



CIFAR

CIFAR **GLOBAL** **SCHOLARS** PROGRAM

Detailed Overview
Cohort of 2026-2028





CIFAR GLOBAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The **CIFAR Global Scholars Program** offers early-career researchers the opportunity to develop and lead high-risk, high-reward interdisciplinary research, expand their professional networks and receive focused leadership training in their pivotal first years as independent investigators. These experiences accelerate the rise of research leaders who are positioned to drive new discoveries and open new fields of inquiry.

CIFAR welcomes applications from candidates across the natural, biomedical, and social sciences, as well as the humanities. Successful applicants join one of CIFAR's interdisciplinary research programs, collaborating with global research leaders to advance transformative knowledge and address some of the most important questions facing science and humanity.

The **Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR)** is a globally influential research organization proudly based in Canada. We mobilize the world's most brilliant people across disciplines and at all career stages to advance transformative knowledge and solve humanity's biggest problems, together. We are supported by the governments of Canada, Alberta and Québec, as well as Canadian and international foundations, individuals, corporations and partner organizations.

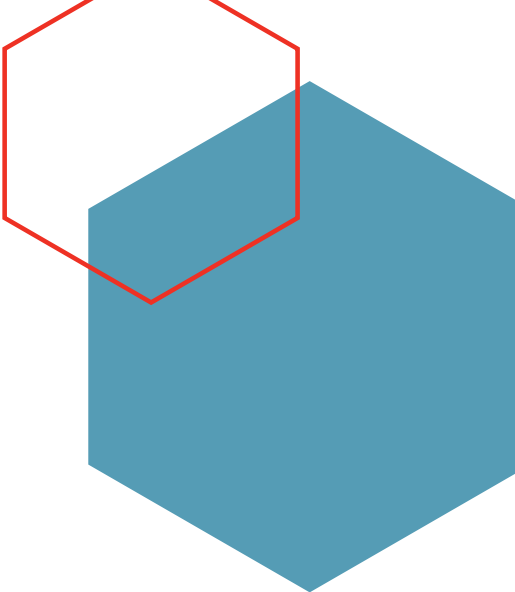
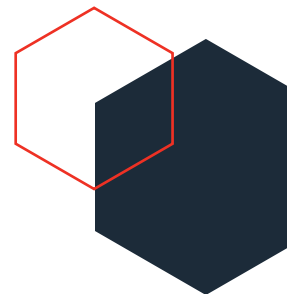


TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [04](#) Program Overview
- [05](#) Eligibility
- [06](#) Duration and Value
- [07](#) Expectations
- [08](#) Deadline and How to Apply
- [10](#) Application Review Process and Criteria
- [11](#) Administrative Guidelines and Policies
- [12](#) Frequently Asked Questions



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The CIFAR Global Scholars program develops highly talented junior faculty into influential leaders who explore boundary-pushing new directions in interdisciplinary research.

The program includes **three core pillars**:

1. Fostering novel interdisciplinary research

Global Scholars become integral members of a [CIFAR Research Program](#) for two years, joining a small international network of leading global researchers. As equal participants, Scholars engage in interdisciplinary collaborations tackling research questions of global importance. At two meetings per year, held around the world, Scholars, Fellows and Advisors share work-in-progress, exchange ideas across disciplines, and develop innovative projects that inspire new insights, transform research directions, and open new fields of inquiry.

CIFAR Global Scholars receive:

- **\$100,000 CAD in unrestricted research support over two years.** These flexible funds can be used for research expenses, teaching release, student or postdoc support, conference travel, and more. They are not tied to a specific project or proposal.
- **Mentorship from CIFAR Program Members.** Mentors provide a sounding board for research and career development questions, potentially opening doors to unexpected new opportunities. Scholars are encouraged to build relationships with Fellows working in other research areas to broaden their perspectives and spark new ideas.
- **Opportunities to apply for CIFAR seed funds.** These time-limited funds support high-risk, high-reward interdisciplinary collaborations with Fellows, Advisors, or other Global Scholars within their own or different CIFAR programs.

2. Developing and broadening networks

The program expands Scholars' potential for impact by broadening and deepening their networks. Through meaningful connections with peers and senior researchers, Scholars become part of a supportive research community with access to opportunities for collaboration and mentorship.

