

CIFAR AZRIELI GLOBAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

# ACCELERATE YOUR CAREER

CIFAR



**DETAILED PROGRAM OVERVIEW**  
2020/2021

# CIFAR AZRIELI GLOBAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

CIFAR invites exceptional early-career researchers from across the natural, biomedical and social sciences and the humanities to join one of our interdisciplinary research programs that address some of the most important questions facing science and humanity. The CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program accelerates the development of the next generation of research leaders and positions them to heighten their impact in academia and beyond.

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# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program includes three core components, each contributing toward the development of tomorrow's research leaders:

## 1. PARTICIPATING IN A CIFAR RESEARCH PROGRAM - AN INTERDISCIPLINARY NETWORK OF FELLOWS

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars join a [CIFAR research program](#) for two years, interacting within a global network of internationally renowned researchers pursuing a fundamental research question. In the setting of twice-yearly program meetings, held in cities across Canada and in other parts of the world, CIFAR's programs bridge disciplines, develop a common language, and regularly spark collaboration and inspiration that lead to new research directions and fields of inquiry.

All CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars receive:

- **\$100,000 CAD in unrestricted research support over two years.** These funds are intended to strengthen their capacity to conduct research. Possible uses include, but are not limited to: research projects, teaching release, trainee support, conference travel, etc.
- **Mentorship from a Fellow in their CIFAR research program.** Mentors help Global Scholars to integrate into their program, and may provide guidance and insights on areas of interest to the scholar (e.g., research directions, career development).
- **Opportunities to apply for time-limited seed funding to support collaboration across disciplines.** CIFAR's Collaborative Research Catalyst Funds motivate and support the launch of high-risk/high-reward interdisciplinary collaborations with other CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars or CIFAR Fellows within or across research programs.

## 2. STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars from across CIFAR's research programs meet annually as a peer group to strengthen their core skills in leadership and communication. Highly interactive, expert-led training sessions provide tools, insights and awareness that are applicable to Scholars' daily work and life.

Each CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars Annual Meeting typically focuses on two to three skill-building themes, such as:

- Strategic communications (such as influencing others, giving and receiving feedback, managing difficult conversations)
- Communicating to non-specialist audiences (e.g., op-eds, public talks)

- Strategic and creative thinking for problem-solving and decision-making
- Productivity & time management
- Grant-writing
- Identifying and overcoming imposter syndrome in oneself and others

**The 2020/2021 CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 18-22, 2021 in southern Germany.** Dependent on travel restrictions due to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic, CIFAR looks forward to welcoming the 2021 cohort of Scholars at this meeting.

Outside of in-person and virtual meetings, the Love Family Leadership Development Fund supports year-round access to additional training and development opportunities, provided through expert consultants, courses or conferences, according to Scholars' personal interests and needs.

## 3. INCREASING IMPACT WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF ACADEMIA

Reflecting CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars' interest in achieving impact within academia and beyond, CIFAR supports and facilitates opportunities to put Scholars' knowledge, expertise and skills training into action.

CIFAR is committed to sharing and mobilizing ideas with knowledge users across sectors, including policy-makers, business leaders and practitioners. Opportunities abound for Scholars to become involved in knowledge mobilization activities, reaching audiences that may benefit from learning about the latest research. CIFAR works with our research programs to help identify and support initiatives that engage thought leaders, policy-makers and practitioners in a way that will drive meaningful dialogue and mutual benefit.

Some examples of potential leadership opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- Leading a research project in collaboration with other CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars or CIFAR Fellows
- Organizing a Winter/Summer School aligned with a CIFAR research program
- Leading or contributing to a knowledge mobilization activity with other CIFAR Fellows
- Discussing research with stakeholders in academia, policy or business to understand different perspectives and influence change
- Writing and publishing an op-ed piece
- Delivering a public lecture



***"Through the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program, I got to form friendships with other scholars from around the globe, and now we not only discuss science, but we also discuss life and challenges we all face as early career academics."***

**HYUNYOUK**  
CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2018-2020, Delft University of Technology

# ELIGIBILITY

CIFAR is seeking to assemble a global cohort. There are no geographic restrictions on who may apply. CIFAR is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI).

