

Call for Applications **The Max Planck Society & Israel Science foundation (ISF) Program**

Building on the close scientific relations between Germany and Israel, we are delighted to announce the launch of a new program. This initiative aims to provide support for Israeli scientists who have received an ISF Personal Research Grant (PRG) and German scientists affiliated with the Max Planck Society (MPG).

The Program was set up in the difficult times following the Hamas terrorist attack against Israel on 7 October 2023. The aim of this program is to help stabilize Israel's world-leading scientific community during the current crisis. In particular, the drop-out of young talents from science is to be prevented and their early return to research in Israel is to be supported. In addition, the program is intended as an expression of solidarity with the Israeli research community and a moral support for our colleagues.

Approach

Partnerships are to be established between Israeli Principal Investigators (PIs) holding an ISF PRG and PIs from the Max Planck Institutes (MPI), in Germany in all areas of research. Within the framework of these partnerships, doctoral students and postdocs (and in special cases also PIs) from Israeli research groups are to be given the unbureaucratic opportunity to continue their research temporarily in the partner groups at the MPI, with project supervision remaining with the Israeli colleagues. This measure is meant to support Israeli and international scientists who had to pause their projects or have been recalled to their home countries due to recent events. Institutes. These temporary research stays can bridge the period during which research in Israel is only possible under difficult conditions. In addition, new collaborations and scientific added value can be created for all those involved.

Support is limited to one trip per PRG which must take place before September 30th, 2025.

Implementation

Up to 1 million Euros will initially be made available for the Max Planck Society - ISF Program from the funds of the Max Planck Foundation.

The scientists (PhD or PostDoc) involved will be selected by the two PIs, who will enter an informal partnership. The PI at the participating MPI can then - on a case-by-case basis and as required - request funds from the program.

Prerequisites for funding - MPG

- Informal matching between a PI holding an ISF PRG and a PI from a Max Planck Institute in Germany
- Appointment of a PhD or Postdoc candidate in the framework of this partnership
- Ongoing payment of the candidate by the Israeli home institution during the stay

- Ongoing supervision by the PI of the sending institution

What can be funded by MPG

Additional costs like

- Travel expenses (according to the German Federal Travel Expenses Act)
- Accommodation costs during the stay according to MPI's guidelines.
- Reasonable expenses in connection with the research project (material costs, experiment costs)

MPG will not be able to pay a monthly salary or fellowship, per-diem, insurance or Visa costs.

ISF will provide supplementary funding for additional costs (such as: travel insurance and per diem not including accommodation).

Possible duration of stay: 3 – 12 weeks (longer in exceptional cases)

The Israeli candidate can either bear the costs herself/himself initially, have them reimbursed by the hosting MPI. The MPI afterwards settles the costs with Max-Planck's Administrative Headquarters or the MPI will cover the costs immediately and then receive them back from Max-Planck's Administrative Headquarters. Both ways are fine.

After the stay, the MPI PI can apply for reimbursement of the costs by sending the bundled receipts to the Max-Planck's Administrative Headquarters.

Procedure

Please send the attached documents via email by **August 1st, 2024**, to all the following 3 addresses:

Unit for International Relations Cooperation with Israel

Dr Lou Bohlen (Head of Office)

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Administrative Headquarters of the Max Planck Society, Munich

And:

Julia Radlewitz (Organisational mediation of partnerships and implementation)

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And:

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Results:

Decisions will be made by the MPG by the end of August. Each organization will inform its PIs.