The **Global Scholars Annual Meeting** brings together Scholars from across research programs for leadership development, networking, and community-building. The retreat includes dedicated time to explore research ideas, spark interdisciplinary connections, and develop creative collaborative proposals for seed funding.

We look forward to welcoming the 2025 and 2026 Global Scholar cohorts to the next Annual Meeting, taking place in Alton, Ontario (near Toronto) from June 9-11, 2026 (arrival on June 8).

CIFAR also creates opportunities for Scholars to engage with leaders in government, industry, business, and civil society. These interactions have the potential to inform Scholars' research and amplify the reach of their work. They may occur through Global Scholars Annual Meetings, CIFAR's Board of Directors and donor network, or program-aligned partnerships.

3. Strengthening leadership skills

Even the most accomplished early-career researchers typically step into their principal investigator roles with little formal leadership training. The CIFAR Global Scholars program bridges this gap with targeted training in essential areas of research leadership, including:

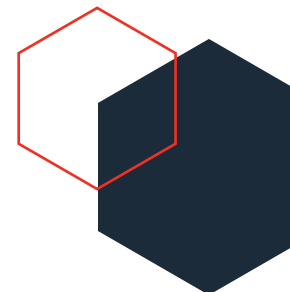
- **Team leadership** – e.g., running effective meetings, navigating difficult conversations, negotiating
- **Trainee mentorship** – e.g., setting goals, giving and receiving feedback, supporting wellness and maintaining healthy boundaries
- **Science communication** – e.g., giving public talks, participating in media interviews, using social media effectively, writing op-eds
- **Science advocacy** – e.g., preparing to engage with policymakers, funders, and other decision-makers

Leadership training is provided throughout the year through interactive online workshops that emphasize discussion and peer-to-peer learning. Scholars also have access to additional funding to support professional development tailored to their individual goals.

CIFAR provides opportunities for Global Scholars to put their leadership skills into action, such as:

- Leading collaborative research projects supported by CIFAR's seed funds
- Organizing a Winter or Summer School
- Co-planning CIFAR symposia such as *Radical Interdisciplinarity* or the *Women in Research Leadership Development Symposium*
- Delivering public talks or publishing op-eds to share research with broader audiences

ELIGIBILITY



CIFAR welcomes applicants from all countries and is committed to building a diverse, international community of scholars.

To be considered for the CIFAR Global Scholars program, you must:

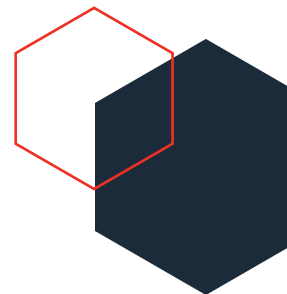
- Hold a PhD (or equivalent).
- Hold a full-time position at an institution of higher education or research. Your role must include responsibility for leading independent research as a principal investigator and supervising or teaching trainees toward their attainment of a degree.
 - » Typically, an eligible applicant is a tenure-track Assistant Professor (in the North American context), or holds an equivalent position designed to lead to a permanent faculty appointment (in academic systems outside of North America).
 - » Accepted equivalents include, **but are not limited to:**
 - *Level B Lecturer or Research Fellow* (Australia)
 - *Chargé de Cours or Docent* (Belgium)
 - *Professor adjunto* (Brazil)
 - *Maître de Conférences* (France)
 - *Junior Professor or Research Group Leader* (Germany)
 - *Ricercatore Tipo A or B* (Italy)
 - *Profesor Titular A* (Mexico)
 - *Universitair Docent* (Netherlands)
 - *Ramón y Cajal Scholar* (Spain)
 - *Lecturer/Senior Lecturer* (UK, South Africa, Israel)
 - » You must have started your first position, as described above, post-PhD, no earlier than **July 1, 2021** and no later than **December 31, 2025**.
 - *Note:* Special consideration may be given to applicants who have taken parental leave or faced exceptional circumstances.
 - » Your position must be secure throughout the full CIFAR Global Scholar term, from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2028.
 - » **Note: Postdoctoral fellows are not eligible to apply.**
- Engage in research that complements the themes and goals of a recruiting CIFAR Research Program ([see page 8](#)).
 - » Demonstrate an outstanding record of research achievement and promise of future impact, as shown through reference letters, publications, awards, and other research contributions.
 - » Show a strong interest in interdisciplinary engagement to extend and enrich the impact of your research.
- Be available for a virtual interview on **March 24-26, 2026**.
- Hold a valid passport, and if applicable, be able to obtain travel visas to attend CIFAR meetings globally, approximately two to three times per year.
- Be fluent in spoken and written English.

