ensure that the Fellow does not receive any additional living stipend during the course of the Fellowship. The Azrieli Foundation has no objection to the Fellow's receipt of additional research grants provided they are intended to cover research expenses only. The Azrieli Foundation has no objection to the student's receipt of supplementary funding to the basic fellowship from the academic institution at which they are enrolled, in accordance with the amounts and policies set by that institution.
8. To ensure that during the course of the Fellowship, the Fellow's research is run only within the framework of the university.
9. To ensure that any employment taken on by the Fellow within the university is in direct connection to her/his academic training and does not exceed four teaching hours per week.
10. The Fellowship is a gift to the students. The university will be the pipeline through which payment is transferred from the Azrieli Foundation to the students. No overhead will be paid to the university. The university will not deduct any amount from the Fellowship payment without the agreement of the Azrieli Fellows Program management.
11. Financial arrangements will be outlined in a separate contract between each university and the Azrieli Foundation

Timetable

Deadline for receipt of university nominated and approved applications by The Azrieli Foundation *	February 15, 2014
Selection Committee meetings and interviews	May 11 – May 30, 2014
Winners to be announced	June 2014
Program starts	October 2014

* Candidates are advised to check with their academic institutions regarding internal deadlines for submission of application materials.