To be eligible for this program, you must:

- Hold a PhD (or equivalent).
- Be employed at an institution of higher education or research and be **within the first five years of starting a full-time research position** that includes responsibility for both conducting an independent research program and supervising/teaching graduate or postdoctoral trainees.
  - Typically, you are an Assistant Professor (or the equivalent in other academic systems).
  - Your position must be secure for the duration of the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar active term (to March 31, 2023).
  - Your start date in this position must be no earlier than July 1, 2016. Note that special consideration may be given to those who have taken parental leave or those with exceptional circumstances.
  - If you have a pending first full-time position that meets the criteria above and starts no later than **July 1, 2021**, you are eligible to apply. In this case, you must submit a copy of your letter of appointment with your application.
  - **NOTE: Postdoctoral fellows are NOT eligible to apply to this program.**
- Engage in research that complements or contributes to the themes and goals of an eligible CIFAR research program (see page 4).
  - Demonstrate an outstanding level of research achievement and promise of future impact in your field, as evidenced by the quality of your publications, awards received, and statements by referees.
  - Be interested in engaging across disciplines, as well as sectors beyond academia, to enrich and extend the impact of your research.
- Be available to attend a virtual interview between March 22-24, 2021.
- Have a valid passport, and if required, be able to obtain travel visas to attend CIFAR meetings in Canada and other countries around the world (2-4 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](mailto: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.

# DURATION & VALUE

## DURATION

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars are provided research funding and participate in a CIFAR research program over a two-year term. The term will begin on April 1, 2021 and end on March 31, 2023. 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.

## VALUE

Scholars receive \$100,000 CAD in unrestricted research support. The funds are administered through their home institution and are intended to support their capacity to conduct research. Possible uses include, but are not limited to: research projects, teaching release, trainee support, conference travel, etc. CIFAR separately covers travel costs associated with attendance at CIFAR meetings.



*“This unique set of individuals and the support that I received helped me to raise my profile in the community so that I could start having the conversations that take me to challenging places, that push me and move me to new directions.”*

**RENÉE HLOŽEK**  
CIFAR Azrieli Global  
Scholar 2019-2021,  
University of Toronto

# EXPECTATIONS

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

- **Attend CIFAR research program meetings** (usually 2-3 per year, depending on the program) in Canada and various locations around the world. While at meetings and where appropriate, we encourage Scholars to interact and collaborate with fellow program members on research areas of common interest to the program.
- **Attend CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar annual meetings** (in-person, usually held in early- to mid-May) and **virtual meetings** (at various times throughout the year) to participate in interactive, expert-led leadership and communications training and peer networking. We expect that each Scholar will attend two in-person annual meetings, dependent on travel restrictions due to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic.
- **Report** on successes 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.

# DEADLINE & HOW TO APPLY

## 1. APPLICATION DEADLINE

October 30, 2020 - 11:59 PM Pacific Time Zone (UTC -7)

## 2. APPLICATION PROCESS

CIFAR accepts CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar applications annually. This year's application cycle opens on September 1, 2020. Applications must be submitted online, using the application form provided at: [cifar.ca/global-scholars](http://cifar.ca/global-scholars).

As an applicant, your research is expected to complement or contribute to the themes and goals of an eligible CIFAR research program, listed below. If you wish to apply to more than one program, you must complete a separate application for each program.

In 2020/2021, the CIFAR research programs eligible to accept applications are:

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

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

We encourage you to explore the descriptions of these programs on [CIFAR.ca](http://CIFAR.ca), 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.

