



Call for Collaborative Research Proposals in the Humanities as part of the NEH-BSF Program

A Unique Opportunity for U.S.-Israel Collaboration in the Humanities. As part of the NEH-BSF joint program, the U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) invites collaborative research proposals in Collaborative Research to the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

The U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote research cooperation between the two countries. The MOU provides a framework for fostering collaboration between the U.S. and Israeli humanities research communities and establishes the principles for jointly supported research activities. Under this arrangement, U.S. researchers receive funding from the NEH, while Israeli researchers receive funding from the BSF.

Now in its third funding cycle, this partnership continues to strengthen international collaboration in the humanities by supporting joint research projects between American and Israeli scholars.

Under the program, U.S. and Israeli researchers submit a single collaborative proposal, which undergoes one integrated peer-review process administered by the NEH as the lead agency. Following a successful review, the U.S. research team is funded by the NEH, while the Israeli research team is funded by the BSF.



Synopsis of Program:

The Collaborative Research program supports the advancement of humanistic knowledge through collaboration between two or more scholars. NEH encourages projects that incorporate multiple points of view, explore new avenues of inquiry in the humanities, and lead to manuscripts for print publication or to interpretive digital projects. Interdisciplinary projects, including those involving the sciences, are welcome.

This year's competition will accept only applications on topics in the history and culture of the United States in any period from the Colonial Era to the present, or topics in Western civilization from antiquity to the present.

The program includes three project categories: Planning International Collaboration; Manuscript Preparation and Scholarly Digital Projects. The categories support different project types or stages and have different performance periods and award ceilings. Applicants must specify only one project category for support.

For information please read carefully the NEH website:

<https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/collaborative-research-grants>

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read carefully both the NEH Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and the NEH General Grant Administration Guidelines (GAGA) before preparing their proposal. These documents contain the complete program requirements, eligibility criteria, application instructions, and award administration policies. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in an application being returned without review or determined ineligible. U.S. applicants should pay particular attention to the NOFO instructions regarding allowable and unallowable costs and other budget requirements.



General:

1. BSF administers the NEH-BSF program on behalf of the Israel Council for Higher Education (CHE).
2. The NEH accepts applications only from eligible U.S. institutions and organizations and submission to the NEH-BSF program should be made only by the U.S. applicant. The proposal is recognized as an NEH-BSF application by adding the prefixed “**NEH-BSF:**” to the proposal title. The project narrative of the proposal must include a description of the collaboration, including an explanation of the role(s) of the Israeli co-director(s) and collaborator(s), and an explanation of how the team will work together. The proposal must describe the significance and impact of the proposed research, including the value of the international collaboration, and the anticipated benefits of the effort to both the United States and to Israel.
3. The NEH-BSF program is not a “special” program and NEH does not set aside money for potential grants. Rather, NEH-BSF proposals are evaluated together with standard NEH proposals in a review process managed by the NEH in the participating programs. It is essential that the U.S. and Israeli scholars have a clear understanding of the NEH-BSF framework before embarking on proposal preparation.
4. Applications must be developed and written jointly by a team of Israeli and U.S. scholars that hold academic appointments in their respective countries and are eligible to apply for external funding at organizations such as NEH and BSF.
5. Proposers are advised that all documents submitted to NEH or BSF may be shared with the other agency in order to implement the two-way agency requirements.



6. Proposals must represent an integrated collaboration effort. Ideally, collaborations envisage exchange visits of Senior Personnel, postdocs and/or graduate students to their collaborators or to research sites.
7. For technical reasons only, the Israeli applicant cannot appear on the cover page of an NEH proposal. However, by using the prefix “NEH-BSF:” in the title and including the Israeli applicant as “co-director” in the narrative section of the application, it will identify the Israeli applicant as Co-Director on the project.
8. The Israeli applicant will provide a CV according the NEH format, which will be uploaded by the US partner with the rest of the CVs.
9. The Israeli partner will also supply a budget and budget justification that he/she is going to request from BSF, which the US partner will upload in the supplementary section.
10. The award amount for the Israeli applicant in the Manuscript Preparation and Scholarly Digital Projects is capped at a maximum of up to \$50,000 per year for the duration of the project, **subject to the availability of funds**.
11. Total award amount for Planning International Collaboration grants is up to \$50,000.
12. Amounts in the BSF system are always in dollars; however, Israeli researchers will receive the money in Shekels. So, the maximum amount per year for the Israeli is capped at 203,500 NIS.



