Zuckerman STEM* Leadership Program

Call for Nominations - Postdoctoral Scholars Program 2027/28 Cohort

*STEM fields: Science (Natural, Exact, and Life Sciences), Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Please note that an internal pre-selection process will be conducted by the Graduate Studies Authority – Bloom School to select the University of Haifa's candidates.

University of Haifa Internal Application Deadline: January 6, 2027.

THE PROGRAM

A two-year postdoctoral scholarship in which scholars conduct research in Israel at one of the eight participating research universities.

The Zuckerman Postdoctoral Scholars Program attracts high-achieving postdoctoral scholars from premier universities in the United States and Canada to conduct research at one of eight Israeli research universities. After completing their research, many Zuckerman postdocs go on to accept faculty positions at top North American universities, weaving a network of academic collaboration and goodwill that greatly benefits US-Israeli scientific cooperation.

The program enriches scholars with high-quality workshops and world-class speakers.

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

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

Recipients may not accept other scholarships concurrently with the Zuckerman STEM scholarship.

The participating Israeli universities are Ariel University, Bar-Ilan University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, University of Haifa, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Tel Aviv University and Weizmann Institute of Science.
Candidates may apply to more than one of the above universities.

FUNDING

The Zuckerman Postdoctoral Scholarship is paid by the host Israeli academic institution in Israeli shekels (ILS). The University of Haifa disburses the scholarship exclusively to a bank account in Israel held by the Zuckerman Scholar. Research and travel funds are subject to the regulations of the Israeli academic institution.

Postdoctoral scholars receive a scholarship of $63,000 per year for up to two years:

- **$51,600 for living expenses**, paid in monthly installments of $4,300.
- **$8,400 per year:** for relocation in the first year, reimbursed against receipts (see Relocation expenses below), and for research and travel to professional conferences in the second year.
- **$3,000 in research funds** per year, allocated to scholars through their supervisors at their Israeli universities.

Of the $63,000 per year, $60,000 is provided by the Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program.

Relocation expenses

Scholars must account for relocation funds according to the requirements of their host Israeli university. The following expenses are reimbursed against receipts:

- Round-trip economy-class airfare (US/Canada – Israel) for the Zuckerman scholar (and spouse)
- Hotel accommodations in Israel – up to 14 nights (maximum $250 per night)
- Shipping of personal equipment for the relocation to Israel
- The remainder may be used to purchase research equipment.

Relocation funds not used in the first year may be applied toward research in the second year.

START DATE AND DURATION

The scholarship year begins in October 2027 for maximum 24 months.
Scholars may start as early as 12 months prior to submission date, or have been accepted by the University as a postdoctoral scholar and will arrive at the University no later than 12 months following the submission date.

ELIGIBILITY

Ten postdoctoral scholarships will be awarded for the 2027–2028 academic year.

- Candidates must be citizens of the United States or Canada, or have a documented status that allows them to remain permanently in the US.
- Israeli citizens are not eligible for this program.

- Candidates must hold a PhD from a leading American or Canadian university or, if still studying for a PhD, must submit their PhD thesis before October 1, 2027.
- **For new postdoctoral candidates holding a PhD: Postdoctoral research at the University of Haifa must commence no later than five years after the PhD eligibility date.**
- Candidates should be planning to return to the United States or Canada to compete for an academic position.

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATIONS
All application materials must be typed (not handwritten) and submitted in English.

Applications are submitted through the host Israeli university, not directly to the Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program.

Candidates must secure written consent from a potential supervisor at the University of Haifa who holds the rank of Senior Lecturer or higher, and submit it with their application along with the following documents:

- Curriculum vitae, including a paragraph on demonstrated leadership qualities.
- List of at least three publications, noting the journals in which they were published.
- Research proposal (maximum 3 pages).
- Recommendation letter from the host supervisor at the University of Haifa.
- Three letters of recommendation, including one from the candidate's PhD supervisor. If possible, one letter should be from a university other than the one that granted the candidate's PhD.
- Personal statement on the candidate's future career plans, including their plans to return to the United States or Canada to compete for an academic position.
- A simplified 200-word description of the intended research.
- Copy of passport, or of a documented status that allows the scholar to remain permanently in the US or Canada.
- A photo of the candidate.

Letters of recommendation must be on official institutional letterhead and signed.

Additional documents required by the University of Haifa:
- **Ph.D. Certification:** Ph.D. certification of the candidate specifying the degree award date, or an official letter from the degree-granting university confirming the submission of the dissertation for evaluation by October 1, 2027.

- **Matching Contribution Confirmation:** Signed confirmation from the hosting supervisor of the $3,000 matching contribution, specifying the relevant budget name and number.

- **Departmental Endorsement:** Endorsement letter for the candidate's admission for the 2027/28 academic year, signed by the Head of the host department.

The consolidated Zuckerman application PDF file (non-scanned) must be **submitted by the host supervisor(s) at the University of Haifa**—along with the additional documents required by the University of Haifa as separate files—via email to Ms. Mor Arazi, Postdoctoral Scholarships Coordinator, Graduate Studies Authority – Bloom Graduate School, at marazi@univ.haifa.ac.il.

University of Haifa Internal Application Deadline: January 6, 2027.

QUATA & DEADLINES

- **Ten postdoctoral scholarships** will be awarded for the 2027–2028 academic year.
- **Key dates for applications:**
  - Applications open: November 16, 2026
  - **University of Haifa Internal Application Deadline: January 6, 2027.**
  - Scholarship notification: By March 16, 2027
  - Annual Notification of Renewal: June 16th of the 1st year of the program

For further information, please visit the Zuckerman Program website – Postdoc Program 2027/2028.