

Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education of Israel:
Fellowship Program for Outstanding Post-Doctoral Researchers
from China and India

Applications for the Academic Year 2017/2018

Regulations and Guidelines:

1. Background

Following the Planning and Budgeting Committee's (PBC) policy guidelines on for international students from June 2016, and based on the success of the PBC fellowship program for outstanding post-doctoral researchers between the academic years 2012/3-2015/6, the PBC hereby continues the fellowship program in the 2017/18 academic year. Accordingly, the PBC will finance 45 triennial fellowships¹ for outstanding researchers from China and India in the 2017/18 academic year.

2. Program Goals

- 2.1.** To increase the number of outstanding international post-doctoral researchers in Israel and strengthen the research groups in Israeli universities
- 2.2.** To enhance academic and research relations with China and India.

3. Fellowships

- 3.1.** The Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC) will award a maximum of 45 fellowships to outstanding post-doctoral researchers from China and India for

¹ Biennial fellowships with the possibility of extending for a third year.

the academic year 2017/18. Each fellowship will be awarded for two years, with the option of extending it to a third year with the approval of the Academic Committee of the PBC. The Academic Committee is responsible for the evaluation and selection of candidates for the fellowship.

- 3.2.** The fellowship amount is 115,000 NIS per year. Of this amount 69,000 NIS will be provided by the PBC, and at least 41,000 NIS will be provided by the Israeli university.
- 3.3.** In addition, the university will provide 5,000 NIS each year for the purpose of covering international travel expenses ("travel budget"). The travel budget can be utilized for the following purposes: arrival in Israel at the beginning of the fellowship, departure from Israel in the end of the fellowship, travel abroad for conferences, workshops, and work meetings throughout the duration of the fellowship, and travel to Israel for up to one year after the conclusion of the fellowship, for the purpose of maintaining and developing connections with Israeli researchers. In the event that the annual amount of 5,000 NIS is not utilized each year, the remaining sum will accumulate in the following year. The universities will be responsible for the administration of the travel budget.
- 3.4.** The fellowship funding period will commence in October 2017 and end in October 2020. Fellows are required to arrive in Israel by the 1st of March 2018. Fellows who are not able to arrive by this date will forfeit the fellowship.
- 3.5.** In the event that a post-doctoral fellow wishes to change supervisor or move to a different Israeli university throughout the duration of his fellowship, the fellow must submit a request for approval to the China-India Steering Committee of the PBC.
- 3.6.** Please note that starting from the 2017/18 academic year, a supervisor may supervise at most 2 PBC fellows of this program (of course there is no restriction on the number of post-doctoral students to be supervised from

other financial sources). Thus applications of candidates and supervisors which do not comply with this restriction will not be considered.

3.7. The awarding of the fellowship is contingent upon the following conditions:

3.7.1. The candidate's commitments to the university:

- i. To request approval from the university for each suspension in research work of two months or more. The university shall not approve suspension of research for longer than one year. In any case, the fellowship cannot be extended beyond October 2020.

3.7.2. The university shall make the following commitments to the fellow:

- i. The fellow is entitled to work within the university, according to the regulations of the university and the Ministry of Interior, but the university may not employ the fellow at the expense of the fellowship (i.e. payment of the fellowship cannot be tied in any way to employment of the fellow);
- ii. To provide the fellow with the necessary professional literature and research tools in order to optimize the fellow's research;
- iii. To allocate a budget of 5000 NIS per year to the fellow to cover travel expenses according to Clause 5.
- iv. To inform the fellow of the rules of the program and the above obligations and rights.
- v. To inform the fellow about living costs in Israel.
- vi. To provide periodic reports on academic and financial issues relating to the fellow.

4. Terms for Candidate Selection

4.1. The candidate shall fulfill the following requirements:

4.1.1. The candidate shall be a citizen of China or India, and shall not hold Israeli citizenship. Candidates who have Indian or Chinese citizenships and have

completed their doctoral degrees in an institution outside of China or India are also eligible to apply for a fellowship.

4.1.2. Candidates must be holders of a doctorate or post-doctorate degree for whom, on the date of publishing this notice (29 September 2016), no more than one year has passed since their last academic position and no more than five years have passed from the date of receiving a doctoral degree.

