

CIFAR AZRIELI GLOBAL SCHOLARS

CIFAR



DETAILED PROGRAM OVERVIEW
2024/2025

CIFAR AZRIELI GLOBAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program accelerates the development of researchers in their pivotal first years as independent principal investigators. Global Scholars are emerging research leaders who feel highly motivated to engage in interdisciplinary collaboration and discussion, broaden their networks, and strengthen their leadership capacity, positioning them as drivers of transformational discovery and insight.

CIFAR invites candidates from across the humanities and natural, biomedical and social sciences to join one of our interdisciplinary Research Programs that advance transformative knowledge and solve humanity's biggest problems.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Program Overview	4
Eligibility	6
Duration and Value	8
Expectations	9
Deadline and How to Apply	10
Application Review Process and Criteria	13
Administrative Guidelines and Policies	14
Frequently Asked Questions	15

The CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program is generously supported by the Azrieli Foundation.



CIFAR is a registered charitable organization supported by the governments of Canada, Alberta and Quebec, as well as foundations, individuals, corporations, and Canadian and international partner organizations.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program develops highly talented early-career researchers into influential research leaders who shape the direction of boundary-pushing research. It has three core components:

1) FOSTERING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars join a [CIFAR Research Program](#) for two years, participating as equals within a small international network of some of the world's leading researchers, who together are collaborating across disciplines in pursuit of a fundamental research question. Meeting twice yearly in locations around the world, Fellows, Advisors and Scholars in each program share work-in-progress, exchange perspectives across fields, and develop collaborative projects that spark new insights, transform research directions, and open up new fields of inquiry.

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars receive:

- **\$100,000 CAD in unrestricted research support over two years.** These funds may be applied toward research projects, teaching release, trainee support, conference travel, and are not tied to a specific project proposal.
- **Mentorship from CIFAR Program Members.** Mentors help to address research- and career-related questions, and may open unexpected new doors. Scholars are encouraged to connect with Fellows working in another research area or discipline to help expand their vision and perspective.
- **Opportunities to apply for time-limited seed funding to support new interdisciplinary collaborations.** CIFAR Catalyst Funds motivate and support high-risk/high-reward interdisciplinary collaborations with Fellows, Advisors and/or other Global Scholars in their own or another CIFAR Research Program.

2) DEVELOPING AND BROADENING NETWORKS

The program expands Scholars' horizons and potential for impact by broadening and deepening their networks with like-minded researchers for collaboration, support and mentorship.

The **CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars Annual Meeting** brings Scholars from all Research Programs together for leadership training, networking and community-building. The retreat reserves significant unstructured time for exchanging research ideas across widely ranging disciplines, with opportunities to brainstorm creative, cross-programmatic collaborations and develop proposals for seed funding.

The next CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars Annual Meeting takes place from June 11-13, 2025 (arrival on June 10) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, where we look forward to welcoming the newest cohort.

CIFAR also facilitates opportunities for Scholars to engage with leaders in government, industry, business and civil society to both inform and disseminate their work. These may occur through the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars Annual Meeting, engagements with CIFAR's Board of Directors and donors, partnerships stemming from Research Programs' impact goals, and other venues.

3) STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Even the most accomplished early-career researchers typically enter their roles as principal investigators with little formal leadership training. The program provides training in focused areas of research leadership, including:

- Science communication - e.g., public talks, media interviews, social media, op-eds
- Team leadership - e.g., leading meetings, managing difficult conversations, negotiating
- Trainee mentorship - e.g., setting goals, giving and receiving feedback, maintaining wellness and boundaries
- Science advocacy - e.g., preparing to speak with policy makers, funders

The program offers leadership development opportunities across the year through online workshops that support interactive discussion and peer-to-peer learning. Additional funding is also available to support other professional development tailored to individual priorities.

CIFAR supports and facilitates opportunities for CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars to put their leadership skills into action, such as:

- Leading and engaging in collaborative research projects supported by CIFAR's seed funds
- Organizing a Winter/Summer School for a CIFAR Research Program
- Planning initiatives for networking, collaboration and shared learning with other next generation cohorts - e.g., Women in Research Leadership Development Symposia, Frontiers of Science Symposia
- Delivering a public talk
- Writing and publishing an op-ed



“CIFAR has been world-expanding in innumerable ways. I know of no other space where scholars across disciplines and the world can join and think together through some of humanity’s most pressing questions. The creativity that blooms from these meetings has changed the way I think about everything from how I approach research design to how I teach and mentor my students.”

