



German-Israel Scientific Research Program

Call for Joint Pre-Proposals

For the Year 2025/2026

Topics: Cancer Research

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A. General Overview

Within the scientific research framework of Germany-Israeli (BMBF-MOST) and as part of the cooperation program in Cancer Research, the Israeli Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology (MOST) and the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) hereby invite German and Israeli scientists to submit joint pre-proposals for innovative and potentially applicable research projects on all topics and aspects (prevention, diagnosis, therapy) related to the full range of state-of-the art cancer research (basic research/discovery/innovation to preclinical translation/validation and clinical translation).

The potential for cancer therapy should be clearly pointed out.

Clinical trials are not suited for this program.

B. Objectives

The aim of this program is to support the development of scientific and technological cooperation between German and Israeli researchers and to strengthen the scientific partnership between research groups from both countries by establishing bilateral research networks, enhancing research cooperation, and promoting the exchange of knowledge between Israeli and German scientists. **German and Israeli research teams are hereby invited to submit pre-proposals for innovative and potentially applicable research projects specifically in the field of Cancer Research.**

Researchers are encouraged to contact their country representative mention in section O and P in order to find a suitable partner.

C. Mode of Cooperation

Cooperation will take the form of planning and conducting joint research as well as conducting mutual visits between laboratories for the purpose of facilitating the research.

Each joint research team may submit one project only.

D. Level of Funding

- It is the intention of the parties of this Call to fund selected research proposals hereunder for a term of three years. However, funding must be approved on an annual basis, with the funding for the second and the third years to be approved in accordance with the provisions of the research contract and the relevant regulations.
- It is the intention of the joint program to support **6 joint projects**. However, the final number of projects to be supported will be determined based on scientific evaluation and budgetary considerations. **Proposals should present a plan for a three-year research project.** Contracts will be signed accordingly.
- The total maximum funding for the Israeli part of all research projects approved under this Call is 774,000 euros (3,096,000 NIS based on the conversion rate of 4 NIS / 1 euro), for a 3-years-period.
- For Israeli's PI's - The allocation for each approved research project will be up to **43,000 Euro per year (172,000 NIS** based on the conversion rate of 4 NIS / 1 Euro) for the three-year project period. The **total** maximum project funding for **each** research project approved under this Call **129,000 Euro** (equivalent to **516,000 NIS**), over a three-year period.
- For German's PI's - The allocation for each approved research project is according to the guidelines of the international PhD program of DKFZ. Details are given on the respective topic at the DKFZ website (<https://www.dkfz.de/en/israel/call.html>).
- Expected starting date of the approved projects is **September 1st, 2026**.
- Funding for the approved projects depends on the approval of State budget and the availability of funds on each side.



E. Eligibility

Proposals that do not meet the following preconditions will be automatically rejected and will not be passed on to the scientific committee for review and evaluation.

1. The proposed project must be submitted by Israeli researchers and German researchers holding a DKFZ PI status to be carried out in close cooperation.
2. Each joint research team must be led by a Principal Investigator (PI) from each country.
3. The Principal Investigator (PI) on each side must be affiliated with academic institutions and research centers, as determined in each country.

In Israel;

- i. An accredited institution of higher education in Israel, according to the Council for Higher Education Act, 1958; or
- ii. A research institute, which is a nonprofit organization, a government company or a governmental unit.

For the purposes of this Call a "**research institute**" means an institute whose main activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific knowledge, which possesses appropriate infrastructure and equipment, and which employs researchers who, inter alia, publish articles related to their research in leading scientific journals and who present their research at international symposia.

