

The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center

ISTRC Call for Scholarships 2021

Call publication: 30.11.2020

Final submission: 1.2.2021

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.

- **Zero casualties:** Generating a safe, resilient and forgiving system that will optimally respond to safety and security failures while considering all road users (mixed traffic, vehicles, non-motorized and new modes, both automatic and manual), with zero fatalities and serious injuries, and a development and implication of cutting edge technologies and other means in the field of automation and connectivity.
- **Zero delays:** Generating an efficient and equitable transportation system to ensure optimal level of service that is tailored to individuals' mobility needs, while maintaining the needs of all. A system based on Transit Oriented Development, environmental friendly land use planning, and Mobility as a Service, that optimally reflects the inherent opportunities of motorized and non-motorized transport modes, public and shared transportation, and in various levels of automation.
- **Zero environmental harm:** Preventing all types of emissions, noise, and other environmental externalities by developing and adopting clean and renewable energies for energy conservation and the promotion of sustainable transport modes and behavior.

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 encourage students and researchers from different fields and academic departments to promote ideas and research in this field.

Objectives of this Call:

ISTRC aim to develop human capital in the field of smart transportation and encourage students at all levels and from various fields of knowledge.

ISTRC Scholarships are designed to achieve excellency and to increase the number of graduate students and researchers, through supporting master and PhD students that their research can contribute to **ISTRC vision of Zero Transportation Externalities**.

Funding scope and duration

The ISTRC will publish Call for scholarships once a year.

This year scholarships allocation budget is up to 405,000 NIS

- Master students (Thesis track): 15,000 NIS each for the academic year 2020-21 (תשפ"א)
- PhD students: 18,000 NIS each for the academic year 2020-21 (תשפ"א)

Students will be welcome to submit application to extend the grant for another year in the next call.

Eligibility criteria

- Applicant is a student in one of the academic institutes in Israel whose research is within the scope of smart transportation:
 - Master student with approved thesis research topic.
 - Master student with proposed research topic (receiving the grant pending approving the topic).
 - PhD student with approved research proposal.
- Applicant should be active / registered student while applying to the grant.

How to apply?

Applications should be submitted through the relevant scholarship coordinators in each academic institute.

Submission date to ISTRC by 1.2.2021

Specifications for submission:

- Full application will be sent in **one PDF file**.
- Scholarship applications should be written in English.
- Full application should include:
 1. 1st page:
 - Full name of applicant, ID number, e-mail address, academic degree studies
 - Institute name, Faculty/department
 - Name and e-mail address of supervisor(s)
 - Research title.
 2. CV (including academic and research achievements, as publications, conference participation, awards etc.)
 3. Transcripts of all academic degrees (גיליון ציונים)
 4. Applicant declaration of other scholarships received within this academic year including grant sum and names of funds. If there are no additional scholarships, please declare so as well.
 5. Applicant declaration of any paid work and corresponding salary (including work within the academic institute as research/ teaching assistant, or outside the academic institute). If the applicant does not work, please declare so as well.
 6. Abstract of the topic and research plan (up to two pages)
 7. Research progress report (up to one page – if no progress make a statement)
 8. Letter of recommendation from the supervisor.

Following the submission of an application, further details and clarifications about the student's research may be required from the student to assist with the evaluation of the application.

For Scholarship coordinators:

- Applications should be sent by e-mail to istrc@technion.ac.il.
- In the email subject, please mention: ***ISTRC Call for Scholarships 2021 _ Last name of the applicant.***
- Please note there is no limit to the number of applications per academic institute.
- Applications must include all the above items. Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.

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 his record of studies, starting undergraduate studies.
2. Approved research plan including letter of recommendation from the supervisor.
3. Relevance to smart transportation.
4. Innovation level of the research.
5. Academic and research achievements, as publications, conference participation, awards etc.
6. Other scholarships and salary.

Results are expected to be sent to the scholarship coordinators in each academic institute by mid-April.

ISTRC will publish winners name and research title, as well as supervisors' names, on ISTRC website and publications.

Academic reporting

Progress report (up to two pages) signed by the supervisor at the end of the academic year.

Copy of the final / approved research will be sent to ISTRC. 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](#)).

Selected researches will be presented by the researchers 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.

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 budget execution report, signed by the finance manager of the academic institute, no later than 15.10.2021.

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 proposals include 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 proposal, 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.

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