HAJAR YAZDIHA

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2023-2025,
Boundaries, Membership & Belonging Program;
University of Southern California

ELIGIBILITY

CIFAR is seeking to assemble a global cohort. There are no geographical restrictions on who may apply.

To be eligible for this program, you must:

- Hold a PhD (or equivalent).
- Be employed in a full-time position at an institution of higher education or research, with responsibilities that include leading independent research as a principal investigator and supervising/teaching trainees toward the attainment of a degree.
 - Typically, you are a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the North American system, or, in other academic systems around the world, an equivalent position that is designed to lead to a permanent (tenured-equivalent) faculty position.
 - Some examples of accepted positions include, but are not limited to: Level B Lecturer or Research Fellow (Australia); Chargé de Cours or Docent (Belgium); Professor adjunto (Brazil); Maître de Conférences (France); Junior Professor or Research Group Leader (Germany); Ricercatore Tipo A and B (Italy); Profesor Titular A (Mexico); Universitair Docent (Netherlands); Ramón y Cajal Scholar (Spain); Lecturer/Senior Lecturer (United Kingdom, South Africa, Israel).
- You must have started your first such position (post-PhD) no earlier than **July 1, 2020** and no later than **July 1, 2024**. Special consideration may be given to those who have taken parental leave or have exceptional circumstances.
- Your position must be secure for the duration of the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar active term from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2027.
- **NOTE: Postdoctoral fellows are not eligible to apply to this program.**
- Engage in research that complements the themes and goals of a recruiting CIFAR Research Program (see page 10).
 - Hold an outstanding record of research achievement and promise of future impact, as evidenced by the quality of your publications, awards received, and statements by referees.
 - Be motivated to engage across disciplines to enrich and extend the impact of your research.
- Be available to attend a virtual interview on **March 19 and 20, 2025**.
- Have a valid passport, and if required, be able to obtain travel visas to attend CIFAR meetings around the world, approximately two to three times per year.
- Be fluent in spoken and written English.

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility, please contact us at global.scholars@cifar.ca.

STATEMENT ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION:

CIFAR is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. We recognize that bringing together individuals from multiple backgrounds, perspectives and experiences is integral to advancing excellence and increasing the impact of our organization. Ensuring that every person feels valued and welcome is vital to achieving our mission, and embodies our values of diversity, creativity, excellence, risk taking, respect and collaboration. CIFAR strives to foster the active participation and inclusion of all, including those from underrepresented groups in research, such as but not limited to women, members of racialized groups, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, members of sexual and gender minority groups — across geographic borders, disciplines, and career stage. In the pursuit of excellence, CIFAR embraces diverse ideas and perspectives, and proactively seeks to increase equity, diversity and inclusion within our community. CIFAR aims to create a culture that embodies these principles of equity, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of our work. For more information, see [CIFAR's Action Plan on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion](#).



“Participating in my CIFAR program has profoundly influenced both my thinking and work. The sense of confidence instilled by my involvement with CIFAR has emboldened me to venture into unconventional and bold research avenues, fueled solely by curiosity — the essence of scientific inquiry. Being a CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar has not only expanded my intellectual horizons but also inspired me to pursue scientific endeavours with newfound courage and conviction.”

NETA SHLEZINGER

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2023-2025,
Fungal Kingdom: Threats & Opportunities Program;
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

DURATION AND VALUE

1) DURATION:

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars have an active term of two years. The next cohort's term will begin on April 1, 2025 and end on March 31, 2027. At the end of the term, Scholars retain the title '*CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar*' and are encouraged to remain connected to CIFAR through CIFAR's Next Generation Initiatives and Research Programs.

2) VALUE:

Scholars receive \$100,000 CAD in unrestricted research support, administered through their home institution. Eligible uses include, but are not limited to: research projects, teaching release, trainee support, conference travel, etc. CIFAR separately covers travel expenses associated with attending CIFAR meetings.



“The CIFAR experience has been enriching on multiple dimensions. It has encouraged me to think across borders of discipline, program meetings have been incredibly helpful to present work in progress, and the generous mentorship of the leadership is truly a gift. The most notable part of CIFAR has been the opportunity to adventure out of my own research field and develop curiosity with an incredible group of scholars. I am grateful for this opportunity to better understand the world.”