If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact us at global.scholars@cifar.ca.

Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:

CIFAR is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. We recognize that bringing together individuals from multiple backgrounds, perspectives and experiences is integral to advancing excellence and increasing the impact of our organization. Ensuring that every person feels valued and welcome is vital to achieving our mission, and embodies our values of diversity, creativity, excellence, risk taking, respect and collaboration. CIFAR strives to foster the active participation and inclusion of all, including those from underrepresented groups in research, such as but not limited to women, members of racialized groups, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, members of sexual and gender minority groups – across geographic borders, disciplines, and career stage. In the pursuit of excellence, CIFAR embraces diverse ideas and perspectives, and proactively seeks to increase equity, diversity and inclusion within our community. CIFAR aims to create a culture that embodies these principles of equity, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of our work.

For more information, see [CIFAR's Action Plan on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion](#).



DURATION AND VALUE

Duration:

CIFAR Global Scholars hold an active term of two years. The next cohort's term begins on April 1, 2026 and concludes on March 31, 2028. At the end of their term, Scholars retain the title '*CIFAR Global Scholar*' and are encouraged to stay connected through CIFAR's Next Generation Initiatives and research programs.

Value:

Each Scholar receives CAD \$100,000 in unrestricted research support, administered through their home institution. These funds may be used for a range of activities, including but not limited to:

- Advancing research projects
- Buying out teaching time
- Supporting trainees
- Traveling to academic conferences

CIFAR separately covers all travel costs associated with attending CIFAR meetings.



"CIFAR has been world-expanding in innumerable ways. I know of no other space where scholars across disciplines and the world can join and think together through some of humanity's most pressing questions. The creativity that blooms from these meetings has changed the way I think about everything from how I approach research design to how I teach and mentor my students."

Hajar Yazdiha, CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2023-2025,
Boundaries, Membership & Belonging Program; University of Southern California

"Participating in my CIFAR program has profoundly influenced both my thinking and work. The sense of confidence instilled by my involvement with CIFAR has emboldened me to venture into unconventional and bold research avenues, fueled solely by curiosity – the essence of scientific inquiry. Being a CIFAR Global Scholar has not only expanded my intellectual horizons but also inspired me to pursue scientific endeavours with newfound courage and conviction."

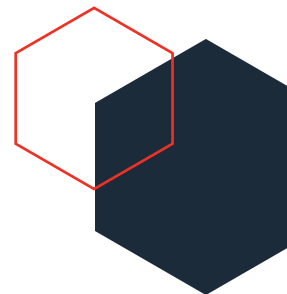
Neta Shlezinger, CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2023-2025,
Fungal Kingdom: Threats & Opportunities Program; Hebrew University of Jerusalem



"I've found myself consistently challenged and inspired by the conversations, provocations, and solidarities that this community nurtures."

Daniel Agbiboa, CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2024-2026,
Humanity's Urban Future; Harvard University

EXPECTATIONS



During their two-year term, CIFAR Global Scholars are expected to:

- **Participate in CIFAR Research Program meetings**, typically held twice per year in various locations around the world.*
- **Attend the CIFAR Global Scholars Annual Meeting**, usually held in May or June. The next meeting will take place from June 9-11, 2026 (arrival on June 8) in Alton, Ontario, near Toronto.*
- **Join at least two virtual leadership development workshops per year**, arranged specifically for CIFAR Global Scholars.
- **Submit a brief annual report** on program-related research and activities.
- **Engage with CIFAR stakeholders and funders** to share the impact of their work, where appropriate and possible.
- **Acknowledge CIFAR affiliation** by using the title CIFAR Global Scholar in professional signatures, and citing CIFAR as a funder in research publications, presentations, and media interviews supported by the program.