In Germany;

- i. DKFZ PIs, including DKFZ PIs as leaders of a DKFZ research unit at nationwide partner sites in the frame of e.g. the German Cancer Consortium (DKTK), National Center for Tumor Disease (NCT), HI-TRON Mainz, DKFZ Hector Cancer Institute and DKFZ Site Dresden; for more information please see: <https://www.dkfz.de/en/research/translational-centers>
4. A PI may apply for funding under the framework of this program providing that a period of at least one year will exist from the end of the last period of funding as PI until the starting of the new one under this Call. For the purposes of compliance with this term, please note that the expected start of funding under this Call will be 1.9.26.
 5. Current note regarding bilateral projects with Israeli partners in education and science available at:

https://www.bmbf.de/EN/Research/InternationalAffairs/AfricaAndMiddleEast/Israel/israel_node.html

Special eligibility provisions for Israeli Researchers:

6. Israeli PIs and Associated PIs must meet the requirements of those roles as defined in the MOST's Procedures Regarding Scientific Projects Funded by MOST ("MOST Regulations"). Accordingly, Israeli PIs must be a permanent employee of their affiliated institution or on track for tenure in the affiliated institution, while also acting as director of an independent research group, or a researcher who, according to the institution's procedures, is entitled to submit research proposals on behalf of the institution, and provided that the researcher holds a Ph.D. or an M.D. degree. Additionally, a retired researcher with a Ph.D. or Professor Emeritus degree, who continues to maintain contact with the institution and directs an active independent research group may submit a proposal as PI or Associated PI.
7. In compliance with MOST Regulations, an Israeli PI that has or will have an active grant from any of MOST's international cooperation programs, whose funding will be concurrent to the funding of this program, is not eligible to apply. No parallel funding is allowed in the international cooperation program. A researcher, who is not eligible to submit a proposal as PI due to an active grant may submit one additional proposal in the international cooperation program as Associated -PI, if he does not have an active grant in the international program in which he acts as Associated -PI.
8. A researcher, who has submitted a proposal for any MOST international cooperation call for funding in the 2026 calendar year may not submit another proposal for any other MOST international cooperation call for funding in 2026.
9. Please be advised that after a proposal has been submitted, the status of the members of the research team as Principal Investigator-PI and/ or Associated-PI may not be changed for the purposed of compliance with the eligibility requirements listed above.

F. Additional Provisions

1. For the Israeli side, the application should be submitted through the Science Forefront Site, <https://kf.most.gov.il>.

In order to apply for the first time, the applicant needs to fill an "account request" in the Science Forefront system. The request should be approved by the research authority of the Institute. Once approved, the applicant will be notified by email that the account is active. The approval process may take time and therefore it is advised to submit a request well in advance of the deadline.

2. For the German applicants, no upfront registration at DKFZ prior to submission of the proposals is requested.
3. German and Israeli Principal Investigators (and affiliated academic institutions) are respectively responsible to DKFZ and to Israeli MOST for the execution of the project.
4. Proposals for which funding is approved, which include experiments with animals, must submit the approval of the relevant Committee for Experimentation on Animals before starting the project to MOST/DKFZ.
5. Proposals for which funding is approved, which involve human subjects, must submit the approval of the relevant Helsinki Ethics Committee before the project can commence.

More information for Israeli applicants can be found in the attached submission instructions and the MOST Procedures Regarding Scientific Projects Funded by MOST (the "MOST Regulations").

More information for German applicants can be found on DKFZ's website of the German-Israeli Cooperation (<https://www.dkfz.de/en/israel/call.html>).

It is strongly recommended that the German and Israeli research teams and their institutions enter into agreements regarding intellectual property rights prior to the start of collaborative activities.

Researchers experiencing difficulties in finding a partner at the DKFZ or in Israel may ask for assistance from either one of the Program Coordinators, Dr. Sharon Yagur-Kroll, Director of Biomedical Research at MOST or Prof. Dr. Peter Angel, German Coordinator of the DKFZ-MOST Cooperation); see below contact information.

G. Submission of Research Pre-Proposals

Joint deadline for applications: 14th August 2025, by 15:00 (local time)

Pre-Proposals will not be accepted under any circumstances after the specified date and hour.

