

The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center

ISTRC Call for Conference Grants – Summer 2026

(קריז תשפ"ו)

For conferences taking place between
June 1, 2026, and January 31, 2027

Call publication: April 15, 2026

Final submission: October 15, 2026

Background

The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center (ISTRC), managed by the Technion in collaboration with Bar-Ilan University, serves as a national platform for advancing research, innovation, and collaboration in smart mobility. The center connects academia, industry, and government stakeholders to address major transportation challenges through advanced, data-driven, and interdisciplinary approaches. More information about the center is available on the 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 diverse stakeholders in order to initiate and promote interdisciplinary and intersectoral research activities that contribute to smart, efficient, and green transportation, and to position Israel as a world leader in the field.

To this end, ISTRC promotes the **Vision of Zero Transportation Externalities** in three dimensions: zero casualties, zero delays, and zero environmental harm.

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

Because smart transportation is inherently interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary, ISTRC encourages students and researchers from different fields and academic departments to advance ideas and research in this domain.

Objectives of this Call

The purpose of this call is to support students and early-career researchers in presenting their work at international conferences, thereby promoting cutting-edge knowledge, strengthening

professional development, and advancing ISTRC's mission in the field of smart transportation. Through this support, applicants will be able to:

- be exposed to new research in the field;
- establish a professional network; and
- represent Israeli smart transportation research within the international professional community.

Funding

ISTRC publishes calls for conference grants twice each academic year. This is the second call for the academic year (2025-2026) תשפ"ו.

This Summer 2026 call will support participation in conferences taking place between June 1, 2026, and January 31, 2027.

Funding opportunities:

- Virtual conferences: ISTRC will fund conference registration fees.
- Physical attendance at conferences: ISTRC will support participation as a contribution toward 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 conference participation; rather, they are intended as a contribution toward registration, travel, accommodation, and related expenses.

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

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be students at any degree level, or early-career researchers up to one year after completion of their PhD, whose research falls within the scope of smart transportation and who have submitted a paper to an international conference.
- Applicants must be active registered students, or active early-career research fellows, at the time of application. For applicants who graduate before the conference takes place, the conference must occur no later than nine months after graduation.
- Receiving the conference grant after completion of studies or fellowship is subject to the academic institution's approval.
- The applicant must present the accepted work in oral or poster form and must appear in the official conference program.
- The applicant must be the first author of the submitted paper.
- Only applicants whose paper has already been accepted to the conference are eligible to apply.
- The conference must have a clear transportation focus. Priority will be given to transportation conferences, though conferences in other fields may also be eligible if they include a clear transportation-related track or session.



- The submitted abstract must explicitly include transportation-related terminology, such as travel, traffic, mobility, transit, or transportation, and must clearly demonstrate the relevance of the work to the transportation field.
- The funding is awarded only for the conference specified in the application and cannot be transferred to another conference or to a different date.

How to apply?

Applications must be submitted directly by the applicant via EasyChair ([link](#)).

The complete application must be submitted no later than **October 15, 2026**.

Submission requirements:

- The application must be approved by the applicant's academic institution prior to submission.
- Applications must be submitted via **EasyChair only**.
- The application consists of two parts:
Part I - information entered directly into the EasyChair submission form;
Part II - two files uploaded to EasyChair:
 1. one complete application PDF
 2. the accepted paper or extended abstract
- All application materials must be written in English.

Part I: EasyChair submission form

Applicants must complete the EasyChair submission form with the following information:

- Full name, ID number, email address, and current study level (Bachelor's, Master's, PhD, or early-career researcher)
- Institution name and faculty/department
- Name and email address of supervisor(s)
- Conference details: conference name, conference website, date, and location
- Requested grant amount in NIS
- Abstract of the submitted work
- Indication of whether the presentation is oral or poster
- Statement confirming that the applicant is the first author

Part II: Files to upload to EasyChair:

A. Complete application PDF

In addition to the information entered in EasyChair, applicants must upload **one single PDF file** containing the following materials:

1. Abstract of the paper
2. Explanation of relevance
 - A brief explanation of the relevance of the paper and the conference to smart transportation and to the [ISTRC Vision of Zero Transportation Externalities](#) (up to one page)
3. Evidence of conference paper acceptance
4. For conferences that are not primarily transportation-focused, applicants must provide evidence that the conference includes a transportation-related track or session. If the current-year program is not yet available, applicants may provide the relevant part of the previous year's program.
5. CV, including academic and research achievements such as publications, conference participation, awards, and scholarships.
6. Brief research progress report (up to one page)
7. Requested grant amount in NIS:
 - For virtual participation: conference registration fees, including a receipt if already paid, or a screenshot from the conference website specifying the fee.
 - For physical participation: conference registration fees and estimated travel expenditures, based on the conference location.
8. Letter of recommendation from the supervisor(s)
9. Academic institution approval (see Appendix, page 7)

B. Paper or extended abstract

Applicants must also upload the accepted paper or extended abstract of the oral or poster presentation.