**CIFAR is committed to supporting participation by individuals with dependent care responsibilities.*

CIFAR may offer assistance to help offset dependent care costs necessitated by attending CIFAR meetings away from home. Applicants may request a copy of CIFAR's travel policy for more information.



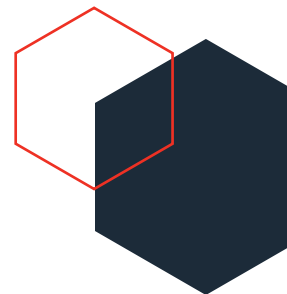
"My time as a CIFAR Global Scholar has been life-changing. Every CIFAR event – from Global Scholars meetings to BMC program meetings to professional development trainings – has been deeply stimulating and fulfilling, invariably furnishing new ideas and new collaborations. I've learned to be a better science communicator, better mentor, and better manager of my own time and productivity."

Christopher Krupenye, CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2023-2025,
Brain, Mind & Consciousness; Johns Hopkins University

"CIFAR represents a rare space of intellectual generosity and ambition. It's helped me connect with a global group of peers and mentors, and reflect more deeply on what inclusive science could mean. This sense of community is incredibly motivating. "

Tobias Wenzel, CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2024-2026, CIFAR MacMillan Multiscale Human;
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile





DEADLINE AND HOW TO APPLY

1. Application deadline:

November 5, 2025, 12 PM Eastern Standard Time (UTC -5)

2. Application process:

CIFAR Global Scholar applications are accepted annually. All applications must be submitted online using the form linked at: cifar.ca/global-scholars. Instructions for starting your application are available [here](#).

Your research should complement the themes and goals of a recruiting CIFAR research program (see below). If you would like to apply to more than one program, you must complete a separate application for each.

CIFAR programs are interdisciplinary, with an objective to spark new ideas, collaborations and knowledge advances. We welcome applications that offer new perspectives or approaches that could enrich and diversify a program's scope.

To learn more about each program's focus areas and participating researchers, please review the descriptions provided on the program web pages linked below.

In 2025/2026, the following CIFAR research programs are accepting applications:

- [Child & Brain Development](#)
- [CIFAR MacMillan Multiscale Human](#)
- [Future Flourishing](#)
- [Humanity's Urban Future](#)
- [Learning in Machines & Brains](#)
- [Quantum Materials](#)

3. Application components:

You are required to submit the following materials through the online application form:

a) Summary Section

1. A summary of the value you anticipate gaining from the CIFAR Global Scholar experience, aside from the unrestricted research support. (max. 400 words)
2. A discussion of three areas of leadership and/or communications skills that you would like to strengthen through your participation in the program. (max. 100 words)
3. A statement on how your skills and knowledge will contribute to advancing CIFAR's commitment to [equity, diversity and inclusion](#). (max. 250 words)
4. A short description of your research interests using lay terms for a general audience and public use. (max. 100 words)

b) Detailed Section

1. A detailed discussion of your research background and proposed future directions, how this agenda would

contribute to the themes and goals of the CIFAR research program to which you are applying, and how participating in the program would advance your research. Describe areas of potential research that you might wish to pursue in collaboration with Fellows and Advisors from different disciplines within the program. (max. 1000 words)

2. A discussion of how you have engaged with non-academic communities to extend the impact of your research. If you have not been active outside of academia, discuss the type of activities you would like to pursue. In your response, please identify expert communities (e.g., policy makers, industry, educators, social workers, etc.) who are most relevant to your academic work. (max. 1000 words)

c) Academic CV

An up-to-date academic CV, including publication list, must be uploaded as a .pdf file. CIFAR accepts CVs in any standard academic format.

d) Narrative CV

A narrative CV is also required. This format reflects CIFAR's commitment to fair and inclusive research assessment as a signatory of the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA).

Narrative CVs offer researchers a structured yet flexible format to describe their contributions and achievements, and to highlight a broad range of skills and experiences that extend beyond publications and research funding.

The narrative CV recognizes disciplinary differences across the academy, enabling researchers to highlight their unique research contributions in different contexts and work environments.