For Israeli Research Teams only:

- i. **Deadline for researchers' submission:** The **Principal Investigator** must submit the pre-proposals in **English** via the "Science Forefront" system(<https://kf.most.gov.il>) a week before the final Joint Deadline, by **7th August 2025 by 15:00 (local time)**. The online system will be closed for submissions by the specified date and hour and no submissions will be accepted under any circumstances after the due date. It should be emphasized that a Israeli researchers, who will not submit his pre-proposal **7th August, 2025 by 15:00 (local time)** will not be able to do so at a later date.
- ii. A proposal that has been submitted can be edited by the PI, in coordination with the Affiliated Institution, until the final joint submission deadline
- iii. The Affiliated Institution must submit the proposal not later than by the final deadline on **14th August 2025 at 15:00 local time (Israel time)**. Proposals that are not submitted by the Affiliated Institution through the Science Forefront system by this time, **will not be accepted**.
- iv. Please be advised that as technical problems are possible, and the submission process may take a significant amount of time. **Therefore, it is strongly recommended to fulfil the above steps well in advance of the applications deadlines.**

For German Research Teams only:

Application forms for DKFZ PIs are obtainable on DKFZ's website of the German-Israeli Cooperation (<https://intranet.dkfz.de/en/unser-zentrum/translational-standorte-kooperationen/german-israeli-cooperation-in-cancer-research>). The use of the updated forms is obligatory.

The German researcher must file his/her application with the DKFZ by e-mail (in "pdf" format duly signed, along with a working copy in "doc" format without signatures) on the relevant application form (For DKFZ scientists (only) the forms may be downloaded from the DKFZ Intranet).

H. Funded expenses

Generally, funding may be assigned to costs related to the bilateral nature of the project (travel expenses of the researchers, scientific meetings, etc.) as well as to defray costs incurred by the approved research projects (disposables, publication costs, etc.).

For the Israeli side only: project funds may be used in accordance with the MOST Regulations. Specific provisions regarding permissible use of project funds are set out in the MOST Regulations and the research contract.

Participating scientists are encouraged to plan mutual visits to their counterparts' institutions. The visits must take place in Germany or in Israel only. Visits to third countries may not be financed by project funds.

Further funding provisions for the Israeli side:

- Please see full funding provisions on MOST [Procedures Regarding Scientific Projects](#) Funded by MOST ("[MOST Regulations](#)"). All activities and funding pursuant to this Call must be in accordance with MOST Regulations unless otherwise specified.

I. Status Seminar

A status seminar will be held in the **April -May period** of each research year in order to evaluate and provide feedback by the Joint Scientific Program Committee on the progress/results of funded projects. At the status seminar, every Israeli-German research group will present its research results, including each side's contribution to the research, the overall results, and the cooperation between the two research groups. In addition, an annual report should be submitted 2 months prior the seminar. The relevant expenses for travel and accommodations for the seminar should be included in the project budget proposal.

J. Instructions for writing the joint pre-proposals

Please note that upon submission, the submitting researchers takes full responsibility for all content included in the proposal and the attached documents, even if technological means and/or artificial intelligence tools were used in preparing the proposal. If it is found that a

submitted proposal includes information, facts, or data that are not accurate, reliable, or trustworthy, the proposal may be rejected.

General: Each joint pre-proposal should be written in English and must be identical for both PI's. The application should be submitted in both countries, if only one partner organization receives the pre-proposal, it will not be considered for funding.

Please note that the Israeli partner should submit the proposal to its institute research authority one week before the deadline.

Font - Times New Roman 11, space between lines – 1.5.