AMEET MORJARIA

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2021-2023,
Innovation, Equity & the Future of Prosperity Program;
Northwestern University

EXPECTATIONS

During the two-year term, CIFAR expects CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars to:

- **Attend CIFAR Research Program meetings** (usually two per year) in various locations around the world.*
- **Attend CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar annual meetings** (usually held in May or June). The 2025 annual meeting will be held from June 11-13, with arrival on June 10, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.)*
- **Attend at least two online leadership development workshops** for CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars per year.
- **Report** on program-related research and activities annually, and where possible and appropriate, interact with CIFAR stakeholders and funders.
- **Acknowledge CIFAR** by using 'CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar' in their professional signature and indicating CIFAR as an affiliation. Scholars should also acknowledge CIFAR as a funder in research publications, presentations and media interviews supported by this program's funding.

**To enable individuals with a dependant under 12 years of age to attend CIFAR meetings, CIFAR will support costs associated with childcare at the meeting location, or at another location (including at home). These costs may include travel and accommodation expenses for an accompanying caregiver, according to the terms of CIFAR's travel policy.*



“As someone just starting my academic career, CIFAR has helped me shape the way I do research. CIFAR has given me the tools, the network, and the means to transcend boundaries that divide fields, and I am thrilled to have the opportunities to work together with like-minded folks to tackle the key questions humanity is currently facing.”

ÉLISE DEVOIE

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2023-2025,
Earth 4D: Subsurface Science & Exploration Program;
Queen's University

DEADLINE AND HOW TO APPLY

1) APPLICATION DEADLINE:

November 20, 2024 - 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time (UTC -8)

2) APPLICATION PROCESS:

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar applications are accepted annually. This year's call for applications opens on October 7, 2024. Applications must be submitted online, using the application form linked at: cifar.ca/global-scholars. Instructions for starting an application are available [here](#).

As an applicant, your research is expected to complement the themes and goals of a recruiting CIFAR Research Program (see list below). If you would like to apply to more than one program, you must complete a separate application for each program.

In 2024/2025, the CIFAR Research Programs accepting applications are:

- [Boundaries, Membership & Belonging](#)
- [Earth 4D: Subsurface Science & Exploration](#)
- [Fungal Kingdom: Threats & Opportunities](#)
- [Innovation, Equity & the Future of Prosperity](#)

CIFAR's programs are interdisciplinary, with diverse areas of research in each one. An objective of CIFAR's programs is to stimulate new collaborations among researchers across disciplines in pursuit of new knowledge advances. We welcome applications that have the potential to bring a new perspective or approach into a program.

For more information on the fields and focus areas represented in your program of interest, we encourage you to review the program descriptions provided for applicants on each of the program pages linked above.

3) APPLICATION COMPONENTS:

As an applicant, you are required to submit the following information:

A) SUMMARY SECTION

- 1) A summary of the value you anticipate from the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar experience, aside from the unrestricted research support. (400 words maximum)
- 2) A brief statement about three areas of leadership and/or communications skills that you would like to strengthen through your participation in the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program. (100 words maximum)
- 3) A brief statement about how your skills and knowledge will contribute to advancing CIFAR's commitment to [equity, diversity and inclusion](#). (250 words maximum)
- 4) A short description of your research interests using lay terms for a general audience and public use. (100 words maximum)

B) DETAILED SECTION

- 1) A detailed discussion of your research background and proposed future directions, how this agenda would contribute to the themes and goals of the CIFAR Research Program to which you are applying, and how participating in the program would advance your research. Describe areas of potential research that you might wish to pursue in collaboration with Fellows and Advisors from different disciplines within the program. (1000 words maximum)
- 2) A discussion of how you have engaged with non-academic communities to extend the impact of your research. If you have not been active outside of academia, discuss the type of activities you would like to pursue. In your response, please identify expert communities (e.g., policy makers, industry, educators, social workers, etc.) who are most relevant to your academic work. (1000 words maximum)
- 3) An up-to-date CV, including publication list, uploaded as a .pdf document. Files **must** include the .pdf extension as part of the file name.

IN ADDITION:

- 1) You must arrange to have **two letters** of recommendation submitted to your online application. **Note: Some applicants will require a third letter.** For details, please read the section on **Letters of Reference**.

Your application MUST include the required recommendation letters, directly submitted by your referees, before it can be submitted as final. You will not be able to edit your application after submitting it. **You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and successfully submitted by 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time (UTC -8) on November 20, 2024.**

All applications must be submitted through the online application system. Applications received by other means will not be considered. **Applications that are not complete or are not submitted as final after the deadline will not be reviewed.**

If you have any questions, contact us at global.scholars@cifar.ca.