To create your narrative CV, you may follow the prompts below, adapted from UKRI's Résumé for Research and Innovation. It may include up to 1,000 words in total. You are free to distribute this word count across the four suggested topic areas to best reflect your experience and unique contributions. You are encouraged to discuss each topic area where relevant; you are not required to address all four. Alternatively, you may use or adapt an existing narrative CV, as long as it stays within the word limits.

Topic Area 1: Knowledge Creation

Explain your contributions to the generation of new knowledge, ideas, tools, or methodologies

For example, you could include:

- *Key outputs including research, data sets, and software*
- *Skills acquired from research projects*
- *Where, how, and to what end you communicated your ideas to the research community at any point in the research process (e.g., conference talks, sole-authored or collaborative publications, workshop participation, etc.)*

Topic Area 2: Mentorships and Relationships

Explain your contributions to the maintenance of effective working relationships and/or the development of others (e.g., trainees, peers, colleagues)

For example, you could include:

- *Expertise you provided that was critical to a team's success*
- *Teaching activities, workshops and mentoring*
- *Your leadership in shaping the direction of a team*

Topic Area 3: Service to the Discipline or to Higher Education

Explain your contributions to the wider research and innovation community

Examples of what you could include are:

- *Positions of responsibility*
- *Commitments such as reviewing, editing and committee work*
- *Your strategic leadership in influencing a research agenda*

Topic Area 4: Broader Impact

Explain your contributions to broader research- or innovation-users and towards wider societal benefit

Examples of what you could include are:

- *How you've engaged with a variety of public audiences*
- *Research that has directly contributed to public understanding*
- *Research that has directly contributed to policy development*

An optional section, with a separate limit of 250 words, is available for you to share any contextual information relevant to your personal trajectory. You may wish to include, for example:

- Career breaks
- Secondments
- Voluntary work

Please note:

- This information will be shared with reviewers, even if it references a sensitive issue.
- Focus on how the circumstance has affected your career, rather than expanding on the issue itself. You may elaborate on any impacts you would like to highlight.

e) Reference Letters

You are required to arrange for **two letters** of recommendation to be submitted as part of your application.

Important Exception:

- If one of your letters is from a CIFAR program member (Fellow, Associate Fellow, Co-Director, Advisor or Global Scholar), your application must include **three letters in total**, with at least two from individuals who

are not affiliated with a CIFAR program.

- » You may **only** include **one letter** from a CIFAR program member if they have had a **direct relationship** with you, such as serving as your supervisor, committee member, or research collaborator.

Referees are asked to comment on one or both of the following areas:

1. **Scholarly achievements** in terms of research excellence, productivity, creativity, breadth and interest in engaging across disciplines, and potential for future leadership in the field, compared to others at the same career stage.
2. **Demonstrated leadership capacity** within or outside of academic settings, as well as desire and potential to expand research impact by engaging with communities outside the academic sphere.

At least one letter must come from someone well-positioned to assess your scholarly contributions and their significance, such as a PhD or postdoctoral supervisor, or a close research colleague. One letter may also (but is not required to) come from a leader outside the academic sphere who can speak to your broader impact or engagement.

How Do Referees Submit Their Letters?

In your application form, you will be asked to enter the names and email addresses of your referees. Once you do, each referee will receive an auto-generated email with instructions for uploading a confidential letter directly to your application.

We recommend contacting your referees in advance to confirm their availability. After entering their contact details, you should follow up to ensure they received the email request.

Referees can only upload a letter after receiving the email from CIFAR. If a referee does not receive or misplaces the message, you can resend it through your application form. If one of your confirmed referees can no longer provide a letter, you may replace them with a new referee.

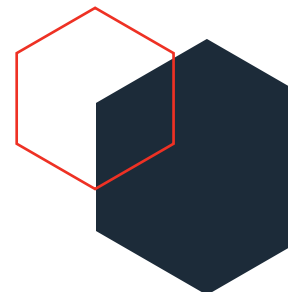
Both you and your referee will receive a confirmation once a letter has been successfully uploaded. You can also track the status of your reference letters in your application form.

