



Brain Canada & Weizmann Institute of Science Team Grants

Request for Applications

About Brain Canada Foundation

Brain Canada Foundation (Brain Canada) is a national registered charity that enables and supports excellent, innovative, paradigm-changing brain research in Canada. For more than two decades, Brain Canada has made the case for the brain as a single, complex system with commonalities across the range of neurological disorders, mental illnesses and addictions, and brain and spinal cord injuries. Looking at the brain as one system has underscored the need for increased collaboration across disciplines and institutions, and to ensure that Canada has a robust pipeline of talent to remain at the forefront in the field of brain research. Brain Canada's vision is to understand the brain, in health and illness, to improve lives, and achieve societal impact.

The Canada Brain Research Fund (CBRF) is an innovative arrangement between the Government of Canada, through Health Canada, and Brain Canada Foundation, designed to encourage Canadians to increase their support of brain research, and maximize the impact and efficiency of those investments. The Fund supports the very best Canadian neuroscience, fostering collaborative research and accelerating the pace of discovery, in order to improve the health and quality of life of Canadians who suffer from brain disorders.

www.braincanada.ca

About the Weizmann Institute of Science

The Weizmann Institute of Science is one of the world's leading multidisciplinary research institutions in the natural and exact sciences. Home to Nobel, Turing, and Israel Prize laureates, the Institute consistently ranks among the top research centers worldwide—including sixth in the 2025 Leiden Ranking for research quality and impact—underscoring its leadership in scientific innovation. Renowned for its curiosity-driven approach and collaborative scientific culture, the Institute draws exceptional researchers from across the globe and drives transformative discoveries that advance human health, technology, and well-being.

<https://www.weizmann.ac.il/pages/>



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Scope

The *Brain Canada & Weizmann Institute of Science Team Grants* program aims to leverage strengths and foster international collaboration between researchers in Canada and the [Weizmann Institute of Science](#) in Israel. The program is intended to support innovative, unorthodox, and exploratory research that may be in the early and conceptual stages of project development but has potential for significant impact on our understanding of the brain and brain disorders. The research topic will focus on hypothesis-driven inquiries on the brain and nervous system, and may span the range of basic, translational, and clinical approaches, including the study of disease pathogenesis, progression, diagnosis, prevention, and/or treatment.

Grant Details

The *Brain Canada & Weizmann Institute of Science Team Grants* program has an overall funding envelope of \$2,500,000 CAD to support up to five grants of \$500,000 CAD each over two years.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Evidence clearly shows that increasing equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in research environments enhances excellence, innovation and creativity. Brain Canada and the Weizmann Institute are committed to excellence through equity and encourage applicants of diverse backgrounds to apply to our funding opportunities, which will promote the expression of diverse perspectives, approaches, and experiences, including those of underrepresented groups.

Open Science and Open Access

Brain Canada and Weizmann Institute of Science encourage knowledge mobilization and open access to research inputs, outputs, and processes by making scientific information available to all. The sharing of scientific research inputs, outputs and processes should be “FAIR” (i.e., Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable), should promote open education, open access publications, open data and materials, etc., and should be made available at the earliest opportunity.

Applicants are encouraged to become familiar with the principles that enable sharing data, information, tools, and resources by consulting the following resources:

- [Roadmap for Open Science](#) outlines the overarching principles and recommendations to guide Open Science activities in Canada for science and research funded by federal government departments and agencies.
- [FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable](#) are guiding principles to inform data management and stewardship of digital assets.

Eligibility

This funding opportunity is open to research teams of two or more members and **must include a minimum of two independent investigators**. At least one independent investigator must be conducting research at, and affiliated with, an eligible academic institution in Canada, and one at the Weizmann Institute of Science, designated as co-Principal Investigators. Additional team members and collaborators may be included, as needed, to ensure the required expertise is present to carry out the proposed research.



Teams are encouraged to include early-career researchers, as co-Principal Investigator and/or as team members.

Researchers in Canada are encouraged to visit the [Faculties and Departments](#) page from the Weizmann Institute of Science where they can consult the directory of faculty members from the departments of [brain sciences](#), [molecular neuroscience](#), and more.

The co-Principal Investigators must be:

- Considered full-time independent researchers at their respective institutions. Such an individual normally holds the rank of assistant, associate, or full professor; can initiate and direct their own independent lines of research as principal investigator; have full responsibility for running their laboratories; have full control of their research funds; and are permitted to supervise trainees, if applicable, as per their institution's policy. Postdoctoral fellows, research associates, or adjunct faculty are not eligible to apply as one of the co-Principal Investigators.
- Conducting research at their respective institutions for the entire duration of the grant, and academic appointments must have started by the deadline for Full Application submission.
- Able to initiate the project September 2026, when funding is expected to begin.

Only one application per research project can be submitted to this funding opportunity. Individuals can be involved in more than one application; however, applications submitted must be distinct from one another.

