

To the attention of researchers in higher education institutions

Dear researchers,

The Israel-Italy research exchange pilot program is part of the cooperation agreement entered into by the Council for Higher Education and the Italian Foreign Affairs and Education Ministries on 1 September 2015. It was agreed that the pilot program would run for three years: each year an Israeli party (Council for Higher Education) would contribute up to EUR 40,000 from its own funds towards the hosting of one Italian researcher for a work visit to an Israeli research university; an Italian party, working under the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Conference of Italian University Rectors, would likewise fund a work visit of one Israeli researcher to an Italian institution.

It is now possible to submit nominations for the two remaining cycles of the program. Issuing the call for proposals, reviewing the candidates and selecting the winners will be done by and under the responsibility of the research universities in each country.

Preconditions and criteria

A. Preconditions

This call for proposals is addressed to researchers who are tenured faculty members in research universities and are interested **in nominating an Italian faculty member whom they would like to host** for a period of at least four months.

B. Criteria

1. Proposals will be reviewed according to standard academic criteria for research excellence and taking into account the lists of publications of the nominator and the nominee.
2. Particular emphasis will be placed on potential for leveraging the proposed cooperation for future joint work.
3. The potential for using each institution's unique infrastructure to promote joint research will likewise be emphasized.

Reviewing and selection

A review committee consisting of representatives from all research universities in Israel will be established, and will perform its duties in line with the principles outlined in the decision of the Planning and Budgeting Committee in this matter, dated 13 November 2016.

Proposal submission

- a. The nominating faculty member will submit a proposal to which should be attached all relevant documentation and accreditations required to review the proposal in accordance with the criteria listed above.
- b. Proposals should be sent by email as single PDF files with the nominating researchers' names appearing in the title. Proposals should include:

- A cover page featuring the visiting researcher's institutional affiliation, educational background and academic position, as is customary for cover pages of scientific CVs.
- A biography of the visiting researcher (up to half a page).
- The visiting researcher's latest five-year list of publications.
- A research plan (up to two pages).
- A plan for leveraging the proposed cooperation into long-term joint work with the visiting researcher, including potential funding sources.

Proposals should be sent to: fainaa@technion.ac.il

Submission deadline is 30 June, 2017, at 15:00.