13. For programs in which the maximum award amount allowed by the NEH is less than \$50,000 per year, the request to the BSF cannot exceed the maximum award amount per year. The amount requested per year from the BSF must be less than or equal to the amount requested per year from the NEH.
14. The number of years of support requested from the BSF must be equal to the number of years of support requested from the NEH.

Eligibility:

1. All inquiries regarding the suitability of the research topic must be made by the U.S. applicant(s) to the relevant program directors at NEH. BSF will not respond to any query regarding topic eligibility.
2. All [BSF regulations](#) regarding eligibility of the Israeli applicant(s) and [NEH regulations](#) regarding the U.S. applicant(s) will apply to this program.
3. Each Israeli scholar can submit only one application per academic year to any of the NEH programs that are accepted.
4. An Israeli with an active BSF research grant is allowed to submit an application to any of the NEH-BSF programs.
5. It is allowed to submit both to an NEH-BSF program and to any of the other BSF programs.



Submission:

1. The proposal must be submitted to a participating NEH program by a U.S. institution, using Grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov/>). Proposals must comply with requirements in the relevant program guidelines or program description provided on the NEH-BSF Participating Programs webpage.

The US applicant's submission to the NEH MUST include the CV (in NEH format) to be uploaded in the CV section of the proposal and BUDGET + BUDGET JUSTIFICATION (in BSF format) of the Israeli applicant to be uploaded to the supplementary materials.

The U.S. applicant is responsible for ensuring that the proposal and their budget fully comply with the current NEH Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), including all instructions regarding allowable and unallowable costs. Applicants should also consult the NEH General Grant Administration Guidelines (GAGA) for applicable award policies and requirements.

2. The Israeli applicant will submit an identical proposal as a pdf document to the BSF, including all information regarding the U.S. applicant(s), and adhere to relevant BSF regulations regarding proposal submission: see [here](#).



Timetable:

Full proposals should be submitted to the BSF according to the following deadlines:
Sept. 23, 2026 (the NEH deadline will be Sept. 16, 2026).

Evaluation:

1. Proposals will be evaluated by the relevant NEH program, using their criteria and adhering to a Lead Agency Model that underpins several other Israeli binational and multinational research collaborations. BSF watches over compliance by Israeli applicants, but does not evaluate the scientific merit of the applications.
2. Proposals will be reviewed by NEH staff for completeness and eligibility before undergoing external peer review. In general, proposal review is completed within six months of submission. Proposers may wish to consult a program officer in the relevant program about timing of submission.
3. NEH uses a conventional peer review system with a panel of 4 or 5 experts reading all full proposals. However, unlike the practice in Israel, panel members serve in an advisory capacity and provide their recommendations to NEH staff. NEH staff then make recommendations to the National Council on the Humanities, a group of individuals recommended by the White House and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, who then make their recommendations to the Chair of the NEH. The NEH Chair is the only individual empowered to make final decisions. These post-panel review steps may introduce additional considerations such as whether the project is skewing too much into advocacy or activism (both ineligible for NEH funding), whether the applicant is remiss on



previously-held NEH awards, etc. In almost all cases, however, the NEH Chair ultimately follows the recommendations of the peer reviewers in making final decisions.

4. NEH program officers inform panelists of the special nature of the NEH-BSF partnership and ensure that the Israeli applicant(s) are recognized as Co-Directors and are evaluated alongside their US counterparts. For more detail, please refer to the NEH Dear Colleague letter that covers the NEH-BSF program in great detail.
5. If the collaborative research proposal is recommended for an award, then, pending formal approval, the Israeli applicant(s) will receive a grant from the BSF, while the U.S. applicant(s) will receive a grant from the NEH.
6. Israeli researchers may take part in the NEH evaluation process as panel members and/or external reviewers.

Other questions regarding this call for proposals can be discussed with the BSF staff by mail or by phone (972-2-5828239): Dr. Rachel (Heni) Haring (heni@bsf.org.il ext. 205) or Ms. Yael Dressler (yael@bsf.org.il ext. 203). Questions regarding the online application system should be directed to Ms. Orli Rozenchwajg (orli@bsf.org.il ext. 206).