Crown Family / IIP
Collaborative Seed Research Fellowships
For Northwestern University & Israel

DEADLINE EXTENSION to 8 am, Friday, Jan 3, 2025!

1. Introduction and Purpose

The Crown Family / IIP Collaborative Seed Research Fellowships for Northwestern University / Israel ("Crown/IIP-Seed") are intended to support and promote joint research projects carried out by Northwestern University (NU) researchers in engineering and science in collaboration with Israeli University research groups through a Call for Proposals. A lead Principal Investigator ("PI") affiliated with Northwestern University and a collaborative Principal Investigator ("co-PI") at an eligible Israeli research institution are invited to submit joint research proposals for the development of collaboratively advised research (the "Project"). This research will be supported with four (4) quarters of NU Ph.D. fellowship support for funded effort taking place at NU and includes an additional one (1) quarter of fellowship support for the exchange of a Ph.D. student, M.Sc. student, or post-doc researcher from the Israeli institution to NU under the terms and conditions described below. The research should be conducted within the Schools and Faculties of Engineering and Science at the respective institutions.

2. Project Definitions, Eligibility, Allowable Costs

A) Up to five (5) joint Projects will be selected by means of a call for proposals issued by NU. The fellowship support is provided by the Crown Family Fund of NU, jointly administered by the McCormick School of Engineering and the Weinberg School of Arts and Sciences, as well as the Israel Innovation Project (IIP).

B) Qualifying faculty from all McCormick departments are eligible to apply, as are qualifying Weinberg faculty in the departments of: Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth & Planetary Sciences, Mathematics, Molecular Biosciences, Neurobiology, Physics & Astronomy, Psychology, Sociology, and Statistics & Data Science.

C) To be eligible under the program, a Project team must include at least one (1) PI and one (1) Ph.D. student from NU and one (1) co-PI and one (1) Ph.D. student, M.Sc. student, or post-doc from an eligible Israeli University. Eligibility to serve as a Project PI/co-PI will be determined in accordance with the policies and procedures of the relevant institution.

   i. The proposal should be submitted by the lead PI, who is a tenure-track / tenured researcher affiliated with NU. Up to one additional NU faculty can be added as co-PI, if desired.

ii. The Israeli co-PI should be a tenure-track / tenured researcher who is affiliated with an accredited Israeli university offering graduate degrees.
iii. The team must also include at least one (1) NU Ph.D. student and at least one (1) Israeli Ph.D. student, M.Sc. student, or post-doc who will work on the project. Participating Northwestern University Ph.D. students must have completed their qualifying exam and at least eight (8) full quarters in their current Ph.D. program to be eligible for fellowship funding.

D) A prior collaborative research record of accomplishments between groups is *not* required to apply for funding.

E) Support is intended to seed new joint research projects between PI's at the two institutions who together co-advise the junior research Fellows. Support is *not* intended for advancing pre-existing research collaborations unless there is a significant expansion of the scope and/or partnership of the pre-existing research.

F) The four (4) quarters of NU Crown/IIP Research Fellowships and one (1) quarter of Israeli visitor Crown/IIP Research Fellowships will be issued as follows:

- The first two quarters of NU Crown Fellowship funding will be made available on March 1, 2025 (available for spring quarter 2025).
- The second two quarters of NU Crown Fellowship funding will be made available upon arrival of the collaborating Israeli Ph.D./post-doc. The visitor arrival can be no earlier than Sept. 1, 2025, the start of the fall quarter 2025.
- Each Crown/IIP Fellowship quarter for the NU Ph.D. researchers covers the full stipend, fringe, and tuition rate for one (1) NU Ph.D. student, and requires 100% dedicated effort on the collaborative project for that student.
- Multiple quarters of Crown Fellowship funding can be awarded to more than one NU Ph.D. student either simultaneously or sequentially.
- Crown/IIP Fellowships for visiting Ph.D. or M.Sc. researchers from an Israeli institution provide the visiting student with a living stipend equal to the current NU Ph.D. student stipend rate each month for three (3) months valued at $12,500, which includes the required insurance costs and visa application fees. Crown/IIP Fellowships for visiting post-docs from an Israeli institution provide the visiting post-doc with a living stipend equal to the NU minimum post-doc stipend rate each month for three (3) months valued at $16,500, which includes the required insurance costs and visa application fees.
- The Visiting Research Fellows will be responsible for the cost and arrangement of their own international travel and will be responsible for finding local housing for the duration of their stay.
- Participating visiting junior researchers must conduct research on NU's Evanston campus and be appointed as visiting researchers in the NU PI's research group to qualify as a Fellow.

