The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center [ISTRC]

ISTRC Call for Scholarships 2021-22

Call publication: 9.5.2021
Final submission: 8.7.2021

Background
The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center (ISTRC) at the Technion, in collaboration with Bar-Ilan University, was established jointly by the Smart Mobility initiative in Israel's Prime Minister’s Office, and the Council for Higher Education. ISTRC’s mission is to encourage research and development, entrepreneurship and industry in the field of smart mobility in Israel. You can learn more about the center from ISTRC website: [https://istrc.net.technion.ac.il/](https://istrc.net.technion.ac.il/).

ISTRC Vision
The vision of the Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center is to unite the academic and R&D community and various stakeholders. This would initiate and leverage interdisciplinary and intersectoral research activities which contribute to smart, efficient, and green transportation, and position Israel as a world leader in the field.

For this purpose, we define the **Vision of Zero Transportation Externalities** in three dimensions: Zero casualties, Zero delays, and Zero environmental harm ([https://istrc.net.technion.ac.il/](https://istrc.net.technion.ac.il/)).

The center collaborates with all academic institutes and researchers in Israel to promote cutting edge research and insights as well as empower and develop human capital in the field.

As Smart transportation is interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary in nature, ISTRC encourages students and researchers from different fields and academic departments to promote ideas and research in this field.
Objectives of this Call:
ISTRC aims to develop human capital in Israel in the field of smart transportation and to encourage students at all levels and from various fields of knowledge.

ISTRC Scholarships are designed to achieve excellence as well as to increase the number of Israeli graduate students and researchers. The valuable research gained by supporting master and PhD students would contribute to ISTRC’s vision of Zero Transportation Externalities.

Funding scope and duration
The ISTRC intends to publish a “Call for Scholarships” once a year, for the next three years. Students will be welcome to submit applications to extend the grant for another year in the next call, in compliance with budget constraints and ISTRC decisions.

The maximum budget for this year’s scholarships is 984,000 NIS:
- Master students (Thesis track): 30,000 NIS each, for the academic year 2021-22 (תשפ"ב)
- PhD students: 36,000 NIS each, for the academic year 2021-22 (תשפ"ב)

Eligibility criteria
- An applicant must be an Israeli citizen or a permanent resident* and student or future student (pending starting in תשפ"ב) in one of the academic institutes in Israel whose research is within the scope of smart transportation.
  * In special cases foreign students’ applicants may be considered.
- An applicant can be in one of the following groups:
  A. A Master student with an approved thesis research topic
  B. A PhD student with an approved research proposal (לפני בחינת מועמדות)
  C. A Master student without an approved research topic
  D. A PhD student before general exam (לפני בחינת מועמדות)
  E. A Future Master student, pending starting no later than October 2021
  F. A Future PhD student, pending starting no later than October 2021
How to apply?

The deadline for Submission to ISTRC is 8.7.2021.

Specifications for submission:

- Full application will be submitted through the EasyChair system using this link: EASYCHAIR.
- Scholarship applications should be written in English.
- A full application should include:
  1. Application information:
     - Full name of applicant, ID number, e-mail address
     - Institute name, faculty/department
     - Research title and keywords
     - Name and e-mail address of supervisor(s)
     - Starting date of current degree studies (mm/year)
     - Expected graduation date (mm/ year)
  2. CV (including academic and research achievements, as publications, conference participation, awards etc.)
  3. Transcripts of all academic degrees, including final average per degree (גיליון ציון) and overall average (ממוצע לילה)
  4. Approval of the Academic institution regarding application for the grant (please see Appendix A). Future students (eligibility groups E, F) are not required to send this approval.
  5. Research information - please follow your eligibility group:
     - For students in groups A, B, D (see above “Eligibility criteria”)
       - Abstract and research plan (up to two pages)
       - Research progress report (up to one page – if no progress - then make a statement)
       - Letter of recommendation from the supervisor
     - For students in groups: C, E, F (see above “Eligibility criteria”)
       - Research interest and planned studies (up to 1 page)
       - Recommendation letter from an active faculty member

Following the submission of an application, further details and clarifications about the student’s research may be requested from the student to assist with the evaluation of the application.
Applications must include all the above items. Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline might not be reviewed.

For questions and clarification, please see the Call and Q&A page on the ISTRC website or contact the Center Coordinator: Ms. Smadar Amir through istrc@technion.ac.il.

Assessment of proposals and results
Eligible proposals will be reviewed by a review committee established by ISTRC with at least five faculty members from at least five different institutes in Israel. Each proposal will be assessed by (at least) three experts.

Assessment criteria:
1. Academic achievement of the applicant according to all her/his record of studies, starting with the undergraduate studies
2. Research plan (as required for each eligibility group, see above)
3. Letter of recommendation
4. Relevance to smart transportation
5. Innovation level of the research
6. Research achievements, such as publications, conference participation, awards etc.

The assessment will be conducted separately for each eligibility group.

Results are expected to be sent to the scholarship coordinators in each academic institute by 1.10.2021.

All winning applicants will receive the scholarship pending the academic institute’s approval. Future students will need to send signed approval of the academic institute (see appendix A).

ISTRC will publish the winners’ names and their research title, as well as the supervisors’ names, on the ISTRC website and publications.

Academic reporting
Progress report (up to two pages) signed by the supervisor at the end of the academic year (end of August 2022).

Copy of the final / approved research report will be sent to ISTRC. The Research title will be listed on ISTRC list of publications and the abstract will be published on the ISTRC website.

All publications generated from the research will include acknowledgment of ISTRC funding (see here). A copy will be sent to ISTRC.
Selected researches will be presented by the students at the center’s workshops or conferences, if requested.

**Financial reporting**
The academic institute will receive budget commitment letter allowing the institute to allocate the grant payment to the grantee.

The academic institute will receive the grant pending budget execution report, signed by the finance manager of the academic institute, no later than 1.10.2022.

ISTRC functions under the terms and conditions of the Council for Higher Education Call. According to the “Planning and Budgeting Committee” (PBC), no institutional overhead will be charged for this grant.

**Application Information**
The information shared in the process of the application will only be used by ISTRC reviewers for the purpose of evaluation of your application.

The applicant undertakes to protect the intellectual property of his/her application ISTRC will not be responsible for this.

ISTRC is not and shall not be liable to the content of any application, to the performance of any research that has received funding from the ISTRC and for any implementation or use of the results generated in such research, either by the applicant or by any third party.
Appendix A

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2. Select the academic status for your current fellowship:

- [ ] Student for Master's Degree, with approved research topic
- [ ] Student for Master's Degree, without approved research topic
- [ ] Student for Doctoral Degree, after admission examination
- [ ] Student for Doctoral Degree, prior to admission examination

3. Academic information

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4. Mentors and Recommenders

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5. The Graduate Board has approved/ The Graduate Board has approved this scholarship

ISTRC Call for Scholarships 2021-22

We hereby confirm our agreement to accept the terms of the scholarship as described in the guidelines.

__________________________
Signature

__________________________
Date

__________________________
Signature of the Academic Institution

__________________________
Date

The Israeli Smart Mobility Research Center (ISTRC) at Technion Institute of Technology was established with the support of the Israeli Ministry of Transportation and the Israel Science Foundation, with the aim of fostering research and development, innovation, and industry in the field of Smart Mobility in Israel. The establishment of the center is a significant and important step in implementing the government's national Smart Mobility plan, which aims to transform Israel into a leading center for research and development in this field.

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