Please note that applications may be related but cannot overlap with any other currently funded projects. It is the responsibility of the applicant to notify Brain Canada and Weizmann Institute immediately should overlap arise from new funding awarded during the application and review process of this funding opportunity. Overlap is defined as having the same objectives and/or experimental aims as any other funded work.

Use of Funds

Funds must contribute towards the direct costs of the research project for which they were awarded and should be directly attributable to the project or activity being performed. Please note that grant funds must be allocated equally to research expenses incurred within Canada and Israel.

Eligible Costs

These funds may be used to support any aspect of the research project, including:

- Salaries for technical and administrative personnel;
- Stipends of trainees;
- Supplies and materials;
- Maintenance of essential equipment and/or purchase of equipment that is currently unavailable but essential for the project;
- Provision of special services and user fees;
- Knowledge Mobilization, including, but not limited to, travel of the co-Principal Investigators and trainees for presentation of results at conferences, publication costs in peer-reviewed and open-access journals or repositories (including article processing charges), knowledge exchange activities (workshops, brochures, books), knowledge diffusion activities via online technologies (webinars, podcasts).



Ineligible Costs

- Salaries and consulting fees of any investigator or researcher holding an academic or research appointment;
- General office and lab equipment;
- Indirect costs or overhead costs associated with managing the research project.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and Brain Canada and Weizmann Institute must be consulted on expenses that are not listed here to determine the eligibility of other categories of expenditure.

Criteria for Assessment

There will be equal weighting of the following criteria:

Innovation and Originality

Quality of the project which, while solidly based in scientific principles and technical feasibility, offers new concepts and approaches, with the potential to yield new insights, data and/or tools, change the paradigms of the field, open the field to new experimental directions, or address a critical barrier to progress in our understanding of the brain and nervous system. Proposals should pursue novel hypotheses, and demonstrate bold, novel thinking.

Feasibility

The feasibility of the project will be assessed based on the clarity and coherence of the proposed approach, the appropriateness of the methods with consideration for mitigation strategies, and the alignment of the research plan with the available resources and timeline. Appropriate background and justification for the proposed research should be provided through literature citations and data from other sources. The team's potential to successfully complete the project based on their expertise and track record will also be considered.

Potential for Impact

The degree to which the new lines of research that could be developed from this project have the potential to generate meaningful data that may fundamentally change our understanding of the brain and nervous system function in the long-term. Proposals should equally address impacts beyond scientific advancement, such as capacity building and potential future health impacts, where applicable. While the research may be early stage, it should show strong potential to yield transformative insights. Accounting for sex as a biological variable is important for transparency and reproducibility, and incorporating considerations for sex, gender, and diversity into study design additionally broadens the potential impact of the work to expand knowledge and turn discovery into health.



Timeline

Launch of Request for Applications	December 4, 2025
Deadline for Registration Form	17:00 EST / 23:59 IST, February 3, 2026
Invitation to Full Application	By February 13, 2026
Deadline for Receipt of Full Applications	17:00 EDT / 23:59 IDT, April 16, 2026
Notification of Decision	July 2026
Funding Begins	September 2026

How to Apply

Please note that this funding opportunity includes a Registration Form and a Full Application stage. Applicants must submit a Registration Form to be eligible to submit a Full Application. Following an internal administrative and relevance review, applications deemed eligible will be invited to submit a Full Application. Please note that all communications to Brain Canada, including the submission of the Registration Forms, must include a carbon copy (CC) to Yael Karhash, Weizmann Institute, at yael.karhash@weizmann.ac.il.

It is the sole responsibility of the co-Principal Investigators to ensure their submission adheres to the requirements and are received by the deadlines outlined above. There will be no appeal to late submissions. Brain Canada will acknowledge receipt of Registration Forms and Full Applications within two business days.

Registration Form

Please click [here](#) to download the Registration Form.

Please send the completed Registration Form, along with the required attachment(s), as a single PDF file titled "BC-WIS2025_Registration Form_co-PI 1 Last Name & co-PI 2 Last Name" to programs@braincanada.ca with a CC to yael.karhash@weizmann.ac.il by **17:00 EST / 23:59 IST on February 3, 2026**. The PDF will need to be formatted using 12-point Time New Roman or 11.5-point Arial font, single-spaced, on a letter-size page with 1" minimum margins. The font size for figures and legends must be a minimum of 10 points. Use of a condensed font and spacing is not permitted. Registration Forms received in any other format, exceeding the word limits, incomplete, or late, will be rejected.

Project Summary

- Project title
- Keywords describing the research project (maximum 10 words)
- A summary of the proposed research project and its goals (maximum one page)

Team Member Details

- List the names and affiliations of the co-Principal Investigators, co-Investigators, and team members, excluding trainees, ensuring the composition of the team meets the eligibility criteria outlined above.

Optional Information



- Provide names and contact information for up to three individuals who are knowledgeable in the research topic and would be able to evaluate the application. Suggested individuals should not have a conflict of interest.
- List individuals to whom the application should not be sent for review.

