

Rothschild Fellowships – 2015/2016 Guidelines for Universities

1. GENERAL

The purpose of the Rothschild Fellowships is to help young scholars of outstanding academic merit and potential to advance in their respective fields.

The Rothschild Fellowships are awards towards postdoctoral study or research abroad. Given compelling academic reasons, doctoral candidates in the Humanities and Social Sciences may be considered for a fellowship, as described below.

Fellowships are provided for one year of study abroad. Recipients may choose to use the funds over a two year period. In some cases, candidates may use the fellowship to support several, non-consecutive periods of study abroad, as described below.

Up to 22 Rothschild Fellowships will be awarded for the academic year 2015/2016.

Up to **thirteen** Fellowships will be awarded in the Natural, Exact or Life Sciences and Engineering; up to **nine** will be awarded in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Accordingly, Universities are requested to submit candidates in two separate letters:

- a) Natural, Exact or Life Sciences and Engineering
- b) Humanities and Social Sciences.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- a) The candidate must be a permanent resident of Israel.
- b) The candidate must have completed or be conducting his/her PhD research at an accredited institution of higher learning in Israel.
- c) **Postdoctoral candidates** will be eligible only if the doctoral degree was awarded after November 2011.
- d) A person holding a tenured position at an Israeli university will NOT be considered for a Fellowship.
- e) Persons beginning their postdoctoral studies abroad before June 2015 may not apply for the Fellowship. The Rothschild Fellowship may only be used to fund **the first period of postdoctoral study abroad**.
- f) **Doctoral candidates**
Given compelling academic reasons, the Fellowship may be awarded to doctoral candidates in the **Humanities and Social Sciences** conducting their research at an Israeli University. In the pre-selection of doctoral candidates, the university should give special consideration to

students for whom a one-year period of research and study abroad would contribute substantially to their doctoral degree.

g) **Candidates conducting non-consecutive periods of study abroad**

In exceptional cases, a Fellowship may be awarded to candidates in the **Natural, Exact and Life Sciences and Engineering** who wish to carry out their research abroad over several non-consecutive periods, under the following conditions:

- The fellow will spend, in aggregate, at least twelve months in a lab outside of Israel. This can be done in non-consecutive periods of time over a three year period, during which the Fellow is a postdoc at an Israeli institution.
- The laboratory in Israel will not be at the institution where the candidate completed his/her PhD.
- Candidates must have full funding for the post-doc period spent in Israel.

h) Candidates are required to advise the University Academic Secretariat and the Rothschild Fellowships Secretariat whenever supplementary funds become available to them. Candidates receiving supplementary funds of \$55,000 or more during the fellowship year will not be eligible for a Rothschild Fellowship.

i) Partial grants will not be awarded.

3. TERMS OF FELLOWSHIPS

a) Amount of the Fellowship:

Doctoral candidate - NIS 120,000 plus up to NIS 40,000 for tuition fees, where payable.

Postdoctoral candidate, MD or DMD - NIS 160,000

b) Travel grant:

Destination:	USA West Coast –	NIS 25,000
	USA East Coast –	NIS 18,000
	Europe –	NIS 10,000

for fellow and accompanying spouse. If the spouse has a travel grant from another source, or if the candidate is single, the grant will be half the above amount.

c) Family allowance for family members who will accompany the Fellow:

Spouse:	NIS 14,000
Children:	NIS 20,000 / each

d) In order to enable candidates to negotiate multi-year matching funding from their host institutions, candidates may opt to use the fellowship funds over a two-year period. In such a case, fellows will receive NIS 80,000 plus the family allowance and travel grant at the beginning of the first year, and a second payment of NIS 80,000 at the beginning of the second year.

Fellows may split funding over two years provided the total annual funds available to them amount to at least \$40,000 and do not exceed \$75,000 in each of the two years (not including family allowance).

- e) Candidates splitting time between Israel and abroad will be able to use the funds only towards the costs related to time spent abroad.

4. STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY THE UNIVERSITY

a) **Publicity**

The university is asked to give the widest possible publicity to the Fellowships, including all information contained in the foregoing paragraphs 1, 2 and 3; the final date for submission of applications; the notes to applicants attached herewith; and any other information deemed relevant by the university.

Copies of announcements and other types of publicity about the Fellowships should be sent to the Secretariat of the Rothschild Fellowships.

b) **Receipt of applications**

The university should receive the applications and supporting documents of the candidates, **typed in English**, as described below.

c) **Pre-selection**

The universities are requested to pre-select candidates.

d) **Letters from Rector of University**

The Rector of the University is requested to write two separate letters to the secretariat of the Rothschild Fellowships, one for up to **thirteen** candidates in Natural, Exact or Life Sciences and Engineering, and another for up to **eight** candidates in Humanities and Social Sciences. Each letter should include the following:

- i) A list of pre-selected candidates, including information about whether they are doctoral or postdoctoral, academic disciplines, **and departmental affiliation**. Please alphabetize the list and refrain from ranking.
- ii) Please prepare a list of candidates pre-selected and a list of candidates NOT pre-selected, according to faculty and academic discipline. This list should include **all the names of candidates** who submitted the forms to their department, faculty or directly through the Academic Secretariat.

Letters (including the lists) should be submitted in electronic form only.

5. APPLICATION FORM AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Each candidate file should include:

1. An electronic copy of the Application Form with a recent digital photograph embedded in the file
2. A curriculum vitae including the list of publications (candidates should **only** use the sample attached to the application form)

3. **Two letters of recommendation** typed in English from two referees, at the request of the candidate. One of the referees should be the present or immediate past supervisor of the candidate. These letters should be regarded as confidential and submitted by the referees directly to the university authority.

Referees are requested to a) compare the candidate to scientists and scholars in their field at a comparable academic stage; b) compare the candidate to other students with whom they have been in close contact, and c) whenever possible, compare to past recipients of the Rothschild Fellowship.

4. **A third (optional) letter of recommendation** from a **senior** academic at another university, who is qualified to assess the applicant's current and proposed research, may be submitted.
5. One academic paper or article (preferably published) or dissertation chapter in English that the candidate has authored or co-authored, if available.

Applications to the Rothschild Fellowships 2015/20165 may **only** be submitted electronically. Universities will receive a link to a secure website through which the applicants will be required to upload their applications and all supporting documents. Letters of recommendation must be uploaded by university staff.

We will be happy to provide university administrators with any help they may require in submitting applications. Please feel free to contact Ms. Natania Isaak with any questions.

6. NOTIFICATION TO CANDIDATES

- a) Candidates not pre-selected should be so advised by the university (Academic Secretariat), as soon as possible, including those whose candidacy was disqualified at the department or faculty level.
- b) Candidates invited to an interview will be notified by the university. Please note that interviews will be held on 19 and 20 January 2015 for candidates in the Natural, Exact and Life Sciences and Engineering, and on 17 March 2015 for candidates in the Humanities and Social Sciences.
- c) Upon receipt of notifications from the Secretariat, the university should advise candidates who have not been invited for an interview to that effect.
- d) Candidates invited for an interview, but not awarded a Fellowship, will receive notification from the Rothschild Fellowships Secretariat.
- e) Candidates awarded a Fellowship and their respective universities will receive notice thereof from the Rothschild Fellowships Secretariat at the earliest opportunity.