



Max Planck Israel Programme

Objective:

Building on the close scientific relations between Germany and Israel, and in particular between the Max Planck Society and the Weizmann Institute, a Max Planck Israel Programme will be established in the difficult times following the Hamas terrorist attack against Israel on 7 October 2023. The aim of this programme 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 programme 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 Principal Investigators (PIs) at Israeli research institutions and Max Planck Institutes. Within the framework of these partnerships, doctoral students and postdocs from Israeli research groups are to be given the unbureaucratic opportunity to continue their research temporarily in the partner groups at the MPG, with project supervision remaining with the Israeli colleagues. This measure is also meant to support international scientists currently affiliated with Israeli universities, a research organization in Israel, or the Weizmann Institute, who have been recalled to their home countries due to recent events, and also strengthens the exchange of Israeli scientists with Max Planck 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. The respective presidents of the universities and the Weizmann Institute as well as the management of the MPIs and the MPG will be informed about successful matches.

Implementation:

Up to 1 million Euros will initially be made available for the Max Planck Israel Programme from the funds of the Max Planck Foundation. The programme is initially limited to two years. The scientists involved will be selected by the two PIs, who will enter into an informal partnership. The PI at the participating MPI can then - on a case-by-case basis and as required - request funds from the programme, which are then spent by the PI at the MPI.

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