Your application **must** include all the required reference letters, submitted directly by your referees, before it can be finalized. It is your responsibility to follow up with referees and ensure your application is complete and successfully submitted by **12 PM Eastern Standard Time (UTC -5) on November 5, 2025**. Once submitted, your application cannot be edited.

All applications must be submitted through the online application system. Those received by any other method, as well as applications not submitted by the deadline, will not be reviewed.

If you have any questions, reach out to us at global.scholars@cifar.ca.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA



CIFAR is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). At every stage of the review and selection process, committees apply principles in line with CIFAR's EDI Statement ([see page 5](#)) and [Action Plan](#). The process is conducted in English, a commonly accepted language of international scientific collaboration.

The full review and selection process takes approximately five months following the application deadline. Key dates for the 2025/2026 cycle are outlined in the table below.

Review and Selection Stages:

1. **Basic Eligibility:** CIFAR screens all applications to ensure they meet the basic eligibility requirements.

2. **Program-Level Review:** Each participating program forms a sub-committee of CIFAR Fellows and Advisors to evaluate applications using three criteria:

- **Inclusive research excellence:** Intellectual/academic assessment based on all the available application materials. Multiple dimensions of research excellence and impact are considered, including contributions at various stages of the research process and a range of outputs including, but not limited to: journal publications, policy papers, datasets, open science materials, conference organization, capacity-building and outreach.

- **Potential contribution to the program:** An assessment of potential to contribute new and diverse perspectives and approaches that build on or complement the existing program membership.
- **Leadership potential:** An assessment of current, past and potential leadership both within and outside of academia.

Each committee recommends up to five shortlisted candidates to proceed to the final interview stage.

3. **Interviews:** Shortlisted candidates are invited to participate in a virtual interview on **March 24-26, 2026**. Interviews are conducted by an independent and diverse Selection Committee that includes academic researchers and professionals with expertise in areas such as science policy, communication, and leadership development. The committee evaluates candidates on:

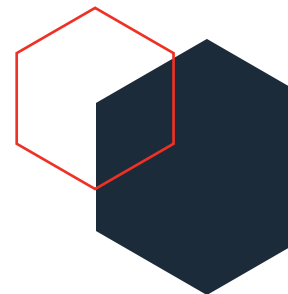
- Capacity and motivation to engage across disciplines
- Communication skills
- Potential for leadership and impact

Important: Candidates must be available on all three interview dates until their specific schedule is confirmed. Interviews are typically held between **8 AM and 5 PM Eastern Time**.

Summary of Key Dates:

September 3, 2025	Call for applications opens.
November 5, 2025	Application deadline: 12 PM Eastern Standard Time (UTC -5) .
By mid-February 2026	Shortlisted candidates receive an interview invitation. All other applicants will be notified once these finalists have accepted their invitation.
March 24-26, 2026	The Selection Committee conducts virtual interviews with the shortlisted candidates.
By early April 2026	Shortlisted candidates are informed of the competition results.
May/June 2026	CIFAR publicly announces the 2026-2028 cohort of CIFAR Global Scholars.
June 9-11, 2026 in Alton, Ontario	CIFAR Global Scholars annual meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES



1. Term

CIFAR Global Scholars hold an active term of two years. The next cohort's term begins on April 1, 2026 and concludes on March 31, 2028.

Global Scholars must hold a full-time position at an institution of higher education or research, with responsibility for leading independent research as a principal investigator and supervising or teaching trainees toward their attainment of a degree, for the full length of their term.

2. Eligible Use of Funds

CIFAR expects that CIFAR Global Scholars will use the \$100,000 CAD in unrestricted research support to enhance their capacity to conduct research. Eligible uses include, but are not limited to: research projects, teaching release, trainee support and conference travel.

3. Disbursement of Funds

Funds will be administered through the recipient's institutional department. CIFAR will issue a financial letter to initiate the transfer, and requests that the funds be held in a dedicated account managed by the CIFAR Global Scholar.

Please note that **CIFAR does not support indirect costs.**

As a non-profit charitable organization, we request that no overhead or administrative fees be charged on these funds. Additionally, CIFAR funds may not be used to cover fringe benefits.

