

The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center

ISTRC Call for Conference Grants, חורף תשפ"ו Winter 2025

For conferences occurring between
November 1, 2025 – ~~March 31, 2026~~ **EXTENDED June 1, 2026**

Call publication: October 28, 2025

Final submission: ~~December 10, 2025~~ **EXTENDED March 1, 2026**

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. The aim 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 to initiate and leverage Interdisciplinary and Intersectoral research activities that would 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.

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

Aiming to generate cutting edge knowledge and insights, as well as empower and develop human capital in the Smart Transportation domain, the center initiates the Call for Conferences, to encourage students and young researchers to present at international conferences and empower the student by:

- Get exposed to new research in the field
- Establish professional network
- Represents the Israeli Smart Transportation research in the global professional community.

Funding

The ISTRC publishes Calls for Conference Grants twice a year. This is the 1st Call for the academic year תשפ"ו (2025-2026).

This Winter Call will fund participation in conferences that will be held between **November 1st, 2025 and March 31st, 2026** **EXTENDED June 1, 2026**.

Funding opportunities:

- Virtual conferences - ISTRC will fund conference registration fees.
- Physical attendance in conferences - ISTRC will fund participation in conferences as a contribution to the conference fees and travel expenditures according to the conference location:
 - Conferences in Europe: up to 7,000 NIS
 - Conferences in the rest of the World: up to 10,000 NIS

ISTRC Conference grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to the conference participation, it is a contribution to the participation fees and the overall travel, accommodation, and other expenses of the grantee.

Payment of the grant is subject to proof of participation in the conference as well as submission of a conference report following the conference.

Eligibility criteria

- Student (at all levels) or young researcher (up to one year after PhD), whose research is within the scope of smart transportation and who submitted an article for an international conference.
- The applicant should be an active / registered student or active young researcher fellow while applying to the conference grant. The conference should take place no later than nine months after graduating.
- Without derogating from the above, receiving the conference grant after completing studies / fellowship is subject to the academic institute's approval.

- The applicant shall make an oral/poster presentation at the conference and shall be listed in the official event/conference program. Receiving the grant is subject to presenting at the conference.
- The applicant should be the first author on the paper submitted to the conference.
- Only applicants who received conference acceptance notification for the submitted paper can apply to this Call.
- The conference must have a clear transportation focus, priority is given to transportation conferences, but other conferences with transportation tracks or sessions are also eligible.
- The abstract of the paper must include a transportation word (can be travel, traffic, mobility, etc.) and explain the relevance to sustainable transportation.
- The funding is for the conference requested only. It cannot be transferred to another conference or another date.

How to apply?

Applications should be submitted through the relevant scholarship coordinator in your academic institute.

Submission to ISTRC is no later than ~~December 10th, 2025~~ **March 1, 2026 (EXTENDED)**.

Specifications for submission:

- Application will be approved by the Academic institute before submission.
- Application will be sent by the academic institute coordinator to istrc@technion.ac.il. In the email subject please mention: ***ISTRC Call for Conference Grant Winter 2025_ Last name of the student.***
- The full application will be sent in **one PDF file.**
- Conference grant applications should be written in English.
- Full application should include:
 1. 1st page:
 - Full name of student, ID number, e-mail address, current study level (Bachelor, Master, PhD, young researcher)
 - Institute name, Faculty/department
 - Name and e-mail address of supervisor(s)
 - Conference details: Name, Date, and Location
 - In case of a non-transportation conference, proof of transportation track/sessions planned for conference (in lack of such details, one can show a program of previous year of such conference with transportation track/sessions)
 2. Paper / presentation / poster
 - Title of the paper/presentation/poster
 - The abstract of the paper

- Indication for being the 1st author of the paper
 - 3. Explanation of relevance of the paper and the conference to Smart Transportation – "Smart Transportation Zero Externalities Vision" (up to one page)
 - 4. Evidence of conference paper acceptance
 - 5. CV (including academic and research achievements, as publications, conference participation, awards, etc.)
 - 6. Research progress report (up to one page)
 - 7. Letter of recommendation from the supervisor(s)
 - 8. Amount of the grant requested in NIS based on:
 - Virtual participation: conference participation fees (including receipt, if already paid or print screen from the conference website specifying the fee)
 - Physical participation: conference fees and estimated travel expenditures based upon the conference location (see above)
- **Applications must include all the above items. Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.**
 - Following the submission of an application, further details and clarifications about the conference may be required from the student to assist with the evaluation of the application.
 - In case of conference cancellation, participation cancellation, modification of the conference dates or configuration (virtual / physical), please contact us immediately. ISTRC reserves the right to cancel, modify or postpone the grant, in case of a change in the proposal terms.

Assessment of proposals and results

Eligible proposals will be reviewed by a review committee established by ISTRC.

Assessment criteria:

1. **Relevance of the paper and conference** to smart transportation and the potential to promote the center's vision of "Zero Transportation Externalities".
2. **Importance of the conference.**
3. **Supervisor's recommendation.**
4. **Academic achievements of the candidate.**

* ISTRC will prioritize conference grant funding for students who have not received such funding in the past academic years.

* ISTRC will publish winners and supervisor names, as well as the presentation title and conference name on the ISTRC website and publications.

Reporting

Academic reporting

- The conference presentation/ poster will include [acknowledgement](#) of ISTRC.
- The grantee will write short conference report (up to two pages) of his/her impression from the conference and recommendations for future candidates. The report should be signed by the supervisor and sent within 30 days after the conference to: istrc@technion.ac.il. The report will be published on ISTRC website.

Financial reporting

The academic institute will receive a budget commitment letter allowing the institute to allocate the grant payment to the student.

The grant sum will be in NIS, based on the conference registration fees indication or the travel allowance (and no more than the sum approved in the winning announcement).

ISTRC is working 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 from this grant.

The grant will be allocated to the academic institute after receiving:

- Participation approval, including the grantee name and presentation title on the conference agenda.
- Academic report from the conference (up to two pages) signed by the student supervisor.
- Payment execution report signed by the finance manager of the academic institute, no later than October 10th, 2026, approving payment to the grantee according to the academic institute's travel regulations.

Application Information

The information you share in the process of the application will only be used by ISTRC reviewers for the purpose of evaluation of your application.

To the extent that presentation includes unique knowledge, the applicant undertakes to protect the rights arising from it in a timely manner. ISTRC will not be responsible for this.

ISTRC is working under the terms and conditions of the Council for Higher Education Call.

ISTRC is not and shall not be liable to the content of any presentation, 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.