

# BARD

## United States - Israel

**Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund**



### **Vaadia-BARD Postdoctoral Fellowships Guidelines and Regulations for Applicants and Recipients**

*(updated October 2008)*

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## **Introduction**

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). Yoash served as a member of BARD's Board of Directors from 1979 until 1992 and as Executive Director of the Fund from 1992 until 1997.

## **Objectives**

The Vaadia-BARD Postdoctoral Fellowship program is designed to identify and support young scientists who will eventually become leaders in agricultural sciences and technologies in universities and research institutes 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. BARD gives preference to applicants with innovative research topics that are relevant to agricultural issues.

## **Eligibility**

Citizens of Israel, who will have fulfilled all the requirements for a Ph.D. degree in Israel and citizens of the USA who will have fulfilled all the requirements for a Ph.D. degree in the USA within three years prior to initiation of the award, are eligible to apply. Israelis already in the United States and Americans already in Israel for a period longer than six months are not eligible to apply.

The BARD fellowship is not available for the continuation of any existing appointment, except in those cases wherein the applicant has been employed in the intended mentor's lab for not longer than 6 months from the date of submission of the application.

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.

Dual Citizens: The eligibility of persons enjoying dual citizenship in the USA and Israel will be considered on an individual case basis by the BARD executive; such potential applicants should contact the BARD office before applying (lea@bard-isus.com).

**Submission Date - January 15.** Submit applications to the BARD-Israel office by e-mail. See instructions below for format.

**Evaluation and Selection** The BARD Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Executive Director make recommendations for funding to the Board of Directors. Evaluation focuses on the a) scientific background and productivity of the applicant and mentor and b) relevance and quality of the proposed research to agricultural sciences and technologies. Criteria for these foci are applied when

evaluating the candidate, the merit of the proposal and the mentor. Scientific achievements and qualifications of the applicant are of primary importance. These, together with service and training contributions of the Mentor are also considered. The relevance of the proposed research to agriculture, though not necessarily its immediately applicability are given considerable weight. Proposed research that is peripheral to BARD's agricultural mission or that will be undertaken in an inappropriate environment will be given lower priority.

**Applicants** for Vaadia-BARD fellowships are evaluated on the basis of academic excellence in the 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 for a productive experience.

Metrics reflective of excellence in research include:

- i. the record of publications in peer reviewed journals
- ii. success in the acquisition of external research support
- iii. invited presentations at other institutions or at conferences
- iv. prior experience in successful mentoring of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
- v. service contributions to the broader research enterprise (i.e. 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 have 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** (one hard copy or by e-mail to: [lea@bard-isus.com](mailto:lea@bard-isus.com)). Include *all* items, **in the order listed**. Signatures and transcripts of academic records can be scanned and incorporated in a single file.)

**General Format Requirements:** written in English; not more than 4 pages (excluding references); at least 1.5 line spacing; font size 12; 3 cm margin on all sides.

**Technical Requirements:** include the following, in this order

**Cover Page** (attached or from the website: <http://www.bard-isus.com>)

**Applicant Curriculum Vitae** including the following sections in this order:

- i. education, including degrees received
- ii. presentations/participation at scientific meetings: clearly specify

- whether a poster or talk was presented and indicate the presenting author
- iii. membership/activities in academic and scientific societies
  - iv. teaching and training experience: include a brief summary of key scientific accomplishments that are not yet published
  - v. awards, scholarships, fellowships

**List of Publications** (indicate journal name and volume number)

- i. list peer reviewed articles and invited contributions first
- ii. list books, book chapters, and other publications
- iii. do NOT include abstracts of meeting presentations
- iv. list "in press" articles, include date and journal name
- v. 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 University stamp.

**Recommendation of the Primary Thesis Advisor**

**Personal References** Provide name, mailing address, telephone and e-mail address of two individuals from whom BARD may request a personal reference.

**Mentor:**

**Brief curriculum vitae** do not exceed three single spaced pages. Include the following items:

- i. academic background
- ii. awards and honors
- iii. external and university service
- iv. current and pending grant support
- v. number of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows mentored in the past 5 years and indicate which are current laboratory members.
- vi. peer reviewed publications of the last 5 years, including journal name and title. Do not include conference abstracts.
- vii. statement (one page maximum) of the mentor's commitment to the applicant and the rationale for supporting the applicant to work in the mentor's laboratory. Comment specifically on your own and the applicant's relative roles in preparation of the proposal.

**Research Proposal** 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 proposal and a *detailed*, focused research plan for the first year only. Include the following elements (do not exceed four pages), plus one page of preliminary data or other relevant material.

