

The PBC Fellowship Program for Outstanding Chinese and Indian Post-Doctoral Fellows

Applications for the Academic Year 2018/2019

Regulations and Guidelines:

1. Background

Based on the Planning and Budgeting Committee's (PBC) policy principles on international students (June 2016), as well as the success of the PBC fellowship program for outstanding post-doctoral researchers between the academic years 2012/3-2017/8, the PBC has decided to continue the fellowship program for the 2018/19 academic year. Accordingly, the PBC will finance 45 three-year fellowships¹ for outstanding researchers from China and India in the 2018/19 academic year. Candidates will be selected based on their academic quality as assessed by the academic evaluation committees.

2. Program Goals

- 2.1. Increase the number of outstanding international post-doctoral researchers in Israel and strengthen the research groups in Israeli universities.
- 2.2. Enhance academic cooperation and research collaboration 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 during the academic year 2018/19. Each fellowship will be awarded for two years, with the option of extending for a third year with the approval of the evaluation

¹ The fellowships are authorized for two years with the option of extending for a third year.

committee. The fellowships will be allocated in one round and according to clause 5 of the call for proposals.

- 3.2. The selected post-doctoral fellows will receive 115,000 NIS per academic year for two years, with the option of extending the fellowship to a third 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. 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 at the end of the fellowship, travel for conferences, workshops, and meetings during 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. If the annual amount of 5,000 NIS is not utilized during the academic year, the remaining sum will roll over to the following year. The universities will be responsible for the administration of the travel budget.
- 3.3. The fellowship funding period will commence in October 2018 and finish at latest in October 2021, and on the basis of the submission of signed financial reports from the university at the end of each year.
- 3.4. Fellows are required to arrive in Israel by 1 March 2019. Fellows who do not arrive by this date will have to forfeit the fellowship.
- 3.5. In the event that a post-doctoral fellow wishes to change supervisors or move to a different Israeli university during his/her fellowship, the fellow must submit a request for approval to the evaluation committee.
- 3.6. Please note that supervisors are eligible to supervise a maximum of two PBC post-doctoral fellows. Applications of candidates and supervisors that 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 candidates commits to the university:
 - i. To request approval from the university for any suspension in research of two months or more. The university shall not approve a suspension of research for

longer than one year. In any case, the fellowship cannot be extended beyond October 2021.

- 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 5,000 NIS per year to the fellow to cover travel expenses according to Clause 3.2.
 - 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 per request of the CHE & PBC.

4. Guidelines for Application Submission

- 4.1. Each university is entitled to submit up to 15 eligible candidates in response to this call for proposals. Each university shall independently evaluate its candidates and submit its selected candidates to the PBC, in order of preference. Candidates may only be submitted to the PBC by Israeli universities. The universities are responsible for setting the internal timetable for submission and evaluation. The application form is listed in Annex I. The evaluation committees will take the universities' preferences into account but are not obligated to act accordingly.
- 4.1.1. Candidates should be submitted according to the format listed in Annex I in a Word or Excel file. The universities are requested to not submit the candidates in any other format.
- 4.1 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. The university is responsible for ensuring the candidates' academic level, research ability and English competency.

4.2 Applications should include:

- 1) Completed application form and signed declaration (attached).
- 2) Official letter from university signed by rector.
- 3) Copy of official academic degree certificates in English (Bachelors, Masters, PhD if relevant).
- 4) For candidates who have not yet finished their PhD, a confirmation from the relevant authority where the doctorate is being carried out, authorizing that the candidate will fulfill 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.
- 5) Curriculum Vitae including list of publications, mentioning the impact factor of the journals in which the papers were published, if relevant. Please refrain from writing over two passages about each patent (if relevant).
- 6) A summary of the doctoral dissertation (up to one page).
- 7) A summary of the research plan in Israel, including the reasons for choice of institution and academic supervisor and the existing connection, if any, at the time of submission (up to 2 pages).
- 8) Three recommendation letters, not including the Israeli supervisor.
- 9) Letter of consent from the supervisor at the Israeli university. Letters should provide detailed information about the candidate's potential contribution and reasons for taking on the candidate.

4.3 All required information should be sent by the university in two separate PDF files: administrative (containing items 1-4) and academic (containing items 5-9).

5 **Selection Procedure**

5.1 The selection of fellows will be carried out by academic committees, 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 selected fellows.
- 5.3 At least 50 percent of the candidates submitted by each university shall be female. Any exception to this shall be accompanied by a well-based explanation by the university.
- 5.4 The selection of fellows will be based on academic excellence as reflected by the level of publications, recommendation letters, etc. and based on the rankings of the evaluation committees. The selection of fellows will be announced during February 2018.
- 5.5 45 fellowships are available to be awarded in this cycle. However, the evaluation committees are not obligated to award all the fellowships if they find the academic level of the candidates to be unsatisfactory.
- 5.6 Each university may submit no more than 2 candidates under the same supervisor in this cycle. In addition, submitting a candidate during a certain cycle does not prevent him or her from re-applying in the future (from 2018/2019).
- 5.7 Candidates are forbidden from applying through more than one university.
- 5.8 The universities should avoid submitting candidates who do not meet the fellowship's criteria.
- 5.9 The selection process will be done on a national level (not on a university level). The fellowship will be awarded 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 evaluation committees will take into consideration the universities' priorities, but are not obligated to act accordingly.

6 Selection Criteria

The candidates shall fulfill the following requirements:

- 6.1 Candidates must apply to the university by **11.11.2017** and the university must submit its candidates via the application form by **30.11.2017**.

- 6.1.1 Universities may set a different internal deadline, but they may not submit applications to the PBC later than the date stated above.
- 6.2 All candidates shall be citizens 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 this fellowship.
- 6.3 Candidates must hold a doctorate or post-doctorate degree for whom, on the date of publishing this notice (22 August 2017), 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.
- 6.4 Candidates may be submitted who have not yet received their doctoral degree by the date of submission, on condition that they will provide confirmation from the relevant authority where the doctorate is being carried out, authorizing that the candidate will fulfill all of his/her academic obligations and is expected to receive his/her doctoral degree during his/her first year of study in Israel. 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.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 Candidates who commenced a post-doctoral position in Israel prior to the publication of this notice (22 August 2017) are not eligible to apply for the fellowship.

7 Evaluation and Financial Reporting Procedures

- 7.1 At the end of each academic year, an academic report and a financial report will be sent to the PBC as follows:

- 7.1.1 During 2019/2020 academic year – After 6 months of work (during April) the supervising professor shall submit a report expressing his/her wishes to continue the fellowship.
- 7.1.2 During 2020/2021 academic year – After 18 months of work (during April) the supervising professor shall submit a report detailing the fellow's work to date. This report will be assessed by the evaluation committee, which will decide whether to extend the fellowship to a third year.
- 7.1.3 During 2021/2022 academic year – By the end of September two reports must be submitted: 1) A final report by the supervising professor summarizing the fellow's work and assessing the program (in line with the format to be provided). 2) A final assessment report by the fellow (in line with the format to be provided).
- 7.1.4 Each year by September 30, the university must submit a financial report.
- 7.2 The university must 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.
- 7.3 Based on these reports, the sum of the fellowship will be transferred to the university. The annual renewal of the fellowship depends on the assessment and approval of the evaluation committees.

8 **Timeline for submission**

- 8.1 The deadline for candidates to submit an application to the university is November 11, 2017, 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 November 30, 2017.
- 8.3 Candidates will be informed of the outcome of their application by February 2018.