Expenses related to attending CIFAR research program meetings, the Global Scholars Annual Meeting, and other pre-approved CIFAR-related travel will be covered or reimbursed by CIFAR. Reimbursement requires submission of an expense claim form and expenses must comply with CIFAR's travel policy.

4. Parental Leave Policy

1. CIFAR normally expects that the home institution's parental leave policy will apply, with salary funding for any leave coming from the home institution. Where applicable, the Global Scholar's term will be extended by the length of the parental leave.
2. Notice of parental leave should be given to CIFAR before the leave is anticipated to begin.

5. Understanding Longer-term Impact

CIFAR will continue to engage with Scholars to measure the longer-term impacts of the Global Scholars program. CIFAR will conduct exit surveys and follow-up surveys at intervals to track career progression, interaction patterns, and other outcomes.



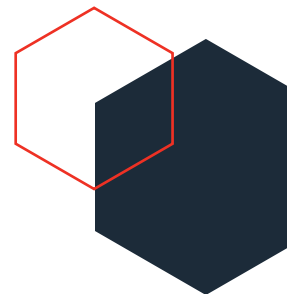
"My involvement in CIFAR has made an immense impact on my science and career. Conversations with others in the CBD program and Global Scholars program have added both breadth and depth to my work and thinking. Without the flexible funds available to Scholars, it would be impossible to pursue new, potentially high-risk collaborations during the pivotal pre-tenure years. I will also continue to benefit from the professional development that I received as a Scholar for years to come. I've developed new interdisciplinary collaborations and undoubtedly formed lasting scientific support and networks. I am truly grateful for this opportunity."

Natalie Brito, CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2022-2024,
Child & Brain Development; New York University

"My participation as a Global Scholar has profoundly shaped my work over the past year, pushing my research in directions I had not previously dared to explore. CIFAR has provided me with a unique intellectual space where interdisciplinary conversations flourish, and as a result, my scientific inquiries have expanded beyond the boundaries of my discipline."

Alejandra Echeverri, CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2024-2026,
Future Flourishing; University of California, Berkeley





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is a CIFAR Research Program?

CIFAR's global research programs connect many of the world's leading researchers, across disciplines and borders, to shape new perspectives and spark ground-breaking ideas. At the heart of every program is sustained, in-depth interaction among its Fellows.

Each program convenes a carefully selected group of top-tier researchers who contribute different disciplinary perspectives and research approaches to address a complex, global challenge. Program members typically meet in person twice a year over a renewable five-year period. These meetings foster a trusted environment where members can openly discuss emerging ideas and research-in-progress.

This model encourages bold thinking, creative risk-taking, and the formation of unexpected collaborations. By enabling long-term, interdisciplinary exchange, CIFAR research programs push the boundaries of knowledge in ways that would be difficult to achieve otherwise.

2. Does my research need to align with a CIFAR research program?

Yes. To be eligible for the CIFAR Global Scholars program, your research should complement the themes and goals of one of the CIFAR research programs currently accepting applications. The list of recruiting programs is available on [page 8](#).

CIFAR's programs are interdisciplinary, each encompassing diverse research areas. A core objective is to spark novel collaborations across disciplines in pursuit of new knowledge. We welcome applications that introduce new perspectives or approaches into a program.

We encourage you to explore detailed descriptions of our [programs](#) on the CIFAR website, as well as the profiles and research interests of CIFAR Fellows and Advisors, to understand the scope and diversity of each program's work.

In your application, you should clearly explain how you envision your research contributing to the program you're applying to, and how your research would, in turn, benefit from engaging with the program. CIFAR strongly encourages applications from individuals whose backgrounds and perspectives are currently underrepresented in our programs.

3. The application doesn't seem to ask for a specific research project proposal. Did I understand correctly?

Yes, that's correct. Unlike a grant application, we are not asking for a detailed proposal for a specific project. Instead, we want to understand your research background, and how your ideas for future inquiry would contribute to and benefit from interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration within your chosen CIFAR research program.

4. I have applied to this program in the past. May I apply again?

There is no limit to the number of times you may apply over the period of your eligibility.

