

UUKi UK – Israel innovation researcher mobility scheme (call 2)

Guidelines

**DEADLINE EXTENDED: Tuesday 30 January 2024
5pm (GMT)**

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1. Background and overview of the scheme

Universities UK International (UUKi, an operating unit of Universities UK) **UK-Israel innovation researcher mobility scheme** provides funding for researchers and research related staff from UK, Israeli and OPT higher education institutions (HEIs) to spend a period of mobility at an existing or new partner organisation to undertake projects focussed on innovation and/or entrepreneurial skills development. The scheme has three strands; allowing applicants to indicate the direction of the planned mobility as either the UK to Israel /OPTs, Israel/OPTs to the UK or both.

This scheme is funded by the UK [Department for Science, Innovation and Technology](#) (DSIT) and is now in its second year forming part of the UK Government's [International Science Partnerships Fund](#). The scheme was agreed during a Ministerial visit to Israel in March 2022. Israel, with its research intensity, successful innovation ecosystem and global outlook is seen as a strategic partner for the UK. 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, a [framework](#) for which was signed in March 2023. This Roadmap is focussed on deepening the gov-gov bilateral relationship, and DSIT's [Science and Technology \(S&T\) Framework](#) is a key component of this. For Research & Innovation (R&I), the focus in working with Israel is on skills development in the innovation space ([Innovation Strategy](#) Pillar 2) across several priority areas as referenced to in the [Integrated Review Refresh 2023](#).

2. Objectives and aims of the scheme

Primarily the **UK-Israel innovation researcher mobility scheme** will support the development of UK innovation capabilities and expertise via international mobility of UK based researchers and research related staff by funding them to travel and learn from expertise from the region. The scheme has also been opened up to allow inbound mobility to the UK by Israeli/OPT partners with the primary aim of sharing their knowledge and techniques in the innovation space with their UK counterparts. This scheme welcomes applications from all disciplines for projects that can demonstrate their innovation and entrepreneurial skills enhancement of UK based researchers. This scheme will further links between the UK and Israeli ecosystem by advancing existing and developing new research and innovation (R&I) collaborations.

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

- Support UK HEIs to further their existing and develop new partnerships with higher education institutions or companies in the region, focussing on innovation and entrepreneurial skills development
- Enable mobility of UK-based researchers and research related staff to enable upskilling, mutual learning and sharing of best practice between partners
- Contribute to the upskilling of UK-based researchers by enabling mobility of Israeli/OPT based researchers to travel to the UK
- Support the international capacity building and professional development of up-and-coming and established researchers and research related staff in the UK
- Contribute to the delivery of the UK [Innovation Strategy](#) and / or the [Integrated Review Refresh 2023](#).

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 will lead the relationship with the existing or new 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. UK Lead applicants must also have received all necessary authorisation on behalf of the partner organisation.

To be eligible to apply the UK Lead applicant must:

- be a researcher
- 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 overall responsibility for the application and any subsequent awards.

The individual mobilities are open to:

- **researchers** at all career stages (PhD, post-doc, lecturer, etc)
- **research related staff** (including technicians, research funding/development managers, business/innovation managers and related roles) provided that it can be sufficiently demonstrated that their participation will further

the innovation and/or entrepreneurship development of the researchers and the research community in the UK more widely.

To be eligible to undertake periods of mobility, researchers and research related staff must:

- For Lead UK HEI: be employed or be undertaking a research degree (PhD, MRes or equivalent) at the Lead UK HEI for the duration of the mobility.
- For partner organisation: be employed or be undertaking a research degree (PhD, MRes or equivalent) at the partner organisation for the duration of the mobility.
- Be able to undertake mobility within the timeframe 1 April 2024 – 31 January 2025.

In order to carry out their project, those receiving funding must undertake their full months of mobility by being physically located in the country that they are receiving the mobility funding for.

4. Available funding

This is the second and final call of this two-year programme. The total amount of funding available for the **UK-Israel innovation researcher mobility scheme** is **£980,000** over the two year / two call period. UUKi expects to make around 20-30 awards altogether, but this is highly dependent on the number and duration of individual mobilities. There is no limit to the number of researchers or research related staff 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 scheme's objectives.

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 /research related staff, per-monthly basis** (unless otherwise indicated). All costs related to mobility in either direction will be borne and paid for by the UK Lead HEI.

Direct costs	Travel from the UK - Israel/OPTs	Travel from Israel/OPTs to the UK
*1Travel (flight and local UK & Israel) (one off payment)	£1000	£1000
*1Visa and associated costs (one off payment)	£500	£500
Subsistence: accommodation and local travel (per month)	£2000	£2000
Subsistence: living costs (per month)	£1500	£1500
*2Dependants allowance (per month)	£500	-
*2Disability allowance (per month)	£1000	£1000
*3Salary Costs/Teaching Replacement (one off payment)	£5000	-

Indirect cost (contribution to the UK Lead HEI)	Set at 10% of Direct costs	Set at 10% of Direct costs
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*1 1st month only – one off payment

*2 if applicable, please specify in budget spreadsheet. Per month

*3 if applicable and for exchange of a minimum three months, one off payment

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 2024 the initial invoice will be required on 31 August 2024 and the second and final invoice on 31 January 2025.

6. Terms of application

- This guidelines document is not an agreement and is neither an offer nor invitation of offer 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 duly authorised and /or not received by the specified deadline will not be accepted.
- UUKi will notify both the Lead applicant and administrative contact where the UK HEI has been provisionally selected for funding (subject to agreeing a contract between UUKi and the UK HEI).
- UUKi reserves the right to publish the names of selected UK HEIs. By making an application to the scheme you are giving your consent for your details to be published in this way, provided your application is successful.
- Offer of award (including Terms and Conditions) 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 Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), for reporting purposes.

8. How to apply

- The deadline for applications is **EXTENDED TO: 30 January 2024 at 5pm (GMT)**

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

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/topics/international/international-research-collaboration/uk-israel-innovation-researcher-mobility-0>

Frequently Asked Questions have been compiled and added to the call webpage. They are being kept up to date: <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/topics/international/international-research-collaboration/uk-israel-innovation-researcher-mobility-0>

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:

- Partnership fit
- 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 or 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.

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	Monday 4 September 2023
Call closes	EXTENDED to 30 January 2024 (5pm GMT)
Review and selection process	Completed by early March 2024
Institutions notified of outcome	In mid-March 2024
Project start date	1 April 2024

Project end date	No later than 31 January 2025
Mobility must take place within the project dates stated. Extensions will not be permitted	1 April 2024– 31 January 2025

11. Offer of award (including Terms and Conditions)

Full conditions of the award can be found in the Offer of award letter (including Terms and Conditions) which will be made available on the call website in early January 2024.

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 – on the call webpage
- Offer of award letter (including Terms and Conditions)

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:

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 Lead 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 an existing or new 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 2025.	
The minimum mobility requirement of 3 months for at least one applicant as part of a proposal with a new partner has been met.	