4) LETTERS OF REFERENCE:

a) Who Should Provide Reference Letters?

You must arrange to have **two letters** of recommendation submitted as part of your application. **Please note an important exception:** if a CIFAR Fellow, Associate Fellow, Co-Director or Advisor provides a letter, your application must include **three letters**, of which two must be from non-members of a CIFAR program. One letter from a CIFAR Fellow, Associate Fellow, Co-Director or Advisor is permitted **only** if they were your supervisor, a member of your committee, a collaborator, or another role through which you have had a direct relationship. *CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars within five years since their appointment as Scholars are not eligible to provide a letter.*

Referees are asked to comment on one or both of the following:

- 1) **Scholarly achievements** in terms of research excellence, productivity, creativity, breadth and interest in engaging across disciplines, and potential for future leadership in the field, compared to others at the same career stage.
- 2) **Demonstrated leadership capacity** within or outside of academic settings, as well as desire and potential to expand research impact by engaging with communities outside the academic sphere.

We recommend that at least one letter be provided by an individual who is well-placed to understand your scholarly achievements and their impact in the field, e.g., a PhD or postdoctoral supervisor or a colleague. One letter may be (but is not required) from a leader outside the academic sphere.

b) How Do Referees Submit Their Letters?

All letters of reference must be submitted through the online application system. Letters submitted by other means will not be accepted.

You will enter the names and email addresses of your referees in your application form. Upon doing so, your referees will receive an auto-generated email providing instructions on how to upload a confidential letter to your application. We recommend that you contact your referees both in advance, to confirm their availability to provide a letter, and after you submit their contact details, to confirm that they have received the request.

Referees may only upload a letter after they receive the email with instructions from CIFAR. If a referee does not receive or misplaces the email, you can resend the request from your application form. If you learn that one of your referees cannot provide a letter, you may replace them with a new referee. If a referee is unable to use the online system or does not use email, contact global.scholars@cifar.ca for support on how to provide the letter.

Both you and your referee will receive a confirmation message when a reference letter has been uploaded successfully to your application. You may also track the status of your reference letters within your application form.

Your required letters of reference MUST be submitted before 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time (UTC -8) on November 20, 2024. You are responsible for tracking the submission of reference letters and for following up with referees to ensure all letters are submitted on time.



“The CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program has allowed me to connect and stay connected with a world of intellectually ambitious researchers. CIFAR’s institutional and intellectual support has already left a major mark on my career, and I have enjoyed the connections formed through CIFAR program meetings and the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars Annual Meeting tremendously.”

CHRISTOF BRANDTNER

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2023-2025,
Innovation, Equity & the Future of Prosperity Program;
emlyon Business School

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

CIFAR is strongly committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. At each stage of the application review and selection process, committees consider principles of equity, diversity and inclusion, in accordance with CIFAR's EDI Statement and [Action Plan](#) (see page 6). This process is conducted in English, the commonly accepted language of international scientific exchange and collaboration.

The period from application deadline to final selection is about four months. The table below summarizes key dates for 2024/2025.

The application review and selection process:

- 1) Basic Eligibility:** CIFAR ensures all applications meet basic eligibility requirements.
- 2) Application Review:** Each recruiting program elects a sub-committee of Fellows and Advisors. These committees review applications based on three criteria: i) research excellence, ii) potential to contribute to the program by adding new and diverse perspectives and approaches that complement existing membership, and iii) leadership potential (both within and outside of academia). Each program selection committee recommends up to five shortlisted finalists who will be invited to attend a virtual interview.
- 3) Final Selection:** CIFAR invites the shortlisted finalists to attend a virtual interview on March 19 and 20, 2025. Interviews will be conducted by an independent and diverse committee of academic researchers and experienced leaders in areas such as policy, communications and leadership development. The Selection Committee evaluates candidates' communication skills, capacity and motivation to engage with peers across disciplines, and potential for leadership and impact.

NOTE: The interview schedule will be developed after the shortlisted finalists have been identified. Candidates must be available on both dates until notified of their place in the schedule. Interviews are generally scheduled between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Eastern Time.

SUMMARY OF KEY DATES:

October 8, 2024	Call for applications opens.
November 20, 2024	Application deadline 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time (UTC -8)
By January 24, 2025	Shortlisted finalists are notified and invited to attend a virtual interview. All other applicants will be notified after the finalists have confirmed their attendance.
March 19-20, 2025	The Selection Committee interviews the shortlisted finalists via Zoom.
By early April 2025	Finalists are notified of the competition results.
May/June 2025	CIFAR publicly announces 2025 CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars.
June 11-13, 2025 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada	CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars annual meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

1) TERM

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars' active term is two years, beginning in April 2025.