4.1.3. It is possible to present the candidacy of a person who has not yet received his or her doctoral degree before the date of submission, on condition that he or she will provide confirmation from the relevant authority where the doctorate is being carried out, of the fact that the candidate will fulfil all of his/her academic obligations and is expected to receive his/her doctoral degree during his/her first year of study in Israel. In any case, if the candidate does not receive the doctoral degree during the first year of his/her stay in Israel, he/she will not be able to continue his/her activities and the institution will terminate his/her fellowship.

4.1.4. The candidates should intend to conduct research in their academic field on a full time basis in an established research team in a university in Israel, under the training of a researcher who is a faculty member in the university.

4.1.5. Candidates who commenced a post-doctoral position in Israel prior to the publishing of this notice (29 September 2016) are not eligible to apply for the fellowship.

4.1.6. Candidates may only submit an application through one supervisor and university in Israel.

5. The Selection Procedure

5.1. The selection of winners of the fellowships will be done by the Academic Committee of the PBC, which will evaluate the qualifications of candidates.

- 5.2. Candidates who have Indian or Chinese citizenship and have completed their doctoral degrees in an institution outside of China or India will comprise no more than 50 percent of the winners.
- 5.3. The candidates shall apply directly to the contact person at the relevant university. Each university shall independently evaluate its candidates and submit its selected candidates to the PBC, in order of preference.
- 5.4. The selection of fellows will be done on the basis of academic excellence and according to the criteria set by the Academic Committee at its discretion. The choice of fellows will be announced during February 2017.
- 5.5. There are 45 fellowships to award in this cycle. However, the Academic Committee is not obligated to award all the fellowships if it finds the academic level of the candidates not satisfactory.
- 5.6. Each university may submit no more than 2 candidates under the same mentoring professor in this cycle. In Addition, applying a candidate during a certain cycle does not prevent his/her re-applying to another cycle (from 2018/2019 onwards).
- 5.7. It is forbidden for a candidate to apply through more than one university.
- 5.8. The universities must avoid from submitting candidates who do not answer the fellowship's criteria.
- 5.9. The fellowship will be given according to the criteria for academic excellence and shall be based, inter alia, on the academic activities of the candidate, future research plans, list of publications, list of scientific works and recommendations. As stated above, the Academic Committee will take into consideration the universities' priorities, but is not obligated to act upon them.

6. Evaluation Reports Procedure

- 6.1. At the end of each academic year, an academic report and a budget report will be sent to the PBC as following:

6.1.1. During 2018/2019 academic year – After 6 months of work (during April) a report will be sent by the supervising professor, expressing his/her wishes to continue the fellowship.

6.1.2. During 2019/2020 academic year – After 18 months of work (during April) an elaborate report will be sent by the supervising professor which will detail the work the fellow has achieved thus far. This report will be evaluated by the Academic Committee, which will decide whether to extend the fellowship to a third year.

6.1.3. During 2020/2021 academic year – By the end of September the supervising professor must submit a final evaluation, summarizing the fellow's work.

6.1.4. Each year by September 30th the university must submit a budget report.

6.2. The university is obligated to notify the PBC as soon as possible in the event of a fellow's departure that exceeds two months. The university must state the fellow's reasons for leaving.

6.3. According to these reports, the sum of the fellowship will be transferred to the university. The renewal of the fellowship each year depends on the judgement of the Academic Committee.

7. Required Documents

Applications should include:

- Completed application form (attached).
- Copy of academic degree certificates in English (Bachelors, Masters, PhD if relevant).
- Please do not include academic transcripts/grades.
- For candidates who have not yet finished their PhD, please attach a confirmation from the relevant authority where the doctorate is being carried out, of the fact that the candidate will fulfil all of his/her academic obligations and is expected to

receive his/her doctoral degree no later than during his/her first year of study in Israel.

- CV including list of publications. Please mention the impact factor of the journal, if it exists. Please state if the written article has yet to be published. Please refrain from writing over two passages about each patent (if relevant) .
- A summary of your doctoral dissertation (up to one page).
- A summary of your research plan in Israel (up to 2 pages).
- The reasons for your choice of institution and academic supervisor and the connection, if any, with your present and planned future work (up to half a page).
- Three recommendation letters.
- A letter of undertaking from the supervisor at the Israeli university, explaining his / her reasons for wishing to take on the candidate. Letters which provide detailed and well-reasoned arguments will increase the chances of the candidate's application to be accepted.

