



Vaadia-BARD Postdoctoral Fellowship Guidelines and Regulations for Applicants and Recipients

(Updated: October 2018)

Submission Date – mid-January (specific date on the web-site)

Applications are now being submitted on-line at www.bard-isus.com/pd

Available 1 month prior to the submission date

Submission Guidelines

Introduction & Objectives

The Vaadia-BARD Postdoctoral Fellowship program is so named to recognize and honor Yoash Vaadia who, together with T.W. Edminster, guided the inception of the Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD).

The program is designed to identify and support young scientists who will eventually become leaders in agricultural sciences and technologies in universities and research institutions in the United States and Israel. The primary objective of the fellowship is to enable these young scientists to acquire new skills and techniques while becoming professionally established in the agricultural research community. The program promotes cooperative agricultural research between postdoctoral fellows from one country (the United States or Israel) and established scientists from the other. Recipients will travel to the host country to carry out their research.

Eligibility

Citizens of Israel and of USA, who will have fulfilled all the requirements for a Ph.D. degree in their home country within three years prior to the initiation of the fellowship, are eligible to apply. **The BARD fellowship is not available for the continuation of or concurrent to any existing fellowship in the other country.**

For one year following the conclusion of the fellowship, recipients are ineligible to submit a BARD research proposal in which they are the PI or Co-PI affiliated with an institution in the *host* country. They may submit as a PI or Co-PI only if affiliated with an institution in their *home* country. Fellows can submit as a collaborating investigator with affiliation from either country.

Non-BARD Funds: Funds from other sources cannot exceed 50% of the grant awarded by BARD.

Dual Citizens: The eligibility of persons enjoying dual citizenship in the USA and Israel will be considered on an individual case basis by BARD; such potential applicants should contact BARD before applying (nitsan@bard-isus.com)

Applicants

BARD gives preference to applicants with innovative research topics that are relevant to agricultural issues. Applicants are evaluated on the basis of academic excellence in their field of study. Such excellence should be reflected in the application. Measures of performance include indicators of productivity (e.g., publications, presentations at scientific meetings), indicators of meritorious impact on the field of study (participation in scientific societies, awards and recognitions, proven teaching achievements) and other indications of a commitment to excellence in the discipline.

Mentor (host scientist and laboratory)

Only one mentor and institution can be named by the applicant and a given mentor may apply with only one applicant each year.



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BARD views the mentor as the key to the postdoctoral fellow's success. The mentor provides the physical and the intellectual environment required for a productive experience.

Metrics reflective of excellence in research include:

- ✓ the record of publications in peer reviewed journals
- ✓ success in the acquisition of external research support
- ✓ invited presentations at other institutions or at conferences
- ✓ prior experience in successful mentoring of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
- ✓ service contributions to the broader research enterprise (i.e. training grants, service on review panels and other committees, editorial responsibilities with scholastic journals, etc.)

Generally, evidence of excellence is also reflected in the international impact of the mentor's activities. BARD considers it to be essential that the mentor has excellent credentials and the necessary resources to enrich the experience and expertise of the postdoctoral fellow, thereby ensuring that s/he is best prepared to make long term contributions to agriculture through research, teaching and/or outreach.

The Application

The on-line submission includes the following:

- **Postdoctoral Applicant Information page** Enter *all* requested details.
- **Application Files** Prepare the requested files listed below in advance *as separate PDF files* (in English, at least 1.5 line spacing, font size 12, margins 2.5cm all around) and upload them one at a time.

Applicant Curriculum Vitae including the following sections in this order:

- ✓ Education, including degrees received
- ✓ Presentations/participation at scientific meetings: clearly specify whether a poster or talk was presented and indicate the presenting author
- ✓ Membership/activities in academic and scientific societies
- ✓ Teaching and training experience
- ✓ A brief summary of key scientific accomplishments that are not yet published
- ✓ Awards, scholarships, fellowships

List of Publications (indicate journal name and volume number)

- ✓ List peer reviewed articles and invited contributions first
- ✓ List books, book chapters, and other publications
- ✓ List "in press" articles, include date and journal name
- ✓ Do NOT include abstracts of meeting presentations
- ✓ Do NOT list submitted manuscripts, 'accepted', or 'under review'

Career Statement Summarize your professional accomplishments to date. Explain the choice of mentor. State the professional and scientific goals following the fellowship.