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars must hold a full-time position at an institution of higher education or research, with responsibilities that include leading independent research as a principal investigator and supervising/teaching trainees toward the attainment of a degree, for the full duration of their term.

2) ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS

CIFAR expects that CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars will use the \$100,000 CAD in unrestricted research support to enhance their capacity to conduct research. Eligible uses include, but are not limited to: research projects, teaching release, trainee support, conference travel, etc.

3) DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

Funds will be administered through the recipient's institutional department. CIFAR will provide a financial letter to arrange the transfer of funds. CIFAR requests that the funds be placed in a special account to be managed by the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar. Please note that CIFAR does not support indirect costs.

Expenses associated with attending CIFAR Research Program meetings, the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars annual meeting, and other pre-approved CIFAR-related travel — will be covered or reimbursed by CIFAR through the completion of an expense claim form, according to the terms of our travel policy.

4) PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY

- 1) CIFAR normally expects that the home institution's parental leave policy will apply, with salary funding for any leave coming from the home institution. Where applicable, the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar's term will be extended by the length of the parental leave.
- 2) Notice of parental leave should be given to CIFAR before the leave is anticipated to begin.

5) UNDERSTANDING LONGER-TERM IMPACT

CIFAR will continue to engage with Scholars to measure the longer-term impacts of the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program. CIFAR will conduct exit surveys and follow-up surveys at intervals to track career progression, interaction patterns, and other outcomes.



“Participation in CIFAR has opened my eyes to the potential for my research and expertise to have a much larger impact than I could have envisioned, inspired by collaborative thinking and engagement with problem-solvers from different knowledge backgrounds.”

ASIYA GUSA

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2023-2025,
Fungal Kingdom: Threats & Opportunities Program;
Duke University

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS A CIFAR RESEARCH PROGRAM?

CIFAR's global Research Programs connect many of the world's leading researchers, across disciplines and borders, to shape new perspectives and spark ground-breaking ideas. A central feature of every CIFAR Research Program is the sustained interaction among its Fellows. Each program assembles a unique combination of top-tier researchers who contribute different disciplinary perspectives and research approaches to collectively tackle a complex challenge facing the world. Program members meet in-person usually twice per year over a five-year, renewable period. This sustained pattern of interaction engenders a "safe" environment where Fellows freely share and debate new ideas and research-in-progress. They become inspired to think creatively, disruptively and without limitations and to pursue innovative new collaborations with one another. Through this simple model, CIFAR's programs are able to expand the boundaries of understanding in ways that would otherwise not be possible.

2. DOES MY RESEARCH NEED TO FIT WITH THE THEMES OF A CIFAR RESEARCH PROGRAM?

Yes. To be eligible as a CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar, your research needs to complement the themes and goals of one of the CIFAR Research Programs accepting applications in 2024/2025. Recruiting programs are listed on page 10.

CIFAR's programs are interdisciplinary, with diverse areas of research in each one. An objective of CIFAR's programs is to stimulate new collaborations among researchers across disciplines in pursuit of new knowledge advances. We welcome applications that have the potential to bring a new perspective or approach into a program. We encourage you to explore the descriptions of our [programs](#) on our website, along with the profiles and web pages of CIFAR Fellows and Advisors, for insights into the kinds of fields and projects represented in your program of interest.

In your application, you are expected to demonstrate how your research could contribute to the program to which you are applying. Your application should clearly articulate how you envision your work contributing to your selected program, and how your research would benefit from engaging with the program. CIFAR strongly encourages applicants with diverse backgrounds and perspectives not currently represented in our programs.

3. THE APPLICATION DOESN'T SEEM TO ASK FOR A SPECIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL. DID I UNDERSTAND CORRECTLY?

Yes. Different from a grant proposal for a specific project, we are seeking to understand how your research background to date, and your ideas for future research, would contribute to and benefit from interdisciplinary interaction and collaboration with Fellows in your CIFAR Research Program of interest.

4. I HAVE APPLIED TO THIS PROGRAM IN THE PAST. MAY I APPLY AGAIN?

There is no restriction on the number of times you may apply to the program over the period of your eligibility.

5. ARE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS (OR EQUIVALENT) ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM?

