

Azrieli International Visiting PhD Fellowship in Israel Program Guidelines for the Fall Semester 2025–2026

Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 22, 2025

About the Azrieli International Visiting PhD Fellowship

The Azrieli International Visiting PhD Fellowship offers exceptional international PhD candidates the opportunity to collaborate with leading Israeli researchers, fostering scientific partnerships and strengthening links between global and Israeli academic institutions. During an intensive short-term stay, Azrieli International Visiting PhD Fellows will work closely with their academic hosts in labs and departments throughout Israel.

In addition to their academic pursuits, Fellows will become part of the dynamic Azrieli Fellows Program community in Israel, which provides valuable resources and opportunities to enhance their experience and support their professional growth.

As part of their journey, Azrieli International Visiting PhD Fellows will develop their presentation and communication skills through a specialized science communications workshop. They will then present their research to the Azrieli Fellows community in an inclusive, friendly and multidisciplinary setting.

The fellowship is offered for three to four months, with application cycles focused on the Fall and Spring semesters. The current application cycle aims

to grant up to five fellowships in the Fall semester of the 2025–2026 academic year; the Azrieli Foundation will increase the number of fellowships incrementally over several years.

Candidates accepted into the Azrieli International Visiting PhD Fellowship will be eligible to apply for the Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellowship in the future.

Eligibility

1. The Azrieli International Visiting PhD Fellowship is open to PhD candidates from all countries and academic disciplines who are enrolled at accredited institutions of higher learning outside of Israel, and have completed at least one year of their PhD studies at the time of application.
2. Applicants must not have prior academic experience in Israel, such as undergraduate or graduate studies, or ongoing research.
3. Candidates must be hosted by a faculty member in one of the following eligible Israeli institutions: Bar-Ilan University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Reichman University, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Tel Aviv University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, University of Haifa, and Weizmann Institute of Science.
4. The program is inclusive, welcoming applicants regardless of religion, gender, age, or ethnicity.

Academic Host

1. At the time of application, all applicants must have an academic host who is a faculty member at one of the eligible Israeli institutions mentioned above.
2. Hosts may sponsor only one candidate per application cycle. There will be two application cycles for the 2025–2026 academic year.

3. The academic host will confirm the candidate's suitability, undertake to actively support, collaborate, and share relevant expertise with the candidate, and ensure the availability of facilities and funding to carry out the proposed research.

Fellowship Value

1. The Azrieli International Visiting PhD Fellowship is valued at 12,000 ILS per month and is offered for three to four months.
2. The aim of this funding is to support accommodation, international airfare, living costs, fees, and health insurance.
3. Funds are deposited directly into the Fellow's bank account by the host academic institution. The first installment will be deposited within 30 days of the start of research.
4. Fellows may receive additional funding alongside the Azrieli International Visiting PhD Fellowship.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Academic Excellence

- Quality, originality and productivity of research to date
- Research independence

- CV, awards, or scholarships

Proposed Research

- Quality and feasibility of the proposed research
- Potential for research innovation
- Suitability and quality of the proposed research collaboration

Leadership and Versatility

- Intellectual curiosity
- Communication skills
- Leadership qualities

Selection Process

The selection process will take place in two stages.

Stage One: Academic Review by Committee: Applications are reviewed by a multidisciplinary committee composed of internationally renowned scientists and scholars of life sciences, exact sciences, humanities, and social sciences.

Stage Two: Interview Panel: Finalists will participate in a video interview with a panel of representatives from the Azrieli Fellows Program.

Azrieli Fellows' Obligations

Alongside unique benefits, Azrieli Fellows are expected to:

1. **Maintain high academic standards at their host university:** Fellows are expected to maintain high academic excellence at their Israeli host university. Fellows will submit a progress report at the end of their fellowship.
2. **Participate in program-sponsored enrichment activities:** The Fellowship's program activities and events are designed to foster a supportive community, providing opportunities for networking, skill development, leadership growth, and engaging in multidisciplinary dialogue.

3. **Acknowledge the Azrieli Foundation:** Any publications that result from research activities conducted during the fellowship period must acknowledge the support of the Azrieli Foundation.
4. **Participate in Alumni activities:** Fellows will become part of a growing global community of Azrieli Fellows – past and present – and act as ambassadors for the program. Azrieli Alumni often share their experiences with others, publicize the program to their colleagues, and participate in information sessions for new candidates.

Academic Institutions' Obligations

The academic institution hosting the Azrieli International Visiting PhD Fellow will:

1. Serve as the conduit for transferring fellowship payments from the Azrieli Foundation to the Fellows. No overhead fees will be paid to the institution, and no deductions will be made from the fellowship payments without prior agreement from the Azrieli Fellows Program management.
2. Ensure that Azrieli Fellows are exempt from tuition.
3. Advise and ensure that Azrieli Fellows maintain appropriate health insurance coverage throughout their fellowship.
4. Enable Azrieli Fellows to attend program-sponsored events.

5. Ensure that the academic host submits a progress report at the end of the fellowship through the online form provided by the Azrieli Fellows Program management.

Key Dates for Selection of the 2025–2026 Cohort

March 3, 2025	Application process begins
April 22, 2025	Application deadline
May 2025	Academic committee review
Late May– Early June 2025	Interviews (on video)
June 2025	Award notification
November 2025	Beginning of fellowship