



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

(Updated: September 2023)

*Submission Date – mid-January ( February 14 2024)*

Available 1 month prior to the submission date *On-line at [www.bard-isus.com/pd](http://www.bard-isus.com/pd)*

### **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 either Israel or the 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:** Applicants holding both US and Israel citizenship may travel under this program to Israel only if their Ph.D. degree was awarded in the US, or to the US only if their Ph.D. degree was awarded in Israel.

#### **Applicants**

BARD gives preference to applicants with innovative research topics that are relevant to agricultural issues. Applicants are evaluated based on 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. BARD views the mentor as the key to the postdoctoral fellow's success. The mentor provides the physical and the intellectual environment required



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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 (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 Registration page** please enter *all* the 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.
  - ✓ 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 by the Primary Thesis Advisor** is required and should be sent *directly* to BARD (mali@bard-isus.com).
- **Mentor CV** Submit a *brief curriculum vitae*, maximum three single spaced pages. Include the following items:
  - ✓ Academic background.
  - ✓ Awards and honors.



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- ✓ 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, signed by the mentor, on a formal letterhead of the mentor's institution) The mentor will specify his/her commitment to the applicant and the rationale for supporting the applicant to work in the mentor's lab. Comment specifically on mentor's and applicant's relative roles in preparation of the proposal.
- **Application Signature Page** at the end of the submission process you will be asked to print the signature page, and have it signed by both the mentor and the research authorities of the host institution (to confirm that they are aware and acknowledge that you are invited to the host's lab for a one-year research). You will be given a deadline of an additional 7 days beyond the submission deadline to submit the fully signed 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 the training contributions of the mentor, are also considered. The relevance of the proposed research to agriculture, though not necessarily its immediate applicability, is



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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.

### **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). The award is paid directly to the fellow, in accordance with the schedule of payments attached to the Agreement.

BARD will consider a request by the fellow to pay the award through the host institution; the fellow may inquire with the host institution if there is such an option and whether or not it is beneficial to the fellow.

As of submission January 2024, the award is \$64,000/year. This amount is all inclusive to cover travel and living expenses. No additional allowances will be paid. Second year extensions are on a matching fund basis with the host laboratory.

### **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 31<sup>st</sup> 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's office: [finance@bard-isus.com](mailto:finance@bard-isus.com)).

### **Schedule of Payments for current awards**

<b>Payment</b>	<b>Amount (US \$)</b>	<b>Timing of Payment</b>	<b>Documents required</b>
First	25,000	Upon signature of the Fellowship Agreement, but not earlier than six weeks before commencement date	Signed Agreement, submission/approval of Ph.D. thesis, Photocopy of ID/passport
Second	12,000	Three months after commencement date	Declaration of Initiation of Research
Third	12,000	Six months after commencement date	Semi-Annual Declaration + approval of Ph.D. Thesis
Fourth	12,000	Nine months after commencement date	
Fifth	3,000	Upon receipt of scientific report/10-12 months after commencement date	Approval of 1 <sup>st</sup> 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. This declaration of these guidelines, should be sent to [mali@bard-isus.com](mailto:mali@bard-isus.com).

### **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. This declaration of these guidelines, should be sent to [mali@bard-isus.com](mailto:mali@bard-isus.com).



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### Extensions

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 host lab pays for the first half of the second year, while BARD pays for the second half of the second year.

Requests for extensions can be submitted after the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

### First Year Scientific Report

The first year's scientific report and request for an extension should be sent to [mali@bard-isus.com](mailto:mali@bard-isus.com) and include:

- ✓ First year report cover page, signed as requested, attached below.
- ✓ Scientific report of the first year's progress.
- ✓ Short outline of the research plan for the second year.
- ✓ Written commitment (see proposed template) from the mentor and host institution to pay the first half of the extended year.

### Final Scientific Report

A final scientific report is due at the end of the fellowship, not later than two months from the end of the second year. Do not exceed 5 pages in length. Include:

- ✓ Final report cover page.
- ✓ 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 ([mali@bard-isus.com](mailto:mali@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 '[Featured: Spotlight on Postdocs](#)' on our website.



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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 \_\_\_\_\_



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*Use this template on the Mentor's Institution Letterhead*

PD Second Year Mentor's Commitment

Date:

To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to continue hosting (fellowship recipient's name), FI- (BARD fellowship number), at my lab in (name of institution and department), should he/she be awarded a second-year extension to his/her Va'adia-BARD postdoctoral fellowship.

I understand that the second-year funding of the BARD postdoctoral fellowship is shared between the host institution and BARD. BARD's share of the second year is half of the first year's award and will be paid in the last six months of the year.

By this letter, I certify that I will commit to funding the first 6-months of the second-year award at an amount no less than half of the first year's award.

Signature: