

Please note:

- The Israeli PI is required to register and submit an administrative application via the ISF online system.
- Researchers who do not have an account in the ISF's system will register to open an account and verify their details (this procedure does not constitute registration for submitting a proposal as described above. After opening an account and verifying details, you will then need to register for submitting an application).
- Registrations for administrative applications on the ISF's website are due by **October 14, 2024**, at 13:00 (Jerusalem time).
- Submissions of administrative applications on the ISF's website are due by **November 12, 2024**, at 13:00 (Jerusalem time).
- Submission of the Joint full application via the DFG electronic submission system ("elan") by the German PI is due by **October 30, 2024**.

ISF-DFG

Main Guideline Principles for Administrative Submission

This file includes the following:

1. General information
2. Eligibility
3. Basic rules

Full detailed Guidelines will be published by mid-September.

1. General Information

1.1. Introduction

The funding program aims to encourage scientific research cooperation between Israeli and German researchers. It is designated to support basic research proposals, which will be selected according to their excellence and scientific quality, in all fields of knowledge.

The funding program is activated according to the "Lead Agency" model, due to an agreement of cooperation between the Israel Science Foundation (ISF) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation). According to this model, the submission of joint research proposals and the evaluation process is carried out alternately by one of the foundations, (which in turn serves as the 'Lead Agency'). This is done within the main submission track of each foundation and according to its rules.

The DFG will serve as the Lead Agency in this first submission round. Full joint proposals will be submitted and evaluated at the DFG via "elan", the DFG's electronic submission system, by the German Principal Investigator (PI). All relevant details can be found in the DFG Information for Researchers ([here](#)).

In addition, the Israeli researchers will submit an administrative application via the ISF online system.

The funding organizations aim to support the proposals among the top 20 percent in the respective evaluation.

1.1.1. Each team will include at least one Israeli Principal Investigator (PI) and at least one PI from Germany. The Total number of Israeli PIs will not exceed four.

1.1.2. The Israeli PIs are funded via the ISF according to its regulations. The German PIs are funded by the DFG according to its regulations.

1.1.3. One Joint full application will be submitted by the German PI in English via the DFG's submission system ("elan") the guidelines for the full application submissions may be found [here](#).

1.1.4. The Israeli researcher is required to register and submit an administrative application via the ISF on-line system.

1.2. Criteria for evaluating the research proposals:

1.2.1. The sole criterion for evaluating the research proposal is scientific excellence. Only outstanding proposals are funded. Each proposal is assessed by several professional criteria, further details can be found [here](#).

1.2.2. **Please note:** The researcher's age and gender **are not** criteria in evaluating the research proposal. The researcher's ability to conduct the proposed research independently is an integral part of the considerations of the professional committees. The committees are authorized to reject a proposal submitted by a researcher who, in the committee's opinion, does not meet this criterion.

1.2.3. The ISF may reject an application for administrative reasons or due to incompatibility with the program as part of the eligibility check.

2. Eligibility

2.1. **Applications must adhere to the eligibility rules of both foundations (ISF and DFG).**

2.2. **Eligibility of the German researchers and German Institutions can be found [here](#) .**

2.3. Eligibility of Israeli researchers:

2.3.1. Researchers in Israel who hold a PhD or MD degree and are employed in at least a 50% position at an institution recognized as eligible for submission to the ISF (see 2.2 below) and who have the authority, ability and means required to independently conduct scientific research throughout the grant period.

- Included in this category: Members of the senior academic staff on tenure track of institutions of higher education accredited by the Council of Higher Education (CHE) and/or funded by the Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC), or researchers who will hold such academic appointments throughout the research period.
- Researchers from institutions that are not institutions of higher education, provided that the institution meets the conditions stipulated in section 2.2, who have permanent appointments at the institution or researchers who will have such appointments throughout the research period.

2.3.2. All the applicants, must hold an ORCID ID.

2.3.3. Members of the ISF's council and management are not eligible to submit proposals in the framework of this program.

2.4. Eligibility of the Israeli Institutions:

2.4.1. Institutions recognized by the ISF whose researchers are eligible to submit proposals in this track include:

- Institutions of higher education in Israel that are accredited by the CHE or funded by the PBC.
- Hospitals or hospital departments in Israel that are affiliated with an institution of higher education.