No, postdoctoral fellows may not apply to this program.

6. IF I DO NOT HAVE THE TITLE OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, AM I ELIGIBLE?

CIFAR welcomes junior faculty from all over the world to apply. A typical eligible applicant is a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the North American system or, in other academic systems around the world, an equivalent position that is designed to lead to a permanent, tenured-equivalent faculty position. Some examples of accepted positions include, but are not limited to: Level B Lecturer or Research Fellow (Australia); Chargé de Cours or Docent (Belgium); Professor adjunto (Brazil); Maître de Conférences (France); Junior Professor or Research Group Leader (Germany); Ricercatore Tipo A and B (Italy); Profesor Titular A (Mexico); Universitair Docent (Netherlands); Ramón y Cajal Scholar (Spain); Lecturer (United Kingdom, South Africa, Israel). If you need assistance in determining your eligibility, please contact: global.scholars@cifar.ca.

7. UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES MAY THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY BE EXTENDED?

CIFAR will normally extend your eligibility by one year per parental leave taken, and by the equivalent length of a medical leave or other career break taken before July 1, 2020. CIFAR will also take into account the resetting of a tenure clock, if granted as part of moving to a new institution. If you would like CIFAR to consider an extension of your period of eligibility, you must provide an explanation in your application. CIFAR reserves the right to make the final determination of your eligibility.

8. I HOLD A PROFESSIONAL, TERMINAL DEGREE, BUT NOT A PHD. AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

CIFAR will consider your eligibility on the basis of your overall experience and your current position. Applicants with formal research training, who are in their first five years of a full-time position with a significant proportion of responsibility dedicated to conducting independent research and supervising/teaching trainees toward their attainment of a degree, may be considered eligible. CIFAR reserves the right to make the final determination of your eligibility.

9. DOES IT MATTER WHICH COUNTRY I LIVE IN OR COME FROM TO BE ELIGIBLE?

No. CIFAR is seeking to develop a diverse and global cohort. There are no geographic restrictions on who may apply.

10. WOULD I NEED TO RELOCATE FROM MY CURRENT INSTITUTION IF I AM SELECTED?

No. CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars remain at their home institution and country throughout their two-year term. The research funding associated with the award is administered through the recipient's institutional department.

11. IF I AM UNAVAILABLE FOR A VIRTUAL INTERVIEW FROM MARCH 19-20, 2025 DUE TO A PRIOR COMMITMENT, SHOULD I APPLY?

No. Unfortunately, we cannot be flexible about the interview dates. Applicants unable to attend on these dates will not be considered. Applicants should hold both dates until receiving further notice.

Should you require assistance, CIFAR can offset support for dependant care, consistent with our dependant care policy. Candidates who require other types of support or accommodations should contact global.scholars@cifar.ca.

12. WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME, IF I AM SELECTED AS A CIFAR AZRIELI GLOBAL SCHOLAR?

During your two-year term as a CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar, CIFAR expects you to fulfill the commitments listed on page 9.

CIFAR will work with you to accommodate individual exceptional circumstances. However, if over time these expectations are not adhered to, your term in the program may be reconsidered.

13. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CIFAR AZRIELI GLOBAL SCHOLARS?

The CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars annual meeting is an intellectual retreat for peer networking and learning, sharing research ideas, brainstorming cross-programmatic collaborations and working on proposals for seed funding. It aims to build a supportive and stimulating community of early-career researchers across a wide spectrum of disciplines.

14. WHAT HAS BEEN THE SUCCESS RATE OF APPLICANTS?

Each recruiting CIFAR program will accept up to three new CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars. Over the past nine years, an average of 6% of eligible applicants have been selected to become CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars.



“CIFAR is unique, in that they do not focus on supporting one of your research projects, but on supporting you as an individual. Through my CIFAR experience, I have grown professionally along dimensions that I would not have even considered before. CIFAR meetings bring together inspiring collections of attendees and speakers from very diverse fields. They encourage you to ask deeper questions, start ambitious projects, and focus on making an impact on society.”

BENJAMIN ROSMAN

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2022-2024,
Learning in Machines & Brains Program;
University of the Witwatersrand

CIFAR

The Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) is a globally influential research organization proudly based in Canada. We mobilize the world's most brilliant people across disciplines and at all career stages to advance transformative knowledge and solve humanity's biggest problems, together. We are supported by the governments of Canada, Alberta and Québec, as well as Canadian and international foundations, individuals, corporations and partner organizations.

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