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## The Azrieli Fellows Program Guidelines

Promoting Academic Excellence and Leadership

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**Mission**

The Azrieli Fellows Program promotes excellence in graduate studies at accredited institutions of higher learning in Israel. This competitive and prestigious Program provides generous financial support to the best and brightest graduate students, from Israel and abroad, who will use their training to become leaders in their respective fields.

Our goal is to create a cadre of leading professionals and academics who will increase the pool of technological and scholarly human resources in Israel.

This network of leading professionals and academics will raise Israel's profile internationally and maintain strong links between Israel and the rest of the world.

The Program is funded by The Azrieli Foundation, which was established to realize the philanthropic vision of David J. Azrieli.

**Eligibility - Who can become an Azrieli Fellow?**

Graduate students at Israeli universities, in the fields and at the degree levels outlined in these guidelines, are eligible to participate in the Azrieli Fellows Program.

The Fellowships are awarded on the basis of outstanding academic merit and other exceptional personal achievements, without regard to race, religion, gender, ethnicity or age.

Candidates are assessed based on their past academic performance, as well as their potential to make cutting edge contributions to their respective fields. Aspects of personal merit and leadership abilities are also taken into consideration.

Students who wish to apply must be nominated by an accredited academic institution.

## Academic Fields

The Azrieli Fellows Program is currently open to students in specific fields and at specific academic degree levels. The following chart outlines what is offered and the duration of the Fellowship:

Field	Track	Duration of Fellowship	Commencing
<b>Interdisciplinary &amp; Applied Sciences *</b>	PhD	Up to 3 years.	October 2012
<b>Education</b>	PhD	Up to 3 years.	October 2012
<b>Architecture &amp; Urban Planning</b>	Masters	Up to 2 years.	October 2012

\* Interdisciplinary & Applied Sciences:

The Azrieli Fellows Program will accept nominations of PhD students in Interdisciplinary & Applied Sciences, with a preference for the following areas of study:

- Nanoscience and Nanotechnology
- Computer Science
- Bio-Engineering
- Genetics & Genetic Engineering
- Neuroscience
- Aeronautical Engineering
- Fields of research leading to the development of new medical treatments and medical diagnostic tools.

## Participating Institutions

The academic institutions eligible to participate in the Program are:

1. Bar-Ilan University
2. Ben-Gurion University
3. Technion-Israel Institute of Technology
4. Tel Aviv University
5. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
6. University of Haifa
7. Weizmann Institute of Science

These institutions will be invited to nominate candidates from their student body for an Azrieli Fellowship.

For the Architecture & Urban Planning track: Nominations for the Masters fellowship will also be considered from academic institutions not on the above list which offer a **five year** B.Arch. degree. In addition, applications will be accepted directly from individuals who have completed a five year B.Arch. degree, yet are not at present affiliated with an academic institution. See section in these guidelines on Architecture & Urban Planning for full details.

## Value of the Fellowship

<b>For PhD students in Interdisciplinary &amp; Applied Sciences</b>	
Basic Fellowship	\$22,000
For conference travel	Up to \$2,500
For research expenses, books, supplies	Up to \$4,000
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>Up to \$28,500</b>
<b>For PhD Students in Education</b>	
Basic Fellowship	\$22,000
For conference travel	Up to \$1,500
For research expenses, books, supplies	Up to \$2,000
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>Up to \$25,500</b>
<b>For Masters students in Architecture &amp; Urban Planning</b>	
Basic Fellowship	\$18,000
For conference travel	Up to \$1,500
For research expenses, books, supplies	Up to \$2,000
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>Up to \$21,500</b>

### **Additional Income Policy:**

The Azrieli Fellows Program is intended to enable students to focus solely on their research at the university. The Fellowships are intended for students who are not employed and do not receive any additional income from employment or living stipends.

The Azrieli Foundation has no objection to the student's receipt of additional research grants provided they are intended to cover research expenses only.

The Program will make an exception regarding employment that is directly connected to the students' Masters or Doctoral training, that is, teaching or tutoring at the university for no more than four hours per week.

### The Number of Azrieli Fellows

The Azrieli Fellows Program has a steady state of **30 Fellows from Israel** in any given year. The chart below shows the maximum number of Fellows the program can accept per year.

Field	New Fellows accepted per year
Interdisciplinary & Applied Sciences PhD	5
Education PhD	2
Architecture & Urban Planning Masters	3

The Azrieli Fellows Program will have the capacity to accept the number of students per field as outlined in these guidelines, but reserves the right to accept less than the indicated number in a given year.

