The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center [ISTRC]

ISTRC Call for Scholarships 2022-23

Call publication: 1.5.2022
Final submission: 3.7.2022

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/.

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/).

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 two 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 1,128,000 NIS:
- Master students (Thesis track): 30,000 NIS each, for the academic year 2022-23 (תשפ”ג)
- PhD students: 36,000 NIS each, for the academic year 2022-23 (תשפ”ג)

Eligibility criteria
- An applicant must be a student or a future student (pending starting in תשפ”ג) in one of the academic institutes in Israel whose research is within the scope of smart transportation.

- An applicant can be in one of the following groups:
  1. A Master student with an approved thesis research topic
  2. A Master student without an approved research topic
  3. A Future Master student, pending starting no later than October 2022
  4. A PhD student with an approved research proposal (אחרי בחינת מועמדות)
  5. A PhD student before general exam (לפני בחינת מועמדות)
  6. A Future PhD student, pending starting no later than October 2022

How to apply?

The deadline for Submission to ISTRC is 3.7.2022.

Specifications for submission:
- Submit the full application through the ISTRC website.
- 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)

4. Approval of the Academic institution regarding application for the grant (please see Appendix A). Future students (eligibility groups 3, 6) are not required to send this approval.

5. Research information - please follow your eligibility group:
   - For students in groups 1, 4, 5 (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: 2, 3, 6 (see above “Eligibility criteria”):
     - Research interest and planned studies (up to one 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 1.10.2022.

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 2023).

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 1.10.2023.

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

The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center [ISTRC]

To: Applicants

ISTRC Call for Scholarships 2022-2023

Please fill out the following form for the scholarship application:

1. Personal Details

Name: ____________________________

Email: ____________________________

Program: ____________________________

Faculty: ____________________________

2. Research Interest and Planned Studies

(For master’s degree: Provide research interest and planned studies as indicated by your advisor.)

Research interest and planned studies:________________________

A.CV

B. List of publications

C. List of academic honors

D. Copy of the last degree

E. Letter of recommendation from a faculty member (if available)

Please submit all required documents.

Please note:

- Submission of incomplete or non-compliant applications will not be considered.

- Applications should be submitted in Hebrew.

- Applications are due by [due date].

Contact: istrc@technion.ac.il

For further information, please visit: https://istrc.net.technion.ac.il/
2. Select the academic status update for the current scholarship:

- [ ] Student (master's degree) with approved research topic
- [ ] Student (master's degree) without approved research topic
- [ ] Student (PhD) after election
- [ ] Student (PhD) before election

3. Academic details:

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Syndrome</th>
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<th>Name</th>
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4. Names of supervisors and recommenders (please attach recommendation letters):

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<th>Guider</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Name</th>
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5. Institution commitment
towards the guidelines of the center:

ISTRC Call for Scholarships 2022-2023

We, the center, are committed to meeting all the requirements of the guidelines of the center.

__________________________
Date

__________________________
Supervisor's signature

__________________________
Date

__________________________
Institution's representative's signature

The Israeli Smart Mobility Research Center was established by the President of the Technion, in collaboration with the Israel Ministry of Transportation and the university, with the aim of promoting research and development, innovation and industry in the field of smart mobility in Israel. This center is a significant step towards making Israel a leader in this field.