## 3. APPLICATION COMPONENTS

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

### a) Summary Section

1. A summary of the value you expect from becoming a CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar, apart from the benefits to be gained from participation in a CIFAR research program (working collaboratively with leaders in your field). (400 words maximum)

2. A brief statement about three areas of leadership and/or communications skills development that you would like to strengthen through your participation in the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program. (100 words maximum)
3. 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. Propose areas of potential research interaction and collaboration with Fellows and Advisors of 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 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 to three letters** of recommendation submitted to your online application. For details, please read the section on **Letters of Reference**.
2. If you have a pending first full-time position starting no later than July 1, 2021, you must upload a copy of your appointment letter to your application.

**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 Time Zone (UTC -7) on October 30, 2020.**



*"The cross-disciplinary nature of the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program is very unique. It affected the way I think about my projects and the directions I'm taking in my lab."*

**NAAMA GEVA-ZATORSKY**  
CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar  
2018-2020, Technion - Israel  
Institute of Technology

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](mailto: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, with the following **exception**: if a current CIFAR program member provides a letter, your application must include **two additional letters** from non-program members, for a **total of three letters**. One letter from a current CIFAR program member (Fellow, Associate Fellow or Advisor) is permissible **only if** they were your direct supervisor.

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.

It is recommended 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 submit the names and e-mail addresses of your referees through the online application form. Upon doing so, your referees will receive an automated email providing instructions on how to upload a confidential letter to your application. We recommend that you contact your referees in advance to confirm their availability to provide a letter, and then check that they have received the automated request after you submit their contact details.

Referees may only submit a letter after they receive the e-mail from CIFAR. If a referee does not receive or misplaces the e-mail with instructions, you can re-send the request. If you learn that one of your referees cannot provide a letter, you may replace them with a new referee and issue a new request. If a referee is unable to use the online system or does not use e-mail, contact [global.scholars@cifar.ca](mailto:global.scholars@cifar.ca) for support on how to provide the letter.

Both you and your referee will receive an automated 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 Time Zone (UTC -7) on October 30, 2020. You are responsible for tracking the submission of reference letters and for following up with referees to ensure all letters are submitted on time.**



# APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS & CRITERIA

CIFAR is strongly committed to equity, diversity and inclusion within our community and through the application review and selection process. This process will be conducted in English.

The total span of time from application deadline to final selection is about five months. Candidates invited to a virtual interview will be contacted by January 22, 2021. The table below summarizes key dates for 2020/2021.

The application review and selection process:

- 1. Basic Eligibility:** CIFAR ensures all applications meet basic eligibility requirements.
- 2. Application Review:** A sub-committee of CIFAR Fellows and/or Advisors is assembled for each eligible CIFAR research program. These committees review and assess the applicants to their program based on three criteria: i) research excellence, ii) potential to contribute to the program by adding new and diverse perspectives and approaches that build on or complement existing membership, and iii) leadership potential (both within and outside of academia). Each program selection committee recommends up to 5 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 22, 23 or 24, 2021. 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 desire to engage with peers across disciplines, and potential for leadership and impact. This committee provides their scores and recommendations to CIFAR for the new cohort of CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars.

**NOTE: The interview schedule will be developed after the shortlisted finalists have been identified. Candidates must be available on all three dates until notified of their place in the schedule.**

## SUMMARY OF KEY DATES:

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020	Call for applications opens
OCTOBER 30, 2020	Application deadline <b>11:59 PM Pacific Time Zone (UTC -7)</b>
BY JANUARY 22, 2021	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 22-24, 2021	The Selection Committee interviews the shortlisted finalists individually via Zoom.
BY MARCH 31, 2021	Finalists are notified of the competition results.
MAY 2021	CIFAR publicly announces 2021 CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars
MAY 18-22, 2021	CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars annual meeting and orientation for new cohort is held in southern Germany, dependent on travel restrictions due to COVID-19.



# ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

## 1. TERM

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars' active term is two years, beginning in April 2021.

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars must hold a formal full-time research position at an institution of higher education or research, with responsibility for both conducting an independent research program and supervising/teaching graduate or postdoctoral trainees, 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. Possible 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 the Global Scholar's department to arrange the transfer of funds. CIFAR requests that the funds be placed in a special account to be managed by the Scholar. The taxation treatment of these funds is the sole responsibility of the Scholar's home institution. Please note that CIFAR does not support indirect costs.

