

The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center [ISTRC]

ISTRC Call for Scholarships 2026-27 (תשפ"ז)

Call publication: 29.3.2026

Final submission: 31.5.2026

Background

The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center (ISTRC) at the Technion, in collaboration with Bar-Ilan University, was established jointly by the Smart Mobility Initiative in Israel's Prime Minister's Office, and the Council for Higher Education.

ISTRC's mission is to encourage research and development, entrepreneurship and industry in the field of smart mobility in Israel. You can learn more about the center on ISTRC website: <https://istrc.net.technion.ac.il/>.

ISTRC Vision

The vision of the Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center is to unite the academic and R&D community and various stakeholders. This would initiate and leverage interdisciplinary and intersectoral research activities which contribute to the development of smart, efficient, and sustainable transportation, and position Israel as a world leader in the field.

For this purpose, we define the **Vision of Zero Transportation Externalities** in three dimensions: Zero casualties, Zero delays, and Zero environmental harm (<https://istrc.net.technion.ac.il/>).

The center collaborates with all academic institutions and researchers in Israel to promote cutting edge research and insights as well as empower and develop human capital in the field.

As Smart transportation is interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary in nature, ISTRC encourages students and researchers from different fields and academic departments to promote ideas and research in this field.

Objectives of this Call

ISTRC aims to develop human capital in Israel in the field of smart transportation and to encourage students at all graduate levels and from various disciplines.

ISTRC Scholarships are designed to achieve excellence as well as to increase the number of Israeli graduate students and researchers. The research supported through Master's and PhD scholarships will contribute to **ISTRC's vision of Zero Transportation Externalities**.

Funding scope and duration

This call supports scholarships for the academic year 2026-27 (תשפ"ז) only.

The maximum total budget for this year's scholarships is 910,000 NIS:

- Master students (Thesis track): 30,000 NIS each, for the academic year 2026-27 (תשפ"ז)
- PhD students: 36,000 NIS each, for the academic year 2026-27 (תשפ"ז)

Eligibility criteria

- An applicant must be a student or a future student (pending starting in the academic year (שנה"ל תשפ"ז) in one of the academic institutions in Israel whose research is within the scope of smart transportation.
- An applicant can be in one of the following groups:
 1. A **Master** student with an approved thesis research topic
 2. A **Master** student without an approved research topic
 3. A Future **Master** student, pending starting no later than October 2026
 4. A **PhD** student with an approved research proposal (אחרי בחינת מועמדות)
 5. A **PhD** student before general exam (לפני בחינת מועמדות)
 6. A Future **PhD** student, pending starting no later than October 2026

How to apply?

The deadline for Submission to ISTRC is 31.5.2026

Specifications for submission:

- Please submit your application through the **EasyChair system** [HERE](#).
- Scholarship applications should be written in English.
- A full application should include:

1. Application information:

- Full name of applicant, ID number, e-mail address

- Institute name, faculty/department
 - Research title and keywords
 - Name and e-mail address of supervisor(s)
 - Starting date of current degree studies (mm/year)
 - Expected graduation date (mm/ year)
2. **CV** (including academic and research achievements such as publications, conference participation, awards, etc.)
 3. **Transcripts of all academic degrees**, including final average per degree (גיליון ציונים) וממוצע לתואר)
 4. **Approval of the academic institution** regarding application for the grant (please see Appendix A). Since each academic institution has its own internal procedure, please check with your academic institution regarding internal procedures several weeks before submission to ISTRC, to have their approval.
Future students (eligibility groups 3, 6) are not required to send this approval.
 5. **Research information** - please follow your eligibility group:

For students in groups 1, 4, 5 (see above “Eligibility criteria”)
 - Abstract and research plan (up to two pages). The abstract should include a reference to the relevance of the research to smart transportation (including a transportation word, can be travel, traffic, mobility, etc)
 - Research progress report (up to one page – if no progress - then make a statement)
 - Letter of recommendation from the supervisor(s)
For students in groups: 2, 3, 6 (see above “Eligibility criteria”)
 - Research interest and planned studies (up to one page). The research interest should include a reference to the relevance of the research to smart transportation (including a transportation word, can be travel, traffic, mobility, etc.)
 - Recommendation letter from an active faculty member
 6. **Relevance to Zero Transportation Externalities Vision** - the candidate should demonstrate and explain the relevance of the research to the field of ‘smart transportation’, and the research potential to advance the center's vision of “Zero Transportation Externalities” (up to one page).

Following the submission of an application, further details and clarifications about the student’s research may be requested from the student to assist with the evaluation of the application.

Applications must include all the above items. Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline might not be reviewed.

For questions and clarification, please contact the Center Coordinator: Ms. Smadar Amir through istrc@technion.ac.il.