Please send the required information in 2 separate PDF files: administrative (containing clauses 1-3) and academic (containing clauses 4-9). A candidate's application which will not contain all required information will be returned to the university, and will not be discussed until corrected.

8. Timeline for submission

- 8.1.** The deadline for candidates to submit an application to the university is the November 11th, 2016, unless decided otherwise by the Israeli university. Please contact the Israeli university to confirm the deadline.
- 8.2.** The universities are required to submit a list of up to 15 candidates to the PBC, in order of preference, by the November 30th, 2016.
- 8.3.** Candidates will be informed of the outcome of their application by February 2017.

**The PBC Fellowship Program for Outstanding Post-doctoral Fellows
from China and India – 2016/17**

Application Form

**ATTACH
PHOTO
HERE**

INSTRUCTIONS:

The application form and all supporting documents **must be typed** in English and submitted to the university, according to the guidelines determined at each institution, together with a recent photograph. All the information given in this application and the academic background of the candidate must be typed in at least size 10 font, with normal margins. The application must be signed by the candidate. Please note that you are expected to fill in the forms independently. In addition, the following supporting documents, typed in English, are required:

A) <u>PERSONAL INFORMATION</u>	
1. Full Name	
2. Citizenship	
3. Passport number	
4. Date of birth	
5. Place of birth	
6. Permanent address	
7. Phone numbers	home: work: mobile:
8. E-mail address	

9. Estimated date of arrival in Israel				
10. Gender	Male / Female			
11. Present appointment and place of employment				
12. Knowledge of languages (none, low, fair, high)	Language	Reading	Writing	Speaking
	English			
	Hebrew			
	Other			
B) <u>ACADEMIC CAREER</u>				
13. Academic discipline				
14. Academic studies and university degrees, (please indicate the institution). If degrees were conferred with honours, please indicate.				
15. Title of PhD dissertation and name of supervisor				
16. Submission of PhD thesis (month/year)				
17. PhD graduation (month/year) If not yet approved, please provide anticipated date.				
18. Academic awards and distinctions				
C) <u>PLANNED STUDY AND RESEARCH</u>				
19. Requested department to conduct your studies/research				
20. Short description of proposed Postdoctoral research (Up to three sentences)				

21. Preferred committee for evaluation (Chemistry, Exact Sciences, Life Sciences or Humanities and Social Sciences)	
22. Period of proposed research or study	
D) <u>FINANCE</u>	
23. Do you expect to receive a salary, partial salary, scholarship, fellowship, grant, sabbatical allowance, study allowance or any other payment from any source, including your present university or any other source during the proposed period? If so, please provide details of any such allowances.	
24. You are highly encouraged to apply for a fellowship, scholarship or grant from another institution. Please indicate to which fellowships, if any, you have applied.	

25. Please provide the following appendices:

1. Copy of academic degree certificates (Bachelors, Masters, PhD if relevant).
Please do not include academic transcripts/grades.
2. For candidates who have not yet finished their PhD, please attach a confirmation from the relevant authority where the doctorate is being carried out, of the fact that the candidate will fulfil all of his/her academic obligations and is expected to receive his/her doctoral degree no later than during his/her first year of study in Israel.
3. CV including list of publications. Please mention the impact factor of the journal, if it exists.
4. A summary of your doctoral dissertation (up to one page).
5. A summary of your research plan in Israel (up to 2 pages).
6. The reasons for your choice of institution and academic supervisor and the connection, if any, with your present and planned future work (up to half a page).
7. Three recommendation letters.
8. A letter of undertaking from the supervisor at the Israeli university explaining his / her reasons for wishing to take on the candidate. Letters which provide detailed and well-reasoned arguments will increase the chance of the candidate's application being accepted.

I have read the rules and guidelines in their entirety, confirm that I shall abide by them and agree to provide any further information which the PBC steering committee may deem necessary to evaluate my candidacy.

Date

Signature