



Call for Proposals in Joint NSF-BSF Programs Dealing with the Coronavirus Disease

The U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) is accepting applications dealing with the Coronavirus Disease in all the active NSF-BSF programs.

The Terms of this program are as follows:

General:

- 1. Research projects in Biology (DEB, IOS, MCB), the Geosciences (Earth Sciences, Ocean Sciences, Atmospheric and Geospace), Engineering (CBET, ECCS, CMMI, EEC, EFMA, IIP) Materials, Physics divisions are approved for submission. The BSF is waiting for approval from other NSF units, and expects that submission to this RAPID program in more fields will be possible soon. Submission of COVID-19 related proposals to all regular NSF-BSF programs is, of course, still possible.**
2. 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, with no “special” funds. Clear understanding of it by the U.S. partner is essential before embarking on proposal writing.
3. Applications must be written jointly by an Israeli scientist in an Israeli institution and a U.S. scientist from a U.S. research institution.
4. If awarded a grant, the Israeli scientist will receive a grant from the BSF, while the U.S. scientist will receive a grant from the NSF.
5. In this program all grants and additional funding in existing grants will generally be for one year only. However, if NSF funding for a specific project will be for a longer period, the BSF will follow with a similar grant period.
6. The size of the BSF grant to the Israeli is expected to be up to \$80,000/year for experimental programs and up to \$55,000/year for theoretical or computer-based



research, **subject to the availability of funds**. If more than a single Israeli group is involved in the research, the budget may be increased by up to 50%.

7. We have put together a presentation with tips for Israeli scientists who wish to submit to the NSF-BSF. You can download the presentation [here](#).

Synopsis of Program:

The NSF DCL for the program states the following: “In light of the emergence and spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the United States and abroad, the National Science Foundation (NSF) is accepting proposals to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge.”

A description of the funding opportunities can be found in the solicitation of the NSF on its website. It is strongly advised for all potential applicants (including Israelis) to read the document carefully:

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20052/nsf20052.pdf>

Proposals should be submitted through the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism, which allows NSF to receive and review proposals having a severe urgency with regard to availability of or access to data, facilities or specialized equipment as well as quick-response research on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events.

Program Areas:

Inclusion of an area of research in this new opportunity requires specific NSF approval. Presently, all division of the Biological Sciences (DEB, IOS, MCB), Geosciences (Earth Sciences, Ocean Sciences, Atmospheric and Geospace), all division with in the Engineering (CBET, ECCS, CMMI, EEC, EFMA, IIP), Materials and Physics divisions are open for submission, while the Computer Sciences and Engineering (CSIE) Directorate will not accept joint U.S.-Israeli



RAPID applications (regular applications are still welcome). For other areas please consult with the BSF office.

Eligibility:

1. All inquiries regarding the eligibility of the research topic must be made by the U.S. PIs to the program directors at NSF. BSF will not respond to any query regarding topic eligibility.
2. All regulations regarding eligibility of the BSF (for the Israeli PI) or the NSF (for the U.S. PI) will apply to this program.
3. An Israeli scientist is allowed to submit to the program regardless of whether he has an active NSF-BSF grant or pending NSF-BSF application.

Evaluation:

1. Proposals will be evaluated by the NSF, using its [criteria](#).
2. BSF is likely to fund any Israeli whose partner in this program is funded by the NSF, subject to the eligibility constraints and the availability of funds.

Submission:

The proposals will be submitted to the program twice, by the U.S. scientist to the NSF and by the Israeli to the BSF.

The NSF accepts applications only from U.S. scientists. Submission to the NSF should be made by the U.S. PI alone, but he has to note in the cover page that it is an “NSF-BSF Application” (the Israeli does not appear as a formal co-PI on the application). In the U.S.-Israeli 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.**



The U.S. scientist (only) will submit to the NSF using its regulations (http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg) and submission system (<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/>). Complete guidance on submitting a RAPID proposal may be found in Chapter II.E.1 of the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide. **The US 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 U.S. scientist information, according to its regulations and submission system: find [here](#).

Timetable:

These programs have no deadline; applications are welcomed until further notice. Israeli PIs must submit their proposal to the BSF within seven days after the U.S. PI submits to the NSF.

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 (<https://www.bsf.org.il/funding-opportunities/nsf-bsf-joint-research-grants/the-programs/>).

Questions regarding the applicability of the proposed research for this program should be directed by the U.S. partner to one of the NSF program officers in the area of research to which the application will be submitted.

Other questions regarding this special NSF-BSF program can be discussed with the BSF management by email or phone: Dr. Rachel (Heni) Haring (heni@bsf.org.il – 054-7704010) or Ms. Yael Dressler (yael@bsf.org.il – 055-6611478). Questions regarding the online application system should be directed to Ms. Orli Rozenchwajg (orli@bsf.org.il – 052-3323714). **If, due to the circumstances, there is no response to your call, please write a short email and we will call you ASAP.**