Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center  
Call for Research Proposals, 2019

The Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center (Blavatnik ICRC) at Tel Aviv University (TAU) solicits research proposals on digital transformation and cybersecurity broadly defined. Faculty in any research university or research institution worldwide can apply, as long as the research proposal incorporates at least one Principle Investigator from Tel Aviv University.

BLAVATNIK INTERDISCIPLINARY CYBER RESEARCH CENTER

The Blavatnik ICRC at Tel Aviv University fosters interdisciplinary scientific research on digital transformation and cybersecurity. The Blavatnik ICRC operates a sizable research fund, awards basic and applied research grants, and organizes Cyber Week, a major international conference that attracts 9,000 participants to TAU. The Blavatnik ICRC research grants have been supporting over 250 researchers across Exact, Social, Behavioral and Health Sciences, Engineering, Mathematics, Law, Business and other scientific disciplines. The 74 research grants we have awarded thus far assemble 115 Principle Investigators and 150 graduate students in total worldwide.

The Blavatnik ICRC is a driving force in the field through its promotion and enablement of:
- Strong ties with public and private stakeholders in Israel and worldwide.
- The annual Cyber Week since 2011 and other outreach activities for the public.
- Extensive and sizable intellectual networks both within Tel Aviv University and internationally.

This research and policy impact of Blavatnik ICRC continue to bolster Tel Aviv University as the spearhead in global cyber innovation.

EVALUATION PROCESS

The Blavatnik ICRC evaluates the proposals in two stages.

1) Applicants submit a Research Proposal Abstract of 2-3 pages. The Blavatnik ICRC Steering and Scientific Committees evaluate these according to:
- Relevance: fundamental and applied advances in cybersecurity and digital transformation.
- Scientific and technical merit: scale and magnitude of potential scientific contribution, innovation within a discipline, innovation resulting from an interdisciplinary approach.
- Feasibility: team composition, PI expertise.
2) The selected applicants submit a **Detailed Research Proposal** of 10-15 pages, accompanied by the filled budget request form. The Blavatnik ICRC reaches final decisions and budgets upon review of the full proposal. The Scientific Committee has the right to:

- Prefer interdisciplinary proposals that conjoin PIs from different schools and subjects
- Send proposals for external peer-reviews
- Invite PI(s) for interviews

**HOW TO SUBMIT A RESEARCH PROPOSAL?**

Visit [https://icrc.tau.ac.il/research/call-for-proposals-2019](https://icrc.tau.ac.il/research/call-for-proposals-2019) (after August 12) to log in to the submission system. A valid submission must include all of the following elements:

1. Research Proposal Abstract, including:
   1.1. The research problem, context, plan, team and methodology.
   1.2. Expected scientific contributions of the research.
   1.3. Policy relevance of the research. We advise to clarify the benefits of your research, including stakeholders (e.g. civil society, government, business; field of practice (e.g. security operations, education, societal resilience, socio-economic development, systems engineering; scope (e.g. domestic or other) and timeframe.
   1.4. The Research track (see [Table 1](#)).
   1.5. For the Exploratory track (I): a letter of support by a TAU faculty member.
   1.6. File format: PDF or MS-Office, up to 1,600 words, font 12, 1.5-line spacing.

2. Budget request ([Download](#) the budget appendix template)
   2.1. Use the auto-sum function.
   2.2. Ensure that budget items correspond to the guidelines (see [Table 2](#)).

3. CV and publications for each Principal Investigator.

**DEADLINES**

- **Research Proposal Abstract**: Submit online by 17:00 **20/08/2019**.
- **Abstract acceptance notification**: by 17:00 **09/09/2019**.
- **Detailed Research Proposal**: Submit online by 17:00 **28/10/2019**.
- **Grant award notification**: by **06/01/2019**.
**TABLE 1 ELIGIBILITY, RESEARCH TRACKS, FUNDING TERMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track</th>
<th>Principal Investigator(s) (PI)</th>
<th>Number of PIs</th>
<th>Budget (Max.)</th>
<th>Duration (Max.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Exploratory</td>
<td>Any expert, under TAU faculty mentorship.</td>
<td>Single PI</td>
<td>80,000 ₪ total</td>
<td>One year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Individual</td>
<td>TAU faculty.</td>
<td>Single PI</td>
<td>220,000 ₪ per year</td>
<td>Two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Collaborative</td>
<td>At least one TAU faculty.</td>
<td>Two PIs or more</td>
<td>600,000 ₪ per year</td>
<td>Two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Interdisciplinary</td>
<td>From two or more different faculties. At least one TAU faculty.</td>
<td>Three PIs or more</td>
<td>900,000 ₪ per year</td>
<td>Two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Industry collaboration</td>
<td>At least one TAU faculty. At least one from the firm.</td>
<td>Two PIs or more</td>
<td>1,200,000 ₪ per year (Industry funds ≥ 50%)</td>
<td>Two years</td>
</tr>
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</table>

- Co-PIs in Tracks I-IV: Tel Aviv University faculty. Co-PIs in Tracks III-IV: Faculty in any recognized University worldwide.
- PIs that conduct similar simultaneous research must declare the research name, grant name and budget.
- An applicant can serve as a PI in up to two concurrent proposals.
- Past recipients of Blavatnik ICRC funding are eligible as long as they have completed their previous research, reported the scientific outputs and completed the TAU Research Authority budget prior to starting new research.
TABLE 2: BUDGET GUIDELINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget item</th>
<th>% of budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships, stipends, fellowships for students (PIs are not eligible)</td>
<td>minimum 35%-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific and technical staff (wages)</td>
<td>0-65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel expenses</td>
<td>0-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>0-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>0-5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The TAU Research Authority operates the Blavatnik ICRC budget.

GRANT RECIPIENTS’ OBLIGATIONS

a) Participate in Blavatnik ICRC activities in Tel Aviv University, including the annual Cyber Week, conferences and occasional meetings with dignitaries and delegations, etc. Team members and students may substitute for the PIs for these events.

b) Acknowledge Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center at Tel-Aviv University and Israel National Cyber Directorate (INCD) in all resulting publications.

c) Submit accurate and timely annual reports listing all activity and results to the Blavatnik ICRC.

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