1. **Abstract** – max 1500 characters including spaces.
2. **Pre-proposal** should be no more than 1 page, including figures (not including bibliography), and should include the following sections:
 - a) Specific goal of the project;
 - b) Rational and scientific background;
 - c) Experimental approach;
 - d) Nature of cooperation.
3. **Bibliography** - Please add 10 full citations relevant to the pre-proposal
4. **CV** – short CV for each partner/PI, up to 1 page for each applicant, including the five most relevant papers of each applicant.
5. **Letter of intent** from the research PIs in both countries affirming their intent to collaborate on the proposed research.
6. **Additional approvals** depending on the type of study (Helsinki approval, work with animals, etc.) – please submit certificates of application to the various parties or final certificates If it does not exist, a statement must be attached (in free text) that if the proposal is approved, the researcher will submit the approval in accordance with what is required for the purposes of the research.
7. **In Israel only** (Additional data for the Science Forefront system):
 - a) Short abstract (up to 1500 characters in Hebrew and English).
 - b) Applicability up to 1000 characters in Hebrew.
 - c) Adapting the research to the sub-themes defined in the call up to 500 characters in Hebrew/English

- d) Do not add additional documents beyond what is specified above and in the attached guidelines for submission to the Science Forefront system.

K. Instructions for writing the joint Full-Proposals

Pre-proposals that are chosen for submission of a full proposal, will be asked to submit their full-proposal in accordance with the following terms and instructions:

General: The full-proposal should be written in English and identical. The application should be submitted in both countries; if only one partner organization receives the full-proposal, it will not be considered for funding. The proposal should be submitted using a unified application form available at each side's websites.

Please note that the Israeli partner should submit the proposal to its institute research authority one week before the deadline.

Font - Times New Roman 11, space between the lines: 1.5.

1. **Full proposal** should be up to 10 pages, including figures (not including bibliography), and should include the following sections:
 - a. **Abstract** – max 1500 characters including spaces
 - b. **Scientific background and state of the art** - Scientific background, including an overview of the field of research on an international level, noting the expected gain of knowledge of the proposed research;
 - c. **Research objectives and specific aims** - The purpose of the study
 - d. **Detailed description of the proposed research** - Working hypothesis, research Program and methods and preliminary results.
 - e. **Significance, innovation and potential benefits of the proposed research** - The importance, innovation and benefits of the proposed study
 - f. **Applicability** - Expected uses and future technological development
 - g. **Mode of cooperation between the research groups** – The benefit of the proposed collaboration and how it contributes to the advancement of the project
 - h. **Work plan and Gantt**: The work plan will be summarized in a schedule diagram. A verbal description of the work steps must be included. Each stage will be defined by a start time and an end time

2. **Bibliography** - A complete bibliographic list should be attached to the proposed study.
The five most relevant items for the proposed study should be marked with an asterisk.
3. **In Israel only** (Additional data for the Science Forefront system):
 - a. Please specify 5 researchers from abroad (except DKFZ-affiliated colleagues). All the researchers need to have expertise in the field of the proposal, and could serve as potential external reviewers (with no conflict of interest: Joint research, from the same department or supervisor/student relationship).
 - b. **Budget request** - enter the requested budget in ILS.
The budget of the researcher from abroad must be entered in a general way in the section designated for this purpose.
 - c. Do not add any additional documents beyond what is specified above and in the attached guidelines for submission to the Science Forefront system .

L. Proposal Review

A joint Israeli German scientific committee, composed of about 3 expert scientists from each country, will jointly select the external reviewers and evaluate the pre-proposals and full-proposals to formulate recommendations as to which proposals will be funded.

The pre-proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- 1) Originality and scientific quality, 50%
- 2) Probability of fruitful interaction and cooperation between the Israeli and German partners, 30%
- 3) Conformity with defined **innovative** and potentially **applicable therapy** cancer research, 20%

The full proposal will be evaluated rated, and approved by the Committee, taking into consideration the professional external reviews by the referees (see above), based on the following criteria:

1. Scientific level (25%) - Scientific and technological excellence, the scientific basis of research.

2. Innovation (20%) - the degree of innovation and originality of the research proposed in comparison to the state of the art.
3. Methodology (20%) - The extent to which the proposed method of conducting the research is qualitative, feasible and consistent with the proposed objectives.
4. Applicability potential (20%) - The contribution to the development of new applied scientific and technological advancement in the field.
5. Capability of the researcher and level of bi-national cooperation (15%) - based on the experience, previous achievements and skills of the researchers and level of collaboration and compatible skills of partners.