2.4.2. Israeli institutions for scientific research (or Israeli institutions with a unit conducting basic scientific research) approved by the ISF for submission of grant applications. The conditions and procedure for the ISF's approval of a research institution appear [here](#).

2.4.3. Proposals submitted by researchers from research divisions of commercial industrial companies will not be funded.

3. Basic Rules

3.1. Upon submitting a grant application, the researchers confirm that they accept the ISF's guidelines and the Lead Agency evaluation process.

- 3.2. The grant will be awarded for a research project performed in Israel, and in Germany in coordination with the respective relevant institution's authority.
- 3.3. The grants are for a period of up to three years.
- 3.4. Each funding organization (DFG or ISF) will fund its researchers according to its regulations.
- 3.5. The main characteristics (financial aspects/ reports) of the grant are in agreement with the Personal Research Grant program.
- 3.6. The researchers undertake to attain all the necessary authority approvals needed for carrying out the research and to provide them on request at any time.
- 3.7. A new grant will not be activated if the researcher has yet to complete scientific obligations related to a previous active ISF grant in one of the ISF's tracks.
- 3.8. A proposal may be submitted to the ISF only if it is substantially different from other proposals submitted to/funded by the ISF or by another entity in Israel or abroad. By submitting a proposal to the ISF, the researcher commits to refrain from submitting a substantially similar proposal to the ISF or to another entity in Israel or abroad during this academic year. An investigator submitting more than one proposal in the same broad field during the same academic year, must notify the ISF, provide details and clarify the essential differences between the submitted proposal and the other proposals. An application that is found very similar to another, as just described, will be rejected.
 - * A substantially different proposal is one based on a research question and/or a general goal, and with specific research objectives that are significantly different from those defined in a research proposal previously submitted to the ISF.
- 3.9. The Israeli researchers may submit only one application in only one track to the ISF within each cycle year.
- 3.10. **Resubmitting a proposal** - a proposal should be defined as a resubmission if it is not significantly and substantially different (see * in section 3.6) from a research proposal previously submitted to one of the ISF's programs. A proposal previously rejected by the ISF may be resubmitted one more time (in any chosen track), unless the rejection letter specifies otherwise.
- 3.11. **The researchers submitting the proposal:**
 - 3.11.1. Each team will include at least one Israeli Principal Investigator (PI) and at least one PI from Germany. The Total number of Israeli PIs will not exceed four.
 - 3.11.2. Each Israeli Principal Investigator (PI) can submit and/or participate only in one application in the competition.
 - 3.11.3. If for any reason (leaving the country, retirement, etc.), the researchers cannot continue as a PI, the respective agency should be updated immediately.
 - 3.11.4. The PIs are held by the respective funding agencies as responsible and in charge of the research.

- 3.11.5. The application is evaluated according to the format submitted to the Lead Agency. Hence, the respective agencies have no mandate to fund it should any modifications be made. Therefor:
- 3.11.5.1. The Israeli PIs' status cannot be changed.
 - 3.11.5.2. In the event that one of the researchers who submitted the proposal leaves the research project, for any reason, funding of the Israeli PI will be terminated, and the grant will be closed.
 - 3.11.5.3. An Israeli PI who moves to another institution may transfer the grant to the new institution (including dedicated equipment), provided that this institution is on the list of institutions whose researchers are eligible to submit proposals to the ISF. In such cases, agreement of both institutions is required.
 - 3.11.5.4. An Israeli PI may go on sabbatical or take unpaid leave for up to half of the grant period. A researcher who goes on sabbatical or takes unpaid leave must inform the ISF of the dates of departure and return and confirm that he/she will be able to manage the research even during the planned absence. If, for any reason, the researcher is unable to manage the research during this period, he/she must appoint a replacement and receive the ISF's approval. Any extension of the sabbatical or leave beyond this period will result in the closing of the grant.
- 3.12. Proposals involving applied research will be accepted only if the research is in its basic stage, and not in the development stage. Proposals involving translational research may be submitted. (Translational research is the continuation of basic research and aims to increase the feasibility of applying the knowledge acquired during the basic research.)
- 3.13. Applications of the following nature are not accepted within this program: Clinical trials Survey or descriptive nature programs publishing findings alone, database preparation, book publishing, translation work and preparation of bibliographies.
- 3.14. The ISF has no interest in intellectual property and royalties deriving from the products of funded research project.
- 3.15. Any deviation from these rules requires a prior written approval from the ISF.