G) Each Project will last no more than 18 months, starting on or after March 1st, 2025, and ending on or before Aug. 31st, 2026. The visiting Israeli researcher must start their visit no earlier than Sept. 1st, 2025 and end their visit no later than Aug. 31st, 2026.

H) Cost extensions will *not* be allowed, and any unused funds after August 31st, 2026 will be returned to Northwestern University.

I) The collaborations that win the seed funding are expected to gather preliminary data and apply for joint research funding from a relevant funding agency or to leverage the seed-funded collaboration explicitly in US or Israeli grant applications before the end of the award period.

J) By applying, each NU lead PI agrees to participate in a round-robin review process of applications, completing up to three (3) reviews of other proposals drawn from the applicant pool of this call by 11:59 pm CST, January 15th. Prospective teams that do not submit completed reviews by the deadline will not be considered for funding.

3. Submission Instructions

[Draft .docx document example can be found here.]

All proposals will be in English in US standard format (Letter paper, 1" margins), 11-point Times New Roman font, single-spaced and should be submitted as a **single .pdf document** containing the following:

a) 1-page Cover sheet, including the following items:

- **Title:** The proposal title;
- **Principle Investigators:** The names, academic rank, and departments of the NU PI and Israeli PI and Israeli institution;
- **Abstract:** A one-paragraph, max 150 words, non-technical executive summary of the research goals (the summaries from all proposals submitted will be shared with the donor);
- **NU Fellowship Quarter Breakdown:** [See draft .docx example] For each quarter within the valid award period from March 1st, 2025 to August 31st, 2026, please list names of trainees that will be supported by this award, if available, and the number of fellowship quarters allotted for each. Note Fellowship quarters may be used to support multiple awardees in the same quarter. Please use "TBD" if the trainee's name is not yet known, and "N/A" if no fellowship funds are to be used that quarter.
- **Israeli 3-month Research Visit:** [See draft .docx example] For the Israeli visiting Ph.D./M.Sc./post-doc researcher, and please list the start and end dates of the 3 month research visit, followed by the junior researcher's name, rank (Ph.D./M.Sc./post-doc), and their institution in parentheses.
- **Budget (if applicable):** As this opportunity provides only fellowship funds, no actual dollar amounts are required and this section can be answered "N/A". But if there are anticipated materials, facilities fees, or other costs essential to the proposal, please briefly list these along with a brief statement of how those expenses will be covered.

b) 2-page Research Proposal, organized into the following subsections:

- **Scientific Question**: What scientific question does this proposal address? Why is it important? What will be learned through the proposed research? Why is the project too risky and/or not well suited for established funding mechanisms?
- **Research Plan**: Provide a compelling and well justified research plan for research that can be completed with the Fellowship funding provided.
- **Project milestones:** Briefly highlight key research outcomes
- **Measures of Success:** Discuss the ways in which this proposal will (i) affect future collaborative research directions for the PIs, (ii) increase the likelihood of both NU and Israeli research groups obtaining external funding either jointly or independently (identify at least one funding agency), and/or (iii) increase the external visibility of the NU/Israeli collaboration.
- **Figures:** Any figures must fit within the 2-page research proposal.