5. If I'm not an Assistant Professor, am I eligible?

CIFAR welcomes applications from junior faculty around the world. Typically, an eligible applicant is a tenure-track Assistant Professor (in the North American context), or holds an equivalent position designed to lead to a permanent faculty appointment (in academic systems outside of North America). Importantly, this position must be full-time at an institution of higher education or research, and include responsibility for leading independent research as a principal investigator and supervising or teaching trainees toward their attainment of a degree.

Examples of eligible titles include, but are not limited to:

- **Australia:** Level B Lecturer or Research Fellow
- **Belgium:** Chargé de Cours or Docent
- **Brazil:** Professor adjunto
- **France:** Maître de Conférences
- **Germany:** Junior Professor or Research Group Leader
- **Italy:** Ricercatore Tipo A or B
- **Mexico:** Profesor Titular A
- **Netherlands:** Universitair Docent
- **Spain:** Ramón y Cajal Scholar
- **United Kingdom, South Africa, Israel:** Lecturer

If you're unsure whether your current position meets the eligibility criteria, please contact us at: global.scholars@cifar.ca.

6. Are postdoctoral fellows (or equivalent) eligible for this program?

No, postdoctoral fellows may not apply.

7. Are there exceptions to the five-year period of eligibility?

CIFAR will generally extend the five-year eligibility window by:

- One year for each parental leave taken
- The equivalent length of medical leaves or other career breaks taken before July 1, 2021
- Consideration of tenure clock resets granted when moving to a new institution

If you wish to request an extension, you must include a brief explanation in your application. Please note that CIFAR reserves the right to make the final determination on eligibility.

8. I hold a professional, terminal degree, but not a PhD. Am I eligible to apply?

Possibly. CIFAR will assess your eligibility based on your overall experience and current academic position. Applicants who have formal research training and are within their first five years of a full-time position, with significant responsibility for conducting independent research and supervising or teaching trainees toward degree completion, may be considered eligible. Final eligibility decisions rest with CIFAR.

9. Does it matter which country I live in or come from to be eligible?

No. CIFAR is seeking to develop a diverse and global cohort. There are no geographic restrictions on who may apply.

10. Would I need to relocate from my current institution if I am selected?

No. CIFAR Global Scholars remain at their home institution and country throughout their two-year term. The research funding associated with the award is administered through the recipient's institutional department.

11. If I am unavailable for a virtual interview from March 24-26, 2026 due to a prior commitment, should I apply?

Unfortunately, no. Interview dates are fixed, and applicants who are unavailable during this period will not be considered. All applicants should keep **March 24-26, 2026** fully reserved until receiving further notice.

If needed, CIFAR may offer assistance to help offset dependent care costs necessitated by the timing of your scheduled interview. Applicants who require other types of support or accommodations are encouraged to contact us at global.scholars@cifar.ca.

12. What is expected of me, if I am selected as a CIFAR Global Scholar?

During your two-year term as a CIFAR Global Scholar, CIFAR expects you to fulfill the commitments outlined on [page 7](#).

CIFAR understands that exceptional circumstances may arise and will work with you to provide reasonable accommodations where needed. However, if the core expectations are not met over time, your continued participation in the program may be reconsidered.

13. What is the purpose of the CIFAR Global Scholars Annual Meeting?

The Annual Meeting serves as an intellectual retreat for CIFAR Global Scholars. It offers a space for peer networking, sharing research ideas, exploring cross-program collaborations, and developing proposals for seed funding. It also typically includes a leadership development workshop. The goal is to foster a supportive, dynamic community of early-career researchers from across a broad range of disciplines.

14. How many applicants will be accepted? What has been the previous success rate?

Each recruiting research program will accept up to three new CIFAR Global Scholars. Over the past ten years, an average of 6% of eligible applicants have been selected.



"CIFAR is unique in that they do not focus on supporting one of your research projects, but on supporting you as an individual. Through my CIFAR experience, I have grown professionally along dimensions that I would not have even considered before. CIFAR meetings bring together inspiring collections of attendees and speakers from very diverse fields. They encourage you to ask deeper questions, start ambitious projects, and focus on making an impact on society."

Benjamin Rosman, CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars 2022-2024,
Learning in Machines & Brains; University of the Witwatersrand



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