Funded by

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

UUKi UK – Israel innovation researcher mobility scheme

Call guidelines

- ## DEADLINE EXTENDED: 5pm (GMT) - Monday 30 January 2023

Navigate to:

1. Background and overview of the scheme

The Universities UK International (UUKi, an operating unit of Universities UK) **UK-Israel innovation researcher mobility scheme** provides funding for researchers from UK higher education institutions (HEIs) to spend a period of mobility at a partner organisation in Israel or the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) to undertake projects focussed on innovation and/or entrepreneurial skills development. The scheme will have two strands; allowing applicants to indicate the location of the planned mobility as either Israel or the OPTs.

This flagship mobility scheme is funded by the [UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)](#) and was agreed during a Ministerial visit to Israel in March 2022. Recent work across the UK Government has aimed to deepen the bilateral relationship with Israel, with a commitment over the next ten years to a joint UK-Israel bilateral roadmap inclusive of science, innovation and technology. For Research & Innovation (R&I), the focus in working with Israel is on innovation inclusive of green tech and life sciences ([Integrated Review](#)).

2. Objectives and aims of the scheme

Primarily the **UK-Israel innovation researcher mobility scheme** will support the development of UK capabilities and expertise via international collaboration, specifically building researchers capabilities and skills in entrepreneurship and higher Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) innovation by funding UK researchers to travel and learn from expertise from the region. Emphasis will be given to projects that reflect the 7 technology families and research sectors areas prioritised by the [Innovation Strategy](#), and the [Integrated Review](#). The 7 technology families of the UK [Innovation Strategy](#) are: (i) Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, (ii) AI, Digital and Advanced Computing, (iii) Bioinformatics and Genomics, (iv) Engineering Biology, (v) Electronics, Photonics and Quantum, (vi) Energy and Environment Technologies and (vii) Robotics and Smart Machines.

This researcher mobility will further links with the Israeli ecosystem developing existing research and innovation (R&I) collaborations while at the same time opening the door to new opportunities.

The aims of the **UK-Israel innovation researcher mobility scheme** are:

- Support UK HEIs to further their existing partnerships with higher education institutions or companies in the region, focussing on innovation and entrepreneurship

- Enable short-term mobility of UK-based researchers at all career stages, to enable upskilling, mutual learning and sharing of best practice between partners

- Support the international capacity building and professional development of up-and-coming and established researchers

- Respond to specific areas of research and innovation identified within the 7 technology families of UK strength as outlined in the UK Innovation Strategy

- Contribute to the delivery of the Integrated Review that identified green technology (including agri-tech and food tech), life sciences, nanotechnology, precision medicine and space innovation/satellites as the key areas for deepening UK collaboration with the region.

3. Eligibility

The **UK-Israel innovation researcher mobility scheme** is open to all UK HEIs that are eligible to receive grant funding from one of the UK higher education funding bodies (such as UK Research and Innovation). It is expected that the lead applicant from the UK HEI has an existing relationship with the partner in Israel or OPTs.

Completed application forms must be submitted online by a designated lead applicant from a UK HEI and signed off by an appropriate senior representative of the institution.

To be eligible to apply the lead applicant must:
- hold a PhD or equivalent qualification
- be a permanent employee or treated as one throughout the proposed research project
- devote a set amount of their working hours to delivering this project

Please note that the lead applicant need not necessarily be planning on undertaking a mobility themselves but will have the overall responsibility for the application and any subsequent awards.

To be eligible to undertake periods of mobility researchers must:
- be employed at the UK HEI indicated in the application form for the duration of the mobility
- be able to undertake mobility within the timeframe April 2023 – 31 January 2024.

4. Available funding

The total amount of funding available for the **UK-Israel innovation researcher mobility scheme** is **£980,000** over a two year / two call period. UUKi expects to make around 20-30 awards, but this is highly dependent on the number and duration of individual researcher mobilities. There is no limit on the number of researchers that can be included in an application for the scheme, nor is there a limit on the number of applications an institution can submit. UUKi will however be looking to award a diverse range of institution types/models as part of this scheme so institutions are expected to prioritise applications that are most closely aligned to the call's objectives.

This scheme is expected to have two call periods, one launching in October 2022 and the second due to launch in September 2023.

5. Eligible costs and profile of spend

The **UK-Israel innovation researcher mobility scheme** funding is awarded to UK HEIs based on the below categories of costs and the corresponding flat rates awarded on a per-researcher, per-monthly basis (unless otherwise indicated)

Direct costs:
- Travel (flight and local UK & Israel) (1st month only – one off payment) **£1000**
- Visa and associated costs (1st month only – one off payment) **£500**
- Subsistence: accommodation and local travel **£2000**
- Subsistence: living costs **£1500**
- Salary Costs/Teaching Replacement (if applicable and for exchange of a minimum three months, one off payment) **£5000**

Indirect cost (contribution):
- Set at **10% of Direct costs**

UK HEIs will invoice UUKi on a five-monthly basis for the total value of the eligible costs incurred in the given five-month period. As the official project start date is 1 April 2023 the initial invoice will be required on 31 August 2023 and the second and final invoice on 31 January 2024.

6. Terms of applying

- This guidelines document is not an agreement and is neither an offer nor invitation by UUKi to the prospective applicants or any other person.
- The purpose of these guidelines is to provide interested parties with information to assist in the formulation of their application.
- Applications that are not validated and /or not received by the specified deadline will not be accepted.
- UUKi will notify both the lead applicant and administrative contact as noted on the application form where the UK HEI has been provisionally selected for funding (subject to agreeing a contract between UUKi and the institution).

- UUKi reserves the right to publish the names of selected institutions. By applying for an award, you are giving your consent for your details to be published in this way, provided your application is successful.
- All terms and conditions of award are subject to UK local law and practices and are subject to change by UUKi.
- UUKi may in its absolute discretion, but without being under any obligation to do so, update, amend, or supplement the information, assessment or assumptions contained in these guidelines.

7. Data Protection

- UUKi will use information provided in the application solely for the purpose of processing the application, making any consequential award, for the payment, monitoring and review of the Award.
- UUKi shall share any necessary data on the application with the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, for reporting purposes.

8. How to apply

- The deadline for applications has been EXTENDED to **5pm (GMT) - Monday 30 January 2023.**

All applications must be submitted via the dedicated call webpage using the designated online application form. This is available at:

http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/topics/international/international-research-collaboration/uk-israel-innovation-researcher-mobility

Frequently Asked Questions have been compiled and added to the call webpage:

http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/topics/international/international-research-collaboration/uk-israel-innovation-researcher-mobility

9. Evaluation criteria

Please refer to detailed criteria for applications in the call document 'Selection Criteria'. As stated in the 'Selection Criteria' document applications will be scored out of 20 in total with each of the following criteria being scored out of 5 and equally weighted:

- Existing partnership
- Project fit
- Sustainability and impact

- Operational capacity and cost effectiveness.

Each application will be evaluated and scored remotely by three independent reviewers. The applications will be listed according to their scores and reviewed by the Selection Committee who will make the final decision on funding allocations. The Selection Committee will comprise Pro-Vice Chancellors at UK HEIs and senior members of staff with relevant experience from sector organisations. In the event of a split panel, the Selection Committee Chair will have the deciding vote.

Membership of the Selection Committee is subject to confirmation.

The decision of the Selection Committee is final and confidential. No appeals will be considered. UUKi is unable to enter into any communication on the Selection Committee's decisions.

10. Timeline

Call opens	Thursday 20 October 2022
Call closes	DEADLINE EXTENDED: 5pm (GMT) - Monday 30 January 2023
Review and selection process	To be completed by 10 March 2023
Institutions notified of outcome	By 11 March 2023
Project start date	1 April 2023
Project end date	No later than 31 January 2024
Researcher mobility must take place within the project dates stated. Extensions will not be permitted	1 April 2023 – 31 January 2024

11. Offer of award (which includes Terms and Conditions)

Full conditions of the award can be found in the Offer of award letter (including Terms and Conditions) available on the call website.

12. Key call documents

The following key call documents can be found on the call webpage:

- Application form
- Call guidelines
- Selection criteria
- Budget spreadsheet
- Reporting templates
- FAQs
- Offer of award letter (including Terms and Conditions of award)

As part of the application form lead applicants will be asked to confirm that they have read, understood and agree with the call guidelines, selection criteria and offer of award letter.

13. About Universities UK International (UUKi)

Universities UK International (UUKi) is the international arm of Universities UK, representing UK universities and acting in their collective interests globally. We actively promote universities abroad, provide trusted information for and about them, and create new opportunities for the sector.

14. Contact

If you have any questions, please contact the UUKi Strategic Partnerships Team:

Universities UK International
Woburn House
20 Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9HQ
Email: uk-israel-mobility@international.ac.uk

15. Applicant Eligibility checklist

The application form is completed in full and complies with instructions given	
The budget spreadsheet has been completed and sent to the email address listed above upon submission of the online application form	

All the necessary institutional approvals to submit the application on behalf of applying UK HEI and partner organisation have been obtained	
The institution applying is a UK HEI that receives grant funding from one of the UK higher education funding bodies	
Lead applicants submitting this application are employed by the lead UK HEI and are resident in the UK at the point of application	
The partner organisation is a current collaborative partner of the applying UK HEI and is aware of this potential mobility and its aims	
The proposed duration of each individual researcher mobility is no less than one month in total and must be completed by the 31 January 2024	