In 2010, the Azrieli Fellows Program began to welcome postdoctoral Fellows who are Canadian citizens or who have finished their PhD at a Canadian university. The Program presently has a steady state of 12 postdoctoral Fellows, bringing the **overall total of Azrieli Fellows to 42.**

## Interdisciplinary and Applied Sciences Track (PhD)

1. The Azrieli Fellowships are offered to PhD students in the Interdisciplinary & Applied Sciences, with a preference for the following fields of research:
  - a) Nanoscience and Nanotechnology
  - b) Computer Science
  - c) Bio-Engineering
  - d) Genetics & Genetic Engineering
  - e) Neuroscience
  - f) Aeronautical Engineering
  - g) Fields of research leading to the development of new medical treatments and medical diagnostic tools.
  
2. Candidates are eligible to apply for an Azrieli Fellowship as follows:
  - a) Regular Track PhD:
    - Definition: A PhD study track following completion of a Masters degree.
    - Regular Track PhD students may apply for an Azrieli Fellowship within the first year of their PhD studies. A research proposal is not a requirement at the time of application, if the research topic is a continuation of the same line of research as the student's Masters Degree.
    - If either the topic or the supervisor/s is different, candidates must submit a research proposal along with their application. The research proposal may be in the stages of receiving approval from the university authorities, or have received approval after October 2011.
    - Applicants from the Technion should submit a Research Area statement "תחום מחקר" in place of a research proposal.
  
  - b) Combined Track PhD - also referred to as "Direct" in some universities:
    - Definition: A PhD study track in which students fulfill most or all of their Masters degree course obligations, but do not submit a Masters thesis.
    - Students in this track of study may apply for an Azrieli Fellowship if their change of status from a Masters to a PhD student occurred after May 2011. This candidate is not required to have an approved research proposal at the time of application.
    - Technion students: Change of status from a Masters to a PhD student is subject to the passing of the academic institution's candidacy exam.
  
  - c) Direct (from BA) Track PhD :
    - Definition: A PhD study track in which students start PhD studies directly following their BA degree.
    - Candidates may apply for an Azrieli Fellowship following approval of their research proposal. The proposal should have been approved after May 2011.
  
3. Candidates must be nominated by the Rector, or academic official of similar position, of the university at which they are studying. Nominations and coordination of applications will be processed through the Academic Secretariat or the Graduate School of the institution at which candidates are enrolled.

**Interdisciplinary and Applied Sciences Track (PhD) - continued**

4. Each university is requested to submit up to four nominations for the Interdisciplinary & Applied Sciences Program track.
5. Up to five new Azrieli Fellows will be selected each year in the fields of Interdisciplinary & Applied Sciences.
6. Students nominated for a Clore Scholarship or Adams Fellowship may not be nominated for an Azrieli Fellowship in the same year.
7. The Fellowship is offered for up to three years. Fellows will be required to provide annual reports to the Program's management, which will be signed and approved by their academic supervisors. Progress Report forms will be provided by the Program management.
8. An approved research proposal must be submitted as early as possible in order to ensure continuation of the Fellowship.
9. The Azrieli Foundation reserves the right to halt financial support before completion of a Fellow's studies or the three years, in the event that that the Fellow does not meet his/her obligations to remain in good standing (see section entitled "Obligations of the Azrieli Fellow").

**Education Track (PhD)**

1. The Azrieli Fellowships are offered to PhD students in the field of Education.
2. Candidates who have submitted a research proposal to the university after February 2011 are eligible to apply. It is preferable that this proposal will have been approved by the university authorities by the time the candidate applies for an Azrieli Fellowship, however, candidates whose proposals are still in the process of receiving approval will be considered.
3. Direct Track and Combined Track PhD students are also eligible to apply.
4. Candidates must be nominated by the Rector, or academic official of similar position, of the university at which they are studying. Nominations and coordination of applications will be processed through the Academic Secretariat or the Graduate School of the institution at which candidates are enrolled.
5. Each university is requested to submit up to two nominations for the Education Program track.
6. Up to two new Azrieli Fellows will be selected each year in the field of Education.
7. Awarding of the Azrieli Fellowships in this track is conditional upon approval of the candidate's Research Proposal by the university authorities by October 2012.
8. The Fellowship is offered for up to three years. Fellows will be required to provide annual reports to the Program's management, which will be signed and approved by their academic supervisors. Progress Report forms will be provided by the Program management.
9. The Azrieli Foundation reserves the right to halt financial support before completion of a Fellow's studies or the three years, in the event that that the Fellow does not meet his/her obligations to remain in good standing (see section entitled "Obligations of the Azrieli Fellow").