Interaction costs – i.e., costs of attending CIFAR research program meetings, the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars annual meeting, and other pre-approved CIFAR-related travel – will be reimbursed by CIFAR through the completion of an expense claim form.

## 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 Scholar's term will be extended by the length of the parental leave up to a maximum of one year.
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.



***“The CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program afforded me the ability to execute on the vision I had for my laboratory in areas that were not necessarily easy to get funded.”***

### **BRIAN DIAS**

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar 2017-2019 (appointed as Associate Fellow in CIFAR's Child & Brain Development program, 2019), University of Southern California

# 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 one to three times 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 or contribute to the themes and goals of one of the CIFAR research programs accepting applications in 2020/2021. Eligible programs are listed on page 4.

CIFAR's programs are interdisciplinary, and the areas of research in each program are diverse. An objective of CIFAR's programs is to stimulate new interdisciplinary collaborations among researchers in pursuit of new knowledge advances. We welcome applications that have the potential to bring a new perspective or approach into a research 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 or complementing your selected program, and how your research would benefit from engaging with the program. CIFAR strongly encourages applicants with diverse backgrounds and perspectives not presently represented in our programs.

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

Yes. Different than 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 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.

To be eligible, you must be employed at an institution of higher education or research and be **within the first five years of starting a full-time research position** that includes responsibility for both conducting an independent research program and supervising/teaching graduate or postdoctoral trainees. Typically, applicants will be an Assistant Professor (or the equivalent in other academic systems). See page 2 for full eligibility requirements. If you have questions, please contact: [global.scholars@cifar.ca](mailto:global.scholars@cifar.ca).

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

CIFAR recognizes that different academic systems around the world assign different titles to junior faculty positions. We welcome junior faculty from all over the world to apply. If you need assistance in determining your eligibility, please contact: [global.scholars@cifar.ca](mailto:global.scholars@cifar.ca).

## 7. I STARTED MY FIRST FULL-TIME RESEARCH POSITION WITH INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES, MORE THAN FIVE YEARS AGO, BUT I SPENT PART OF THAT TIME ON PARENTAL/MEDICAL LEAVE. AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

To be eligible to apply, you will have started your first full-time research position with independent research and teaching responsibilities no earlier than July 1, 2016. If you took a parental or medical leave within the year before that date, your eligibility normally will be extended by the equivalent length of your leave.



You are required to identify the starting date of your first full-time research position with independent research and teaching responsibilities in your application form. If this date is earlier than July 1, 2016, you must provide an explanation for CIFAR's consideration. CIFAR reserves the right to make the final determination of your eligibility.

### **8. I HOLD A DOCTOR OF MEDICINE DEGREE (I.E., MD OR EQUIVALENT), BUT NOT A PHD. AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?**

No, CIFAR does not consider the Doctor of Medicine, or any equivalent medical degree, as a PhD-equivalent degree.

### **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 to this program.

### **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 BETWEEN MARCH 22-24, 2021 DUE TO A PRIOR COMMITMENT, SHOULD I APPLY?**

No. Applicants unable to attend will not be considered. Applicants should hold all three dates until receiving further notice.

### **12. WHAT COMMITMENTS ARE 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 that you will:

- **Attend the in-person interaction meetings of your designated CIFAR research program.** Programs generally meet two to three times per year, depending

on the program. Meetings are held in Canada and various other locations around the world. While at meetings and where appropriate, we encourage you to interact and collaborate with fellow program members on research areas of common interest to the program.

- **Attend the annual meeting of CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars** (in-person, held in early- to mid-May) **and virtual meetings** (at various times throughout the year) to participate in interactive, expert-led leadership development and communications training workshops, as well as peer networking. We expect you to attend two annual meetings, dependent on travel restrictions due to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic.
- **Report** on your successes and activities annually, and where possible and appropriate, interact with CIFAR stakeholders and funders.
- **Acknowledge CIFAR** by using 'CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar' in your professional signature and indicating CIFAR as an affiliation. You should also acknowledge CIFAR as a funder in research publications and presentations supported by this program's funding.

