The Max Planck Israel Programme

Building on the close scientific relations between Germany and Israel, and in particular between the Max Planck Society and the Weizmann Institute, the **Max-Planck Israel Programme** was originally set up in the difficult times following the Hamas terrorist attack against Israel on 7 October 2023. Due to the current and ongoing war situation, the program was extended until the **end of December 2026**.

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 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 MPG, with project supervision remaining with the Israeli colleagues. This measure is meant to support Israeli and international scientists currently affiliated with the six Israeli universities (Tel Aviv University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Bar-Ilan University, Technion, University of Haifa and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev) and the Weizmann Institute, who had to pause their projects or have been recalled to their home countries due to recent events. The programme also strengthens the exchange of Israeli and international 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.

Implementation

Up to 1 million Euros were initially be made available for the Max Planck Israel Programme from the funds of the Max Planck Foundation.
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.

Prerequisites for funding

- Informal matching between a PI at one of the six Israeli universities or the Weizmann Institute and a PI from a Max Planck Institute in Germany;
- Appointment of a PhD or Postdoc candidate in the frame of this partnership;
- Ongoing payment of the candidate by the home institution during the stay;
- Ongoning supervision by the PI of the sending institution.

What can be funded

Additional costs like

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

We are not able to pay a monthly salary or fellowship!

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

Required documents

- Joint letter (in English please, one PDF file is sufficient) of both PIs, which answers the following
    - Who is the candidate?
    - From which Israeli institution will the candidate continue to receive a salary/fellowship?
    - Start and duration of the stay;
    - What is planned during the research stay?
    - What is the anticipated added value of the stay?
- Initial calculation of the costs incurred
- CV of the candidate

Procedure

Please send the documents via email to:

Unit for International Relations Cooperation with Israel
Stefanie Gottschalk (organisational mediation of partnerships and implementation)
E-mail: stefanie.gottschalk@gv.mpg.de
Phone: +49 89 2108-1490
Administrative Headquarters of the Max Planck Society, Munich

Dr Lou Bohlen (Head of Office)
E-mail: Lou.Bohlen@gv.mpg.de
Phone: +49 89 2108-1420
Administrative Headquarters of the Max Planck Society, Munich

Hila Elroy (organisational mediation of partnerships and implementation)
E-mail: hila.elroy@gv.mpg.de
Max-Planck-Israel Office of the Max Planck Society, Jerusalem

After checking the documents, the candidate can start his/her research stay at the Max Planck Institute. 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.

After the stay, the MPI can apply for reimbursement of the costs by sending us the bundled receipts. The respective MPIs (not on an individual basis) pay in advance and then settle the costs incurred with us.