

MERCi CALL FOR MEDITERRANEAN SEA RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS TO GRADUATE AND POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS

Current Academic Year 2026

Tender No.: 26/3

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION March 15th 2026 AT 08:00

The Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel (hereafter MERCI) aims to advance Israeli-based marine research in the Mediterranean Sea by supporting student and post-doctoral research projects. MERCI will award research scholarships to selected candidates holding advanced degrees and performing Mediterranean Sea related research (from all perspectives) during the 2024 academic year.

MERCi hereby issues a call for research scholarships (Hereafter: “**The Scholarship**”). **supporting graduate and post-doctoral Mediterranean Sea research to students in its partner institutions** (University of Haifa, the Technion, the Weizmann Institute of Science, Tel Aviv University, Bar Ilan University, Ben Gurion University, the Hebrew University, The Ruppin Academic Center, Reichman University, Ariel University, The Geology Survey of Israel, Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research).

MERCi will award scholarships that will not exceed 8,000 ILS (in words: Eight Thousand Shekels) per scholarship. The scholarships will directly benefit the student’s research project and provided to the student/post-doctoral fellow (which could include for example – scientific supplies and analyses, travel costs, scientific editing, software, etc).

Eligibility

Eligibility in the Call is contingent upon fulfilling all the following conditions:

1. The candidate is an active student for a Masters/ Doctorate degree, or a post-doctoral fellow at one of the partner institutions as defined above.
2. The candidate’s proposed research will be associated with topics of varying perspectives related to the Mediterranean Sea research.
3. The proposed research will be conducted during the 2026 academic year.

The Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel
199 Abba Khoushy Ave. Mount Carmel, Haifa 3498838

Email: merci@univ.haifa.ac.il Tel: 04-8280789

4. The application is submitted by the advertised deadline – **March 15th 2026 at 08:00.**
5. Receiving the scholarship is subject to the winning candidate being a registered active student in one of the partner Institutions of MERCI and receiving signed confirmation from their institution in which the winning candidate studies in according to that required in Appendix B of these bylaws.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Applications will be submitted to MERCI no later than the effective deadline as defined above. Applications will be submitted via email to: merci@univ.haifa.ac.il.

The application will contain the following documents:

1. A detailed letter stating how the applicant's research is associated with Mediterranean Sea research and why MERCI should support it.
2. The applicant's Curriculum Vitae;
3. A list of the applicant's publications, if applicable;
4. Valid approval of studies from one of the Partner institutions;
5. The applicant's transcripts. For 1st year Master Degree students - Bachelor Degree grade sheet; for 2nd year Master Degree students - current grade sheet up to the current semester; for Doctorate students - grade sheet for Master Degree and current grades. For post-doctoral fellows – list of publications (see above).
6. Letter of recommendation from applicant's academic supervisor.
7. Confirmation from the student's academic institution of a submitted research plan.
8. The proposed research proposal. The scope of the research proposal will not exceed 5 pages (font size 11, line spacing 1.5). The research proposal will include:
 - A synopsis, not to exceed 250 words.
 - Background - purposes of the research and importance thereof.
 - The research plan - the main approaches and methods intended to execute the research.
 - The research status - description in a paragraph of the stage the candidate is at and what was done up to the stage the candidacy was submitted.
 - Preparation of a detailed budget with the required sections (ship-time, analyses, supplies, travel, etc.)

The applicant must submit the documents above as one file (document) in PDF format and according to the order presented above. Please attach as the first page a list of documents and checkmark ☒ the documents that are submitted.

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MERCi will be entitled to request from the applicants, supplementary documents or clarifications related to the proposal or all other submitted/necessary documents.

Selection of the Winners

Proposals that satisfy the participation conditions will be remitted to the Judging Committee on the Center's behalf who will review them and select the winning candidate/s. Every member of the Committee will examine all the proposals, except proposals from the Committee member's academic institution. The Committee will base its decision *inter alia* on the basis of the following criteria - average of grades (post doctorate - publications) (10%); The stage of the candidate's degree - 5% (the more the candidate's research proposal or research plan is approved by the supervisor, the higher the score will be); research excellence (35%); ranking assessment in respect of the proposal meeting the tender conditions (25%); the mentor's recommendations (10%); general evaluation (15%);

Notwithstanding the above, the Committee may refrain from selecting a proposal as the winner, to allow a variety of candidates to win from various disciplines/ departments and different institutions.