### Architecture & Urban Planning Track (Masters)

1. The Azrieli Fellowships are offered to students of Architecture or Urban Planning **at the beginning** of their Masters degree, who will be starting their studies in October 2012.
2. Applications are considered from students of Architecture, Urban Planning, or related fields with a specialization in Urban Planning.
3. In order to be eligible for an Azrieli Fellowship in this track, applicants must have completed or be in the final stages of completion of a five-year B.Arch. or B.Sc. in Architecture at an accredited academic institution.
4. The Azrieli Fellows Program management will send out Calls for Submission to the academic institutions in Israel offering a five-year undergraduate degree in Architecture (either B.Arch. or B.Sc.)
5. Each institution will be requested to submit up to four nominations from their graduating (5<sup>th</sup> year) class.
6. The Azrieli Fellows Program will also widely and publicly announce a Call for Submission inviting applications from potential candidates who are no longer studying at an undergraduate institution. These candidates may apply directly to the Azrieli Fellows Program according to the application procedures outlined in the following sections.
7. The Azrieli Fellows Program can support up to three new Fellows each year in this category.
8. Awarding of the Azrieli Fellowships in this track is conditional on acceptance to an academic program, and will be announced once documented proof of acceptance has been received by the Azrieli Fellows Program management.
9. The Fellowship in Architecture & Urban Planning at the Masters level is offered for up to two years. Fellows will be required to provide annual reports to the Program's management, which will be signed and approved by their academic supervisors. These reports should include a page describing the fellow's academic progress. Progress Report forms will be provided by the Program management.  
  
At the end of the first year of the fellowship, consideration will be given to the continuation of the fellowship into a second year. The decision will be based on the Fellow's academic progress, and on the submission of a Research Proposal, which should be approved by university authorities no later than October 2013.
10. The Azrieli Foundation reserves the right to halt financial support before completion of a Fellow's studies or the two years, in the event that the Fellow does not meet his/her obligations to remain in good standing (see section entitled "Obligations of the Azrieli Fellow").

## How to Apply

1. The Azrieli Fellows Program management will send out Calls for Submission of applications, Program guidelines and Application Forms to the Academic Secretariat or Graduate School of all participating institutions. This information will also be disseminated to the relevant faculties and departments.
2. Students interested in applying should approach the Academic Secretariat or Graduate School administration at their university, where they will be provided with the relevant forms and instructions. **Applications should be submitted through the university administration, and not directly to the Foundation.**
3. The university will select and rank nominees and submit their applications to the Azrieli Fellows Program management.
4. For applications to the Architecture & Urban Planning Track at the Masters level, the process will be the same as in sections 1 – 3 above, and will also include Calls for Submission to academic institutions offering a five year undergraduate degree in Architecture. Students interested in applying should approach the Academic Secretariat (or similar office) at their respective institutions. **Applications should be submitted through the administration of the academic institution, and not directly to the Foundation.**

Candidates who have finished their undergraduate degree and are no longer studying at an academic institution, may contact the Azrieli Fellows Program office directly, at the following address: The Azrieli Foundation, Attention: Rochelle Avitan, 89 Medinat HaYehudim St., Herzliya Pituach.

5. Guidelines and application forms may be downloaded from The Azrieli Foundation website at: [www.azrielifoundation.org/fellows](http://www.azrielifoundation.org/fellows).
6. The deadline for receipt of university nominated and approved applications by The Azrieli Foundation is February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. **Candidates are advised to check with their academic institutions regarding internal deadlines for submission of application materials.**
7. The Selection Committees will meet between May 13, 2012 and May 31, 2012. Candidates may be called upon to participate in an interview during that period.

## Obligations of the Azrieli Fellow

In order to maintain good standing, Azrieli Fellows will be required to sign a form committing themselves to the fulfillment of the following obligations:

### **1. Academic Excellence:**

Fellows are obligated to maintain a level of academic excellence throughout the Program – as defined by the university in which they are enrolled.

### **2. Progress reports:**

Regular progress reports must be submitted by the Fellow to the Program management on an annual basis. These reports should outline the Fellow's coursework including marks where relevant, describe any teaching done by the Fellow during this period, and include a list of papers published up to that point. The report must be signed by the Fellow's academic supervisor who may comment where relevant.

