

## SPECIAL BSF CALL FOR PROPOSALS IN A JOINT NSF-BSF PROGRAM IN OCEAN SCIENCES

The U.S. – Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) is pleased to announce the opening of the first round of applications in a new joint funding program in Marine Oceanography with the Division of Ocean Sciences (GEO/OCE) of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF).

The terms of this program are as follows:

### *General*

1. The program will accept collaborative research proposals in the following areas:
  - a) Physical Oceanography  
Synopsis of the program can be found in the NSF webpage:  
[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=12729](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12729)
  - b) Chemical Oceanography  
Synopsis of the program can be found in the NSF webpage:  
[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=11698](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=11698)
  - c) Biological Oceanography  
Synopsis of the program can be found in the NSF webpage:  
[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=11696](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=11696)
  - d) Marine Geology and Geophysics  
Synopsis of the program can be found in the NSF webpage:  
[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=11726](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=11726)
2. The proposed research does not have to be in the Eastern Mediterranean or Gulf of Eilat/Aqaba, and can be in any marine environment around the world.
3. **Prior to submission, the U.S. applicant should contact the appropriate NSF program manager to discuss the research focus of his international project.**
4. The program will not consider limnological research projects with Great Lakes research as the sole exception.
5. The NSF accepts applications only from U.S. scientists, and submission to the NSF should be made by the U.S. PI alone (the Israeli does not appear as a formal co-PI on the application). However, in the collaborative 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 (please note that this may be particularly relevant if the project is not offshore Israel).



6. If awarded a grant, the U.S. scientist will receive a grant from the NSF, while the Israeli scientist will receive a grant from the BSF.
7. The size of the grant to the Israeli will be up to \$100,000/year for a maximum of three years (usual length of NSF grants), subject to the availability of funds.
8. If the program will include the use of an NSF ship time, the cost of the ship will be covered by the NSF. Trips by the Israelis to and from the ship will be covered by the BSF grant.
9. The program is expected to have a second round of applications in 2015, with a deadline of August 15th.

### ***Eligibility***

- 1 All regulations regarding [eligibility of the BSF](#) (for the Israeli PI) or the NSF (for the American PI) will apply to this program.
2. A scientist will be allowed to hold both a grant in a BSF-NSF program and a grant in the regular (core) or other BSF program, unless the two projects are similar, or are significantly overlapping. Submission of somewhat overlapping programs are allowed, but if both a BSF regular application and an NSF-BSF application are approved for grants, only the NSF-BSF project will be signed as a contract.
3. Each scientist is allowed to submit up to one NSF-BSF application per year in this program.
4. A scientist who submitted to this program will be allowed to submit to another NSF-BSF program, but the BSF is not likely to award two grants to the same scientist.

### ***Evaluation***

1. Proposals will be evaluated by the NSF, [using its criteria](#). The BSF may possibly take part in the evaluation process by providing panel members, external reviewers, etc.
2. BSF will not conduct a parallel review and will not rank the proposals, and is likely to fund any Israeli whose partner in this program is funded by the NSF.
3. NSF uses a conventional peer review system with expert panels and ad-hoc (external) reviews for full proposals. However, unlike the practice in Israel, panel members serve in an advisory capacity, and final decisions lie with the program managers and their management. These post-panel officials may introduce additional considerations, such as whether the research topic already has support from the U.S. government, whether support from other NSF programs may be sought, etc.
4. Israeli applicants are advised that they should pay particular attention to the NSF evaluation criteria, [http://nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit\\_review/](http://nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit_review/), which may include issues such as broader impact, data management, etc. that are either missing in BSF



applications, or have a greatly different meaning (particularly the term 'broader impact'). Failure to appropriately refer to such topics by the U.S. partner may be detrimental to the proposal.

### ***Submission***

1. Proposals will be submitted to the program twice. The U.S. scientist (only) will submit to the NSF using its regulations ([http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=gpg](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg)) and submission system (<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/>). Both the Israeli and the American will submit to the BSF, according to its regulations and submission system: <http://www.bsf.org.il/ElectronicSubmission/GatewayFormsAndGuidelines.aspx?PageId=7&innerTextID=0>. The applicants must submit to the BSF a copy of the PDF of their NSF application, with the added required information.

### ***Timetable***

Proposals will be submitted to the BSF no later than 5 pm (Israel time) on February 18, 2015. NSF deadline is February 15, 2015.

*Applicants are requested to acquaint themselves with the BSF regulations before they submit an application. In particular, they should acquaint themselves with the special document that describes the changes in the submission process from the regular (core) BSF program. The forms and regulations can be downloaded from the BSF website ([www.bsf.org.il](http://www.bsf.org.il)) under 'Guidelines & Forms'.*

**Questions regarding the applicability of the proposed research for this program should be directed by the U.S. partner to the program officer at the NSF. BSF will not respond to such inquiries.** Other questions regarding this special BSF-NSF program can be discussed with the BSF management by mail or phone (972-2-5828239): Dr. Yair Rotstein ([yair@bsf.org.il](mailto:yair@bsf.org.il); ext. 105) or Dr. Rachel (Heni) Haring ([heni@bsf.org.il](mailto:heni@bsf.org.il); ext 110). Questions regarding the online application system should be directed to Ms. Orli Rozenchwajg ([orli@bsf.org.il](mailto:orli@bsf.org.il); ext .109) or Ms. Eti Alfandary ([eti@bsf.org.il](mailto:eti@bsf.org.il); ext 101).