We will take these and other considerations into account when establishing the composition of the external Peer Review Panel.

Certification and Signatures

The co-Principal Investigators must certify that all members of the team have agreed to their inclusion in the application and allow them to represent the team throughout the application process. Please note that institutional signatures are not required at the Registration Form stage.

Full Application

Full Applications must be submitted using Brain Canada’s electronic grant management system, SmartSimple, by **17:00 EDT / 23:59 IDT on April 16, 2026**; access will be granted upon invitation to the Full Application stage.

The Full Application must be formatted using 12-point Times New Roman or 11.5-point Arial font, single-spaced, on a letter-size page with 1" minimum margins. Use of a condensed font and spacing is not permitted. Other fonts and font sizes are acceptable for text in tables, charts, figures, graphs and legends only, as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%. The Full Application should be aligned with information provided at the Registration Form stage. *Applications received in any other format, exceeding the page limits, incomplete, or late, will be rejected.*

Applicant Information

Brain Canada has implemented a demographic survey to evaluate the progress of its programs in fostering EDI. Please note that the survey will be sent via email, upon confirmation of the applicant’s submission of the Registration Form. The information collected under this section will not be shared in an identifiable form with the public, external stakeholders (e.g., Health Canada, funding partners), or reviewers, and will have no impact on the evaluation of submitted applications. All responses are completely anonymized and aggregated to ensure protection of the identity of any individual. Please see Brain Canada’s [Privacy Policy](#).

Project Summary

- Project title
- Keywords describing the research project (maximum 10 words)
- A summary of the proposed research project and its goals (maximum 300 words)

Lay Summary (maximum 300 words)

- Suitable for publication and understandable by the general public.

Proposal (maximum 6 pages, including figures and legends, excluding references)

Proposals should include the following information, structured to best address the Criteria for Assessment outlined above:

1. The **overall objectives** to be achieved by the end of the funding period.
2. The **rationale** for undertaking the study now, including:
 - The current state of research on the topic and key knowledge gaps that motivate this study.



- A statement about the innovation and originality of the project, preliminary evidence supporting the proposed research, and the research hypotheses.
3. The **work plan**, including:
 - The approaches, methods, and techniques that will be used to achieve the stated objectives; if applicable, outline the specific contributions of any collaborators involved in the project.
 - Methods of data analysis, including statistical methods and calculations to show that the study will be adequately powered.
 - Potential pitfalls or obstacles, and mitigation strategies to overcome them.
 4. **SGBA+ and EDI considerations**, including:
 - How sex and/or gender considerations will be incorporated into the work plan. Research projects proposing to use only one sex or gender should provide strong justification from the scientific literature or preliminary data to support this decision. Applicants are encouraged to review CIHR’s [Online Training Modules for Integrating Sex and Gender in Health Research](#).
 - How EDI is considered in the research design in all stages of the research process including identification of the research question(s), study design and population groups, methodology, data collection, data analysis and interpretation, identification of stakeholders, and knowledge mobilization.
 5. The **expected outputs** from the study, and how the findings will be disseminated, including
 - The expected impacts (short and long term) of the results in advancing our understanding of the brain. Refer as needed to these categories of research impacts: advancing knowledge, building capacity, and potential for future health impacts.
 - Plans for making the data and knowledge generated throughout the project available to other stakeholders.
 - Knowledge mobilization plan describing the intended target audiences for the findings, plans for dissemination and stakeholder engagement toward achieving research impact, and how the findings may be adapted and shared with broader knowledge users.

Timeline and Anticipated Milestones

Indicate the key intermediate stages in achieving the overall objectives, and the projected timeframe for achieving them. A template will be provided at the Full Application stage.

Team Member Details

List the names, affiliations, and roles of the co-Principal Investigators, co-Investigators, and team members, excluding trainees, ensuring the composition of the team continues to meet the eligibility criteria and includes the expertise needed to carry out the proposed research project.

Biographical sketches (maximum five pages each) of the co-Principal Investigators and all other faculty-level co-investigators and team members must be submitted. A template will be provided at the Full Application stage. Biosketches are not required for consultants, trainees, technical personnel, or people with lived experience on the team.

Any publications listed should include the DOI, URL, or PMID, where applicable, so reviewers can access them.

Letters of Support (Optional)

Applicants may submit letters of support from their collaborators, if applicable. Letters should explain the nature of collaboration and outline the specific contributions of the collaborator to the project. A maximum of two letters (one page per letter) is permitted.



Sources of Funding

Using the template provided, list other sources of funding, if any, related to the proposed project, including current or pending grant applications from any team member.

Please note: Research applications may be related but cannot be identical to any other funded projects. It is the responsibility of the applicants to notify Brain Canada and Weizmann Institute immediately should overlap arise from funding awarded during the application and review process of this funding opportunity.

Budget

Applicants must submit a **yearly budget** and a written **budget justification** (maximum one page) describing the proposed costs in each category of expenditure. Provide sufficient information to allow reviewers to assess the suitability of the cost allocation. A template will be