Assessment of proposals and results

Eligible proposals will be reviewed by a review committee established by ISTRC with at least five faculty members from at least five different institutions in Israel. Each application will be assessed by at least two experts.

Assessment criteria:

1. Academic achievement of the applicant according to the applicant's full academic record, beginning with undergraduate studies
2. Research plan (as required for each eligibility group, see above)
3. Letter of recommendation
4. Relevance to smart transportation
5. Innovation level of the research
6. Research achievements, such as publications, conference participation, awards, etc.

The assessment will be conducted separately for each eligibility group.

Results are expected to be sent to the scholarship coordinators in each academic institution by 1.10.26.

All winning applicants will receive the scholarship pending the academic institute's approval. Future students will need to send signed approval of the academic institute (see appendix A).

ISTRC will publish the winners' names and their research title, as well as the supervisors' names, on the ISTRC website and publications.

Academic reporting

Progress report (up to two pages) signed by the supervisor at the end of the academic year (end of August 2027).

A copy of the final / approved research report will be sent to ISTRC. The Research title will be listed on ISTRC list of publications, and the abstract will be published on the ISTRC website.

All publications generated from the research will include acknowledgment of ISTRC funding ([see here](#)). A copy will be sent to ISTRC.

Selected research projects will be presented by the students at the center's workshops or conferences, if requested.

Financial reporting

The academic institution will receive a budget commitment letter allowing the institute to allocate the grant payment to the grantee.

The academic institute will receive the grant pending budget execution report, signed by the finance manager of the academic institute, no later than 1.10.2027.

ISTRC functions under the terms and conditions of the Council for Higher Education Call. According to the "Planning and Budgeting Committee" (PBC), no institutional overhead will be charged for this grant.

Application Information

The information shared in the process of the application will only be used by ISTRC reviewers for the purpose of evaluation of your application.

The applicant undertakes to protect the intellectual property of his/ her application ISTRC will not assume responsibility for protecting such intellectual property.

ISTRC is not and shall not be liable for the content of any application, to the performance of any research that has received funding from the ISTRC and for any implementation or use of the results generated in such research, either by the applicant or by any third party.

Appendix A

The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center [ISTRC]

טופס אישור מוסד אקדמי להגשת מלגה עבור הקול הקורא:

ISTRC Call for Scholarships 2026-27 (תשפ"ז)

לתשומת לב המבקש/ת

- אנא קרא/י בעיון את הקול הקורא
- מלא/י את הטופס בדיוקנות מלאה.
- בקשה שאינה עומדת בתנאי המלגה או הלוקה בחסר לא תידון.
- יש לצרף את כל המסמכים הנדרשים בהתאם להנחיות הקול הקורא:
 - קורות חיים של המועמד/ת (כולל רשימת פרסומים במידה ויש)
 - גיליונות ציונים מכל התארים, כולל ממוצע סיום תואר
 - תקציר ותוכנית מחקר (עד 2 עמ') *
- * (לתלמידי תואר שני ללא נושא מחקר מאושר: יש להגיש Research interest and planned studies)
 - מכתב המלצה מהמנחה או מחבר סגל (במידה ועדיין אין מנחה קבוע)
- מכיוון שלכל מוסד אקדמי יש נהלי אישור שונים, אנא בדוק/ בדקי מראש עם המוסד האקדמי שלך את ההנחיות הפנימיות לאישור ההגשה.

שנה אקדמית: תשפ"ז

מוסד _____
פקולטה _____

1. פרטים אישיים

שם משפחה _____ שם פרטי _____ (עברית)
שם משפחה _____ שם פרטי _____ (לועזית)
תעודת זהות _____
כתובת דוא"ל _____

2. סמן את הסטטוס הלימודי שלך עבור הגשת המלגה הנוכחית:

- סטודנט לתואר שני מחקרי, עם נושא מחקר מאושר
- סטודנט לתואר שני מחקרי, ללא נושא מחקר מאושר
- סטודנט לתואר שלישי, לאחר בחינת מועמדות
- סטודנט לתואר שלישי, לפני בחינת מועמדות

3. לימודים אקדמיים

שנים	מוסד	תעודה

4. שמות מנחים וממליצים (יש לצרף מכתבי המלצה)

שם	תפקיד	מוסד

5. התחייבות המוסד האקדמי והמועמד/ת על קיום התנאים בהתאם לקול הקורא של המרכז

הישראלי למחקר בתחבורה חכמה (תשפ"ז) ISTRC Call for Scholarships 2026-27

אנו הח"מ מתחייבים לעמוד בכל תנאי תכנית המלגות כפי שמופיעים בהנחיות הקול הקורא.

חתימת המועמד/ת _____ תאריך _____

מורשה/ מורשי חתימה מטעם המוסד האקדמי:

שם _____ תפקיד _____

תאריך _____ חתימה _____