M. Contracts, Payments and Reports

1. Contracts

Upon approval of a project proposal, contracts will be signed in Israel and in Germany between the relevant Ministry and the Principal Investigators' institutions.

2. Payments

On the Israeli side, payments will be made by MOST to the PI's institution, in keeping with the provisions of the contracts referred to above.

On the German side, research funds will be organized by the Grants Office and Finance and Accounting Department of DKFZ.

3. Annual Reports

Continuation of the funding for a second or third year are subject to the approval of the scientific annual report by the Joint Scientific Program Committee covering the work and cooperation carried out during the current year project period, in accordance with the contract's requirements.

The Scientific Annual report should be submitted two months before the Status Seminar. In Israel, application for the continuation of research funding for the second and third year must be submitted to MOST by the Research Institution of Israeli Principal Investigator on the appropriate forms through the Science Forefront system at <https://kf.most.gov.il>, at least two months prior to the end of the first year and the second year of the project together with the annual scientific report.

in addition the PIs should, submit a financial report which should be sent to MOST at: Financial@most.gov.il (or via the new online submission system of MOST).

4. Final Reports

Within three months of the conclusion of the project, both PIs must submit a joint final report in English.

Israeli PIs must submit a final Scientific and Financial reports covering the work and cooperation carried out during the entire three-year project period, in accordance with the contract's requirements, Financial reports should be submitted via Email to MOST at: Financial reports (or via the new online submission system of MOST).

German PIs must submit a final report via Email to the administrative office of this program at DKFZ: p.angel@dkfz.de.

N. Special Provisions Regarding the Israeli Applicant

All procedures and activities under this Call or the projects approved hereinafter, including the eligibility of Affiliated Institutions via which applications must be filed and the eligibility of PI's and Associated -PI's, are subject to MOST Regulations and to MOST Standard Contract for Scientific Projects ("[Standard Terms](#)"). Additionally, MOST reserves the right to take into account national security considerations when considering applications.

Applicants are required to familiarize themselves with the Standard Terms before filing an application under this Call. Filing an application constitutes a declaration that the applicant has done so and agrees to be bound by the Standard Terms' provisions thereof. Please note any updates made to the standard terms made before the final submission date will apply to proposals submitted to this Call.

O. Additional Information in Germany

Additional **scientific information** may be obtained from:

Prof. Dr. Peter Angel

Coordinator of the DKFZ-MOST Cooperation

Head of Division Signal Transduction and Growth Control

Tel: +49-6221-424570

E-mail: p.angel@dkfz.de



On administrative matters:

Mrs. Christiane Haase

Management of the DKFZ-MOST Cooperation

E-mail: christiane.haase@dkfz.de

P. Additional Information in Israel

On scientific matters:

Dr. Sharon Yagur-Kroll

Scientific Director for Biomedical Research

E-mail: sharonyk@most.gov.il , 02-5411862

On administrative matters:

Israeli researchers should consult administrative matters directly with the Research Authority at their Affiliated Institution. The Institution will contact the Ministry in case of necessity.

Representative of the International Division for this CFP:

Ms. Shani Edri

Head of Department

Division for International Relations

Ministry of Innovation Science and Technology

shanie@most.gov.il

Q. Application Forms

This call for proposals and application forms are available at the following Internet addresses:

For the Israeli team: <http://www.most.gov.il/>

For the Germany team: <https://intranet.dkfz.de/en/unser-zentrum/translationale-standorte-kooperationen/german-israeli-cooperation-in-cancer-research>