If no such file exists for the conference submission, the applicant must upload a short explanatory note clarifying what was submitted to the conference and why no paper or extended abstract file is available.

Additional notes

- Applications must include all required materials. Incomplete applications, or applications received after the deadline, will not be reviewed.
- Following submission, applicants may be asked to provide additional details or clarifications to assist in the evaluation process.
- In the event of conference cancellation, cancellation of participation, or any change in the conference dates or format (virtual or physical), applicants must notify ISTRC immediately. ISTRC reserves the right to cancel, modify, or postpone the grant in the event of a change in the terms of the application.

Assessment of Proposals and Results

Eligible applications will be reviewed by a committee appointed by ISTRC.

Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1. **The relevance of the paper and conference** to smart transportation and to ISTRC's vision of Zero Transportation Externalities.
2. **The academic and professional importance of the conference.**
3. **The supervisor's recommendation.**
4. **The applicant's academic achievements.**

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

* ISTRC will publish the names of the awardees and supervisors, as well as the presentation title and conference name, on the ISTRC website and in its publications.

Reporting

Academic reporting

- The conference presentation or poster should include an [acknowledgment](#) of ISTRC.
- Within 30 days after the conference, the grantee must submit a short report of up to two pages describing their impressions from the conference and recommendations for future candidates. The report must be signed by the supervisor and sent to istrc@technion.ac.il. The report may be published on the ISTRC website.

Financial reporting

The academic institution will receive a budget commitment letter enabling it to allocate the approved grant to the student in accordance with its internal procedures.

The approved grant amount will be paid in NIS, based on the approved registration fee and/or travel allowance, and will not exceed the amount stated in the award notification.

ISTRC operates 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 institution after receiving:

- Confirmation of participation, including the grantee's name and presentation title in the conference agenda.



- Academic report from the conference (up to two pages) signed by the student's supervisor.
- Payment execution report signed by the finance manager of the academic institution, no later than October 25, 2027, confirming payment to the grantee according to the academic institution's travel regulations.

Application Information

The information provided in the application process will be used only by ISTRC reviewers for the purpose of evaluating the application.

To the extent that the presentation includes unique or proprietary knowledge, the applicant is responsible for protecting any related rights in a timely manner. ISTRC shall bear no responsibility in this regard.

ISTRC shall not be liable for the content of any presentation, for the conduct of any research supported through this grant, or for any implementation or use of the resulting outputs by the applicant or by any third party.

The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center [ISTRC]

Appendix

טופס אישור מוסד אקדמי להגשת מענק עבור הקול הקורא:

ISTRC Call for Conference Grants Summer 2026

לתשומת לב המבקש/ת

- אנא קרא/י בעיון את הקול הקורא.
- בקשה שאינה עומדת בתנאי הקול הקורא או הלוקה בחסר לא תידון.
- ההגשה נעשית דרך מערכת האיזיצייר, לפי הפרטים בקול הקורא.
- יש לצרף להגשה את הטופס הנוכחי מלא וחתום ע"י המוסד האקדמי.

מכיוון שלכל מוסד אקדמי יש נהלי אישור שונים, אנא בדוק/ בדקי מראש עם המוסד האקדמי שלך את ההנחיות הפנימיות לאישור ההגשה.

מוסד אקדמי _____
פקולטה _____
שם המנחה _____
כתובת דוא"ל של המנחה _____

1. פרטים אישיים

שם משפחה _____ שם פרטי _____ (עברית)

שם משפחה _____ שם פרטי _____ (לועזית)

תעודת זהות _____

כתובת דוא"ל _____



2. פרטי הכנס עבורו מבקשים מענק:

שם הכנס

מקום הכנס (מדינה, עיר)

תאריך הכנס

סכום המענק המבוקש (₪)

3. התחייבות המוסד האקדמי והמועמד/ת על קיום התנאים בהתאם לקול הקורא של המרכז הישראלי למחקר בתחבורה חכמה ISTRC Call for Conference Grants Summer 2026

חתימת המועמד/ת

תאריך

מורשה/ מורשי חתימה מטעם המוסד האקדמי:

שם

תפקיד

מוסד אקדמי:

תאריך

חתימה