- i. hypotheses and objectives to be achieved in the first year
- ii. description of the innovative aspects of the research

- iii. research plan and its rationale
- iv. detailed outline of the proposed methodology
- v. feasibility of completing the research in the allotted time span
- vi. relevance to agriculture and/or the environment
- vii. relevant bibliography, including full title, date, journal name, volume and page numbers

## **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). Therefore, 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 duration of the fellowship is 12 months. The award is \$37,000, including travel expenses. In the event that the fellow has dependants (spouse, child/ren), BARD will pay an \$8,000 dependant allowance, making the total award \$45,000. The award is paid directly to the Fellow, in accordance with the schedule of payments below. If two members of a given household receive fellowships simultaneously, the amount of the award for either or both of these Fellows will be adjusted.

**Non-BARD Funds:** Funds from other sources cannot exceed 50% of the grant awarded by BARD, unless the recipient receives prior approval, in writing, from BARD.

## **Notification and Administration of the Award**

The Executive Director notifies all applicants, in writing, of the decision of the Board of Directors during May following the submission.

**Implementation:** The recipient must inform BARD of intent to accept the award within two months of notification. Implementation of the award must be not later than December 31st of the award year.

BARD requires a formal confirmation from the institution awarding the degree that the candidate has either been awarded the degree or has submitted the Ph.D. thesis prior to implementation of the award. If the thesis is submitted but not yet approved, second and later payments of the award will be conditional upon further confirmation from the awarding institution regarding entitlement to the Ph.D. degree.

**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 and in writing.

## Schedule of Payments:

Payment	Amount (US \$)	Timing of Payment
First	10,500	Upon signature of the Fellowship Agreement, but not earlier than six weeks before commencement date
Dependant allowance (if relevant)	8,000	Together with first payment
Second	8,500	Three months after commencement date
Third	8,500	Six months after commencement date and receipt of the semi-annual declaration
Fourth	8,500	Nine months after commencement date
Fifth	1,000	Upon receipt of final 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.

**Semi-Annual Declaration:** This declaration confirms that the research is in progress and is due six months after the commencement date.

**Final Scientific Report:** A scientific report is due within two months of completion of the work. Do not exceed 5 pages in length. Include:

- i. abstract (not more than one page)
- ii. statement of the original objectives
- iii. summary of activities and accomplishments of the research
- iv. description of scientific and agricultural impact of the project
- v. list the publications resulting from the research, include journal name and date
- vi. statement of the fellow's current position

## Extensions

Requests for extensions can be submitted after the 10th month of work.

BARD will consider support for an additional year, on a matching fund basis with the host laboratory. The award for the second year is \$37,000 (\$45,000 with children). The host lab pays the first half of the second year, \$18,500 (\$22,500 with children). BARD pays the second half of the second year, \$18,500 (\$22,500 with children).

The request for an extension must include a scientific report of the first year's progress, a short outline of the research plan for the second year and a written commitment from the mentor and host institution to pay the first half of the extended year. These should be sent to BARD at [lea@bard-isus.com](mailto:lea@bard-isus.com).

## **Publications and Acknowledgments**

Send one copy of all publications resulting from the research to the BARD office in Israel. Acknowledge BARD's support in all relevant publications using the following format:

**This research was supported by Vaadia-BARD Postdoctoral Fellowship Award No. \_\_\_\_\_ from BARD, The United States - Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund.**

## **Follow Up**

BARD is pleased to maintain contact with its Postdoctoral Fellows and periodically seeks information about their occupations following the fellowship period.



**Vaadia-BARD Postdoctoral Fellowship Guidelines**  
**Application Cover Page**  
Sections 1 and 2 (Applicant & Mentor)

**Name of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Security or Identity No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_

**e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Country of citizenship:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have dependent (children/spouse)?** Yes      No     

**Title of Doctoral Thesis:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Thesis Advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Awarding Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Submission date of Ph.D. thesis:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Award date of Ph. D. degree:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Section 2 – Proposed Mentor (Scientist & laboratory)**

**Name of Proposed Mentor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current title/position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliated institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_

**e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT:** attach requested information as detailed in the guideline instructions.





**Vaadia-BARD Postdoctoral Fellowship Guidelines**  
**Application Cover Page**  
**Section 3 - Proposal & Signatures**

**Name of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Proposed Mentor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliated institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of the Research Proposal:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Applicant** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Proposed Mentor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Host Institution** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorizing Official)



**Vaadia-BARD Postdoctoral Fellowship**  
**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: \_\_\_\_\_



**Vaadia-BARD Postdoctoral Fellowship  
Semi-Annual Declaration**

**Vaadia-BARD Fellowship No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Postdoctoral Fellow:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Mentor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Host Institution** \_\_\_\_\_

We hereby certify that the research on 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: \_\_\_\_\_