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?**

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars meet annually as a cohort for in-depth training focused on strengthening academic leadership and related skills. The annual meeting aims to build a community of early-career researchers and supports peer-to-peer sharing and collaboration.

Over three days, Scholars engage in interactive, expert-led workshops on skills relevant to their daily work and life. Sample themes include strategic communications (influencing others, giving and receiving feedback, managing difficult conversations), strategic and creative thinking for problem-solving and decision-making, communicating science to non-specialist audiences, and more. Invited guest speakers provide opportunities for cross-sector engagement, mentorship and enhanced learning. There is also time set aside to foster new collaborations and potential projects.

### **14. WHAT HAS BEEN THE SUCCESS RATE OF APPLICANTS?**

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

# CIFAR

**CIFAR** is a Canadian-based global research organization that convenes extraordinary minds to address the most important questions facing science and humanity.

## CIFAR Research Program Descriptions for Applicants to the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars Program

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In 2020/2021, the CIFAR research programs eligible to accept applications are:

### Brain, Mind & Consciousness

The aim of CIFAR's **Brain, Mind, and Consciousness** program is to bring together scientists and scholars from a broad range of disciplines, from philosophy to cognitive and systems neuroscience, to explore the cultural, neural, and genetic bases of those aspects of consciousness that appear to be specifically human. Researchers within the program address core questions surrounding the neural basis and functions of consciousness; its development over time; its expression and detection in patients with brain damage; consciousness in other animals; the relation of consciousness to distinctively human practices such as music and language, and other topics. Currently, the program wishes to complement these core questions with novel emphases on (i) artificial intelligence and machine learning; (ii) virtual and extended reality, (iii) aesthetics, and (iv) development and education. Embracing these new directions will allow us to develop innovative approaches towards modelling the mechanisms and functions of consciousness, testing hypotheses about consciousness in immersive environments, and translating insights into consciousness into domains with societal and technological impact. We welcome applications for Global Scholar positions across the entire remit of our program, but especially from candidates able to bridge disciplines with expertise in our new areas of priority.

### Boundaries, Membership & Belonging

All societies distinguish members from non-members. Evolutionary psychology suggests that humans are predisposed to distinguishing "us" from "them." But the contours of these boundaries are not hard-wired: they can and have shifted. Exclusionary definitions of national membership based on race, religion or caste are now widely perceived as illegitimate and in conflict with modern ideals of equal citizenship or common humanity. Global markets, international migration and transnational cultural flows further erode traditional definitions of "we." Some observers advance the cosmopolitan ideal that we are all citizens of the world, with no insiders or outsiders. Others, however, argue that in-group identities and a more bounded sense of "we" are essential to solidarity and collective action. The interdisciplinary **Boundaries, Membership & Belonging** program asks: How do the boundaries that humans draw, distinguishing 'us' from 'them,' carry both negative and positive consequences for collective action, our ability to produce collective resources, and the safeguarding of rights? Can ideas of national membership be redefined in ways that are both effective and legitimate? How do 'outsiders' become 'insiders'? What alternative memberships – above, below or across the contemporary nation-state – may be more effective and legitimate in the future?

### Earth 4D: Subsurface Science & Exploration

The CIFAR **Earth 4D: Subsurface Science & Exploration** program brings together diverse expertise in geology, microbiology and planetary sciences with the shared vision to explore the complex co-evolution and feedbacks between planetary surfaces and the subsurface world. The program explores this aim through three interdisciplinary themes, WATER, LIFE and SPACE, intertwined with TIME as a 4th theme and overarching lens.