Official Graduate program transcript of academic record (grades) in English, with the University stamp.

Recommendation of the Primary Thesis Advisor is required and should be sent directly to BARD (e-mail to: nitsan@bard-isus.com).



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Mentor CV Submit a *brief curriculum vitae*, maximum three single spaced pages. Include the following items:

- ✓ Academic background
- ✓ Awards and honors
- ✓ External and university service
- ✓ Current and pending grant support
- ✓ Number of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows mentored in the past 5 years; indicate who is a current laboratory member.
- ✓ Peer-reviewed publications of the last 5 years, including journal name and title. Do not include conference abstracts.

Mentor's statement (one page maximum) of the mentor's commitment to the applicant and the rationale for supporting the applicant to work in the mentor's laboratory. Comment specifically on your own and the applicant's relative roles in preparation of the proposal.

Application Signature Page

Research Proposal (Maximum 4 pages, excluding references; do not use abbreviations). While it is expected that the applicant will consult with the mentor, the applicant is to take primary responsibility for preparation of the research proposal. The proposal should outline a general program for a two-year project and a detailed, focused research plan for the first year only.

Include the following elements plus one page maximum of preliminary data or other relevant material.

- ✓ hypotheses and objectives to be achieved in the first year
- ✓ description of the innovative aspects of the research
- ✓ research plan and its rationale
- ✓ detailed outline of the proposed methodology
- ✓ feasibility of completing the research in the allotted time span
- ✓ relevance to agriculture and/or the environment
- ✓ relevant bibliography, including full title, date, journal name, volume and page numbers

Please note: Your application will not be processed unless all required documents are received by the submission date.

Evaluation

The BARD Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Executive Director make recommendations for funding to the Board of Directors. Evaluation focuses on:

- ✓ scientific background and productivity of the applicant and mentor
- ✓ relevance and quality of the proposed research to agricultural sciences and technologies

Scientific achievements and qualifications of the applicant are of primary importance. These, together with service and training contributions of the mentor, are also considered. The relevance of the proposed research to agriculture, though not necessarily its immediate applicability, is given considerable weight. Proposed research that is peripheral to BARD's agricultural mission or that will be undertaken in an inappropriate research environment will be given lower priority.



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The Award

BARD postdoctoral fellowships are for a period of one year; however BARD sees a two-year postdoctoral period as an optimum (see Extensions below). Therefore, successful applicants, with the agreement of their mentor, become eligible for a second year of funding wherein the funding is shared on a matching basis between BARD and the host lab. Continuation of the fellowship for the second year is, thus, dependent upon the readiness of the host laboratory to fund 50% of the fellowship's second year award and of the candidate to continue her/his research.

The award is \$40,000, including travel expenses. In the event when the fellow has dependants (spouse, child/ren), BARD will pay a \$9,000 dependants allowance, making the total award \$49,000. The award is paid directly to the fellow, in accordance with the schedule of payments below. If two members of a given household receive BARD fellowships simultaneously, the amount of the award for either or both of these fellows will be adjusted.

Notification

The Executive Director notifies all applicants in writing of the decision of the Board of Directors during the month of May following the submission.

Agreement

The recipient must inform BARD of acceptance of the award within two months of notification. The award is to be initiated no later than December 31st of the award year. An Agreement between BARD and the fellow will be prepared outlining the terms of the fellowship, the total award and schedule of payments. BARD requires a formal confirmation from the institution awarding the degree that the fellow has either been awarded the degree or has submitted the Ph.D. thesis prior to signing the Agreement with BARD. If the thesis is submitted but not yet approved, the third and later payments of the award will be conditional upon further confirmation from the awarding institution regarding entitlement to the Ph.D. degree.

Health Insurance

As health insurance in the US is a significant expense, Israeli recipients travelling to the US are encouraged to inquire with their host institution and mentor regarding the available options.

Change of Host Institution

BARD will not consider any requests for changes in the Mentor or host institution prior to initiation of the award. Under extraordinary circumstances, BARD may approve a change in Mentor or host institution after the initiation of the award. In such cases, the fellow must present a written request for BARD's approval in advance.