c) ½-page References

d) ½-page Collaborator Description

- **Collaborative History:** Explicitly state which case(s) describes the proposed collaboration: (A or B)
  - A) New collaboration: None of the proposed PIs or co-PIs on the team have ever received joint sponsored funding (such as NSF/BSF).
  - B) Old collaboration, new research project: At least two members of the research team have received joint funding on a prior research project, but the proposed topic of research is distinct from that of the previously funded joint project
- **Research Team:** Summarize the relevant expertise that each submitting PI brings to the project. Also, if B) was answered, above, briefly discuss the nature of and rationale for the new research direction for an existing collaboration.

e) NSF style biosketch (see template) or NIH style biosketch for the lead faculty PI and all co-PIs.

4. Proposal Submission:

The NU lead-PI should submit his/her joint application through the following link:

https://competitions.fsm.northwestern.edu/grants/crowniipfellows

Proposals must be submitted as a **single .pdf file.** Proposals submitted as multiple files will be returned without review.

For administrative purposes, if you have identified a partner and plan to apply, please notify Prof. Grayson by email at global.initiatives@northwestern.edu before the January 3 deadline.

5. Intellectual Property

NU and Israeli partner institutions agree that each party has its own pre-existing proprietary rights that are not affected by this Call for Proposals. If NU personnel and personnel from an

Israeli partner institution are co-inventors of any result or invention, the parties will negotiate in good faith and enter into an inter-institutional agreement relating to the protection, use and commercialization of such joint result or invention.

6. Timeline for 2025 Call for Joint Research Proposals –

Updated Call for Proposals announced on NU websites and/or distributed by email	December 2nd, 2024
Closing date for submission of proposal	8:00 am, January 3rd, 2025
Project adjudication: Projects will be reviewed in round-robin style by submitting PIs, with final decision reached votes of the Crown/IIP Advisory committee.	January 3rd, 2025 – January 17th, 2025
Notification of results	January 27th, 2025

The timeline for this proposal is accelerated in order to align with Northwestern's graduate student funding decision deadline for Spring quarter 2025. To maintain this schedule, all deadlines will be strictly enforced, and no extensions will be allowed.

7. Analysis and Selection

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of a strong collaborative need between Israeli and NU PIs. Interdisciplinary applications are welcome.
2. Elaboration of a compelling research program for the visiting Israeli researcher while embedded in the Northwestern group.
3. The final awards will be made with an eye toward institutional diversity and variety of research area.
4. Partnerships between PIs at a wide variety of career stages are encouraged, with a mixture of pre-tenure and tenured faculty anticipated among the awarded PIs.

8. Result of the Analysis

Final results will be announced by email to the applicants and other interested parties.

9. Contract for Selected Projects

Each PI will sign a research agreement with their respective institution, outlining the terms of the award, the use of funds, duration, and other terms consistent with this call for proposals.

10. Final Project Reports

Final projects reports, two pages in length, are due to each institution within 2 months after the project ends.

Each report should include:

- A brief summary of the collaborative research project
- A description of the development of human resources – with emphasis on graduate students associated with the project
- A list of joint publications or papers submitted for publication, conference presentations, and any intellectual property disclosures
- Any other outcomes of the collaborative project
- A description of the collaborative research funding applied for, or planned for, to continue collaboration between the two groups

Reports will be submitted to the following contact:

Prof. Matthew Grayson, Director of McCormick Global Initiatives, Northwestern University
Email: global.initiatives@northwestern.edu

11. Grant Cancellation

NU may cancel funding if, during the tenure of the award, one or more facts are deemed serious enough to warrant cancellation, at the discretion of the Director of McCormick Global Initiatives.

12. Information about the Call for Proposals

All questions related to this Call for Proposals must be directed to:

Prof. Matthew Grayson, Director of McCormick Global Initiatives, Northwestern University
Email: global.initiatives@northwestern.edu