The program's long-term focus is on unravelling the complexities of chemical, physical and biological interactions in the Earth's subsurface and their implications for how we understand our own planet and our exploration of other

## CIFAR Research Program Descriptions for Applicants to the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars Program

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worlds. We have approached this challenge by questioning current understanding of subsurface architecture, life and energy. Together we propose new approaches to understand the physical and chemical controls on planetary subsurface architecture and how these controls and architectures impact and define subsurface biomes. We are exploring what is known and unknown about the origin, evolution and dispersal of subsurface life compared to the surface biosphere and what are the novel resources and models of subsurface energy that support planetary subsurface ecosystems.

The shorter term priorities of Earth 4D focus on refining our understanding of the limits of habitability in the subsurface, understanding the evolution of subsurface water over planetary time-scales and understanding the potential of radiolytic physical-chemical reactions in the subsurface.

### Fungal Kingdom: Threats & Opportunities

The Fungal Kingdom spans as many as six million eukaryotic species, and is remarkable in terms of the breadth and depth of impact on global health, agriculture, biodiversity, ecology, manufacturing, and biomedical research. CIFAR's ***Fungal Kingdom: Threats & Opportunities*** program seeks to address the fundamental challenge of understanding the unique facets of fungal biology that impart a range of remarkable properties, with the goal of developing new strategies to mitigate threats posed by fungi and to harness their extraordinary potential. The program's interdisciplinary team encompasses exceptional strength in fungal genomics, infectious disease, food security, biodiversity, and chemistry, and is dedicated to bringing together state-of-the-art approaches in functional genomics, chemical biology, computational biology, cell biology, and experimental models of infection in a sustained collaborative research network. The program is tackling four grand challenges: 1) understand forces driving the emergence, evolution, and spread of fungi impacting plants, animals, and human health and society; 2) identify mechanisms of fungal adaptation and interactions with hosts and other microbes; 3) understand the evolution of resistance to fungicides and antifungals across the fungal kingdom; and 4) develop novel strategies to thwart fungal disease. The program will explore these themes with scholars from diverse areas of expertise, ranging from ecology and field work and epidemiology to genetics, genomics, and biology of fungal threats to the health of our planet and its resident species.

### Humans & the Microbiome

CIFAR's ***Humans & the Microbiome*** program brings together world-renowned biological, clinical, and social scientists who explore human-microbiome interactions across interrelated time scales ranging from deep evolutionary history to physiological response times, and across changing social, cultural, and environmental landscapes. Building upon the interdisciplinary foundations within the program, it aims to challenge the status quo of microbiome research that focuses on individual microbiomes and particular diseases to explore how the microbiome impacts humans in changing environments. Specifically, the program is exploring human-microbiota interactions along three themes: 1) throughout the human lifespan, focusing on the bookends of life (early childhood and aging); 2) by expanding the focus from individual microbiomes to community (collective) microbiomes; 3) in varying and changing environments through time, broadly conceived to include physical and cultural environments, which affect individual humans and populations. The group is in a unique position to significantly reframe the fast-moving field of microbiome research, including both scientific and public views on how the microbiome impacts humanity. The program will explore these themes with scholars from diverse areas of expertise, ranging from social epidemiology and public health to environment, demography, and bioinformatics.

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### Innovation, Equity & The Future Of Prosperity

Innovation is essential to economic growth, health, and social and cultural well-being. However, both the opportunities to participate in and the benefits that emerge from innovation are unevenly distributed. Despite their substantial impact on inclusion and equality, we have limited knowledge of how innovation policies and practices shape outcomes, the conditions under which they succeed or fail, and the complementary activities (in education, finance, transportation, and other areas) that societies can undertake to produce better outcomes. By developing new ways to investigate how innovation interacts with distribution—and how both interact technological possibilities, historical trajectories, skills and education, regulatory environments, and other social, economic and political dynamics—the ***Innovation, Equity & the Future of Prosperity*** program produces new insights on how innovation and distribution work. It bridges existing scientific subfields, such as innovation studies and research on distribution, that are siloed and see little cross-fertilization. To do so, it brings together a truly multidisciplinary network of scholars from the social sciences, engineering, law and the humanities.