### **3. Community Work:**

Azrieli Fellows are expected to volunteer a number of hours over the course of the academic year at one of the branches of the Azrieli Institute for Educational Empowerment, or at an alternative Program to be approved by the Azrieli Fellows Program management.

The Azrieli Institute for Educational Empowerment is a program focusing on high school dropout prevention. Program branches are located in Beersheva, Kiryat Malachi, Carmiel, Acco, Eilat, Dimona, Ofakim, Bat Yam, Bnei Brak, Or Yehuda, Jerusalem, Hazor Haglilit, Kiryat Shemona and Maalot. Fellows will be required to coordinate with the Program management for placement as a tutor / mentor in a branch nearest their place of study. Where this is not feasible, volunteer work will be arranged by the Program management in alternative Programs. Travel expenses will be covered by the Foundation.

### **4. Participation in Program-sponsored events:**

In order to foster the exchange of ideas between Azrieli Fellows, and to maintain a sense of group identification, the Program will sponsor several events during the academic year at which Fellows may socialize and share their research and study activities. Some of these events might include: a 'Fellows Forum' series at which Fellows talk about their work, informal dinners sponsored by the Program, and an end of year party.

**Obligations of the Azrieli Fellow - continued****5. Publications:**

The work produced by the Fellows during the course of their graduate studies (research papers, Masters and Doctoral theses) will be eligible for publication in an on-line journal that the Foundation will establish and fund entitled "The Azrieli Review." If possible, the Foundation will also enter into an agreement with one of the university presses in Israel to publish the best dissertations in book form through a program to be called "The Azrieli Series."

Any written work published by the Fellows while in the Program (eg: articles published in journals, etc.) must acknowledge the support of the Azrieli Foundation in a written dedication. Fellows will also be asked to submit an abstract of their dissertation and published works to the Azrieli Fellows Program management for use in any publicity material produced by the Program, or for presentation on the Foundation website.

**6. Alumni Activities:**

Fellows will be asked to act as ambassadors for the Azrieli Fellows Program – to talk about their experiences with others, to publicize the Fellowship to their colleagues and to potential candidates, and to participate in information sessions for new candidates that may be held in their region. Alumni will be invited to attend ongoing Program activities and events. In the future, it is expected that alumni will assist in the selection process for incoming students.

**Obligations of the Academic Institution**

1. To submit no more than the number of nominees requested by the Azrieli Fellows Program management in a given year.
2. To ensure that nominees at the PhD level have finished their first year of doctoral studies prior to the beginning of the Fellowship.
3. To ensure and sign the Nominating Institution Statement Form (attached to the Application Form) which states that the nominee:
  - is a full time research (PhD) student or, in the case of the Architecture & Urban Planning Track, that s/he has been accepted into a full time Masters thesis program of study.
  - has an academic advisor who is a senior faculty member in his field of study
  - will be exempt from tuition and other institutional payments should s/he win a Fellowship.
4. To ensure and report to the Program management on a semi-annual basis that each Fellow is continuing her/his studies and progressing with research and coursework in a manner that is satisfactory to the university. Progress Report Forms will be provided by the Azrieli Fellows Program management.
5. To report on any halting of research that lasts more than six months.
6. To ensure that the Fellow does not receive any additional living stipend during the course of the Fellowship. The Azrieli Foundation has no objection to the Fellow's receipt of additional research grants provided they are intended to cover research expenses only.
7. To ensure that during the course of the Fellowship, the Fellow's research is run only within the framework of the university.
8. To ensure that any employment taken on by the Fellow within the university is in direct connection to her/his academic training and does not exceed four teaching hours per week.
9. The Fellowship is a gift to the students. The university will be the pipeline through which payment is transferred from the Azrieli Foundation to the students. No overhead will be paid to the university. The university will not deduct any amount from the Fellowship payment without the agreement of the Azrieli Fellows Program management.
10. Financial arrangements will be outlined in a separate contract between each university and the Azrieli Foundation

**Timetable**

<b>Deadline for receipt of university nominated and approved applications by The Azrieli Foundation *</b>	February 1, 2012
<b>Selection Committee meetings and interviews</b>	May 13 – May 31, 2012
<b>Winners to be announced</b>	June 2012
<b>Program starts</b>	October 2012

\* Candidates are advised to check with their academic institutions regarding internal deadlines for submission of application materials.