General

1. The scholarship will be awarded to candidates who win directly from the parent institution that they attend and in accordance with the regulations of each institution, and this subject to the fact that they meet all the conditions in these bylaws and only after he/they signed the format of the statement in Appendix A of the tender candidates and subject to fulfilling all the winner/s obligations pursuant to the tender candidates and the tender bylaws.
2. MERCi is entitled to award only part of the scholarship, not award any scholarship, or to split the scholarship between more than one candidate, all in accordance with its sole discretion.
3. MERCi may at any time, of its sole discretion and for any reason act as follows - to stop or cancel the tender and/or change the conditions in these bylaws and/or change the
4. Tender participation conditions and/or change the tender period and/or the dates and/or the funding amount and each participant waives any claim in respect thereto.
5. The tender will be executed in accordance with the **Tender Bylaws** and merely submitting candidacy to the tender will be considered as consenting to all such tender and bylaws conditions.
6. For further details and questions, you may contact:
Mrs. Shimrit Haimzon merci@univ.haifa.ac.il And The Chairman of the Academic and Educational Committee: **Dr. Shiri Zemah Shamir** shiri.zemahshamir@runi.ac.il

Appendix A. By-laws Grantee Declaration

The Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel – MERCI – has decided to award you a Mediterranean Sea research scholarship for the 2026 academic year based on your successful application.

Prior to receiving the scholarship, you must complete your details below and statement.

I, the undersigned, _____ bearer of I.D. No. _____,
Hereby declare and confirm that:

1. Winning the scholarship was not obtained in violation of the bylaws and/or contrary to its conditions and that in the event it is clarified to the contrary, I undertake to return the scholarship without prejudicing any relief and rights of MERCI and the Partners' Institutions therein - pursuant to the law.
2. I am aware that I will receive the scholarship from the institution that I attend, and that I do not and will not have (nor will anyone on my behalf) any claim and/or demand from MERCI and the Partner Institutions therein and/or anyone on their behalf insofar as the tender and/or the scholarship is concerned
3. I agree that my name and work that I submitted or the gist thereof may be published by MERCI and the Partner Institutions therein and I hereby waive any claim and/or demand in respect of such publication and/or use of my name and my work within the framework of the publications relating to this tender and/or other publications of MERCI and the Partner Institutions therein.
4. I confirm that any publication derived from my research will acknowledge the support from MERCI according to the following format: "Funding (or support) was provided to XXX by the Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel".
5. I am aware that any tax, deduction or demand for tax payment, of any kind, will be at my expense and at my expense alone. MERCI will be entitled to transfer to the tax authorities, if required by law, my details and/or withholding tax. MERCI will not be obligated to pay any tax regarding the winnings.

This is my name, this is my signature and the content of this statement of mine is true.

In witness whereof, I hereto set my hands: _____

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Appendix B. By-laws. Confirmation by the Parent Institution
CALL FOR MEDITERRANEAN SEA RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS TO
GRADUATE AND POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS

Tender No.: 26/3

Applicant's name: _____

Supervisor's name (academic or research faculty): _____

Applicant's Academic Institution (Hereinafter "The Institution")

The requested scholarship amount for the candidate within the framework of participating in the aforementioned tender is: _____ ILS.

The Institution undertakes as follows:

1. If MERCI grants a scholarship to the applicant, the Institution undertakes to pay the applicant directly the scholarship amount he wins, as stipulated above.
2. The institution undertakes that the awarding of the scholarship will be in accordance with the rules practiced by it.
3. The Institution confirms that the applicant is engaged in Mediterranean Sea research that aligns with the conditions published on behalf of the Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel in Tender No. 26/3 and pursuant to the Center's procedures.
4. At the end of each academic year the Institution undertakes to remit to the University of Haifa a financial report signed by the Institution's accountant regarding the use of the above scholarship funds in the format required by the Planning and Budget Committee.

Date _____

Authorized Signatory's Signature

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____