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Administration Guidelines

Financial arrangements will be made in coordination with BARD's Controller (miriam@bard-isus.com).

Schedule of Payments

| Payment | Amount (US \$) | Timing of Payment | Documents required |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---|---|
| First | 11,500 | Upon signature of the Fellowship Agreement, but not earlier than six weeks before commencement date | Signed Agreement, submission/approval of PhD thesis |
| Dependants allowance (if relevant) | 9,000 | Together with first payment | Photocopy of ID/passport |
| Second | 9,000 | Three months after commencement date | Declaration of Initiation of Research |
| Third | 9,000 | Six months after commencement date | Semi-Annual Declaration + approval of PhD Thesis |
| Fourth | 9,000 | Nine months after commencement date | |
| Fifth | 1,500 | Upon receipt of scientific report/10-12 months after commencement date | Approval of 1 st year scientific report |

Declaration of Initiation of the Research

This declaration, signed by both the Fellow and the Mentor, is due upon arrival at the mentor's lab and confirms that the research has been initiated.

Semi-Annual Declaration

This declaration, signed by both the Fellow and the Mentor, confirms that the research is in progress and is due six months after the commencement date.

Extensions

Requests for extensions can be submitted after the 10th month of work, together with the submission of the first year's scientific report. BARD will consider support for an additional year, on a matching fund basis with the host laboratory. The award for the second year is \$40,000 (\$49,000 with dependants). The host lab pays the first half of the second year, \$20,000 (\$24,500 with dependants). BARD pays the second half of the second year, \$20,000 (\$24,500 with dependants).

First Year Scientific Report

The first year's scientific report and request for an extension should be sent to nitsan@bard-isus.com and include:

- ✓ first year report cover page, signed as requested, attached below
- ✓ a scientific report of the first year's progress
- ✓ a short outline of the research plan for the second year
- ✓ a written commitment from the mentor and host institution to pay the first half of the extended year

Final Scientific Report

A final scientific report is due within two months of completion of the work. Do not exceed 5 pages in length. Include:

- ✓ final report cover page, attached below



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- ✓ abstract (not more than one page)
- ✓ statement of the original objectives
- ✓ summary of activities and accomplishments of the research
- ✓ description of scientific and agricultural impact of the project
- ✓ list the publications resulting from the research (or planned publications), include journal name and date
- ✓ statement of the fellow's current position

Publications and Acknowledgments

Send one electronic copy of all publications resulting from the research to BARD (nitsan@bard-isus.com). Acknowledge BARD's support in all relevant publications using the following format:

This research was supported by BARD, the United States - Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund, Vaadia-BARD Postdoctoral Fellowship Award No. _____.

Follow Up

BARD will be pleased to maintain contact with the Postdoctoral Fellows and periodically follow their professional progress. See our 'Postdoc Alumni of the month' on our web-site.



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PD Declaration of Initiation of Research

Vaadia-BARD Fellowship No. _____

Name of Postdoctoral Fellow _____

Name of Mentor _____

Host Institution _____

We confirm that the fellow has arrived at the Host laboratory and that the research has been initiated in accordance with the approved research and budget agreement.

Signature of Fellow _____

Signature of Mentor _____

Date _____



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PD Semi-Annual Declaration

Vaadia-BARD Fellowship No. _____

Name of Postdoctoral Fellow _____

Name of Mentor _____

Host Institution _____

We hereby certify that the research of the fellowship is being carried out in my laboratory and in accordance with the approved research and budget agreement.

Signature of Fellow _____

Signature of Mentor _____

Date _____



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PD First Year Report Cover Page

Vaadia-BARD Fellowship No. _____

Name of Postdoctoral Fellow _____

Name of Mentor _____

Host Institution _____

Title of Research _____

Signature of Fellow _____

Signature of Mentor _____

Date _____



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PD Final Report Cover Page

Vaadia-BARD Fellowship No. _____

Name of Postdoctoral Fellow _____

Name of Mentor _____

Host Institution _____

Title of Research _____

Signature of Fellow _____

Signature of Mentor _____

Date _____