



## Call for Proposals in Joint NSF-BSF Programs in Earth Sciences

**The U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) is pleased to announce the opening of a new round of applications in the joint funding programs in Earth Sciences with the Division of Earth Sciences (EAR), in the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO) of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF).**

The Terms of this program are as follows:

### General:

1. This NSF-BSF program is not a “special” program with the NSF setting aside money for potential grants. Rather, it is an integral part of the regular NSF programs in this discipline, with no “special” funds. Clear understanding of it by the U.S. partner is essential before embarking on proposal writing.

### Program Areas:

2. Proposals are welcome in Earth Sciences core programs:

#### **Geophysics:**

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=13682&org=EAR&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13682&org=EAR&from=home)

#### **Petrology and Geochemistry:**

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=13683&org=EAR&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13683&org=EAR&from=home)

#### **Tectonics:**

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=13673&org=EAR&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13673&org=EAR&from=home)

#### **Geobiology and Low-Temperature Geochemistry:**

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=13689&org=EAR&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13689&org=EAR&from=home)

**Geomorphology and Land Use Dynamics:**

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=13690&org=EAR&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13690&org=EAR&from=home)

**Hydrologic Sciences:**

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=13684&org=EAR&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13684&org=EAR&from=home)

**Sedimentary Geology and Paleobiology:**

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=13691&org=EAR&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13691&org=EAR&from=home)

- 3. Prior to submission, the U.S. applicant is advised to contact the appropriate NSF program director to discuss the research focus of his international project.**
4. Applications must be written jointly by an Israeli and a U.S. scientist from a U.S. research institution.
5. The NSF accepts applications only from US scientists and submission to the NSF should be made by the U.S. PI alone (the Israeli does not appear as a formal co-PI on the application). However, in the collaborative applications, the role of the Israeli partner(s) must be described. **Furthermore, it should be clearly explained why the contribution of the Israeli PI to the research project is important/essential.**
6. If awarded a grant, the Israeli scientist will receive a grant from the BSF, while the US scientist will receive a grant from the NSF.
7. The size of the BSF grant to the Israelis is expected to be up to 70,000\$/year for the duration of the grant, subject to the availability of funds. BSF will follow the decision by the U.S. funding agency regarding the length of the project.
8. The NSF-BSF programs in Earth Sciences have no official deadlines, both at the NSF and the BSF. Applications for Tectonics, Petrology and Geochemistry, Geophysics are welcome any time after July 24, 2017.
9. Presentations with tips for Israeli scientists who wish to submit to the NSF-BSF can be downloaded [here](#).

## Eligibility:

1. All regulations regarding eligibility of the BSF (for the Israeli PI) or the NSF (for the U.S. PI) will apply to this program.

2. **Each Israeli scientist is allowed to submit only a single proposal. Moreover, a scientist who has any pending NSF-BSF application, or has any active NSF-BSF grant that is not in its last year, is not allowed to submit an application to this program.**
3. Israeli scientists will be allowed to submit both to an NSF-BSF program and the regular BSF program, including similar applications. In the event that they are awarded a grant in both programs, they will be funded in both, unless the research application is mostly similar, in which case only their NSF-BSF program will be funded.
4. In case of similar NSF-BSF and regular BSF applications, in which the NSF evaluation was not completed by the time the regular BSF awards are made, the BSF will defer its decision regarding a possible grant to this application, until the NSF-BSF awards are announced.

## Evaluation:

1. Proposals will be evaluated by the NSF, using its [criteria](#). The BSF will create a small screening panel to quickly examine the role of the Israelis in the applications, and ascertain that it is meaningful, and that they have the knowhow and facilities to perform their part in the research. This panel will also advise the BSF regarding the budget requests, but will not evaluate the scientific merit of the applications. However, Israelis may possibly take part in the NSF evaluation process as panel members and/or external reviewers.
2. BSF is likely to fund any Israeli whose partner in this program is funded by the NSF, subject to the eligibility constraints, availability of funds, and advice of the screening panel.
3. NSF uses a conventional peer review system with expert panels and ad-hoc (external) reviews for full proposals. However, unlike the practice in Israel, panel members serve in an advisory capacity, and final decisions lie with the program officers and their management. These post-panel officials may introduce additional considerations such as whether the research topic already has support from the U.S. government, whether support from other NSF programs may be sought, etc.
4. Israeli applicants are advised that they should pay particular attention to the NSF evaluation criteria, [http://nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit\\_review/](http://nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit_review/), which may include issues such as broad impact, data management, etc., which are either missing in BSF/ISF applications, or have a greatly different meaning (particularly the term ‘broad impact’). Failure to appropriately refer to such



topics by the U.S. partner may be detrimental to the proposal, including its rejection without review. Israeli input to the broad impact statement is not essential, but may help improve the competitiveness of the application.

## Submission:

The full proposals will be submitted to the program twice.

The U.S. scientist (only) will submit to the NSF using its regulations ([http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=gpg](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg)) and submission system (<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/>). **The U.S. PI submission to the NSF MUST include the BIOGRAPHY (in the NSF format) and BUDGET (in the BSF format) of the Israeli partner as part of the auxiliary material.**

The Israeli scientist (only) will submit to the BSF, also providing the US scientist information, according to its regulations and submission system: <http://www.bsf.org.il/ElectronicSubmission/GatewayFormsAndGuidelines.aspx?PageId=7&innerTextID=0%20>

## Timetable:

Full proposals should be submitted to the BSF according to the following deadlines:

**Geophysics** – Applications are welcome any time after July 24, 2017.

**Petrology and Geochemistry** – Applications are welcome any time after July 24, 2017.

**Tectonics** – Applications are welcome any time after July 24, 2017.

**Geobiology and Low-Temperature Geochemistry** – Applications are welcome any time.

**Geomorphology and Land Use Dynamics** – Applications are welcome any time.

**Hydrologic Sciences** – Applications are welcome any time.

**Sedimentary Geology** – Applications are welcome any time.



- Grants from all applications to programs with no deadline that are submitted after Feb. are likely to be awarded no earlier than October of that year.

*Applicants are requested to acquaint themselves with the BSF regulation for this NSF-BSF program before they submit applications. The forms and regulations can be downloaded from the BSF website ([www.bsf.org.il](http://www.bsf.org.il)) under 'Guidelines and Forms'.*

**Questions regarding the applicability of the proposed research for this program should be directed by the U.S. partner to the program officer at the NSF.**

Other questions regarding this special NSF-BSF program can be discussed with the BSF management by mail or phone (972-2-5828239): Dr. Rachel (Heni) Haring ([heni@bsf.org.il](mailto:heni@bsf.org.il) ext. 110) or Ms. Yael Dressler ([yael@bsf.org.il](mailto:yael@bsf.org.il) ext. 103). Questions regarding the online application system should be directed to Ms. Orli Rozenchwajg ([orli@bsf.org.il](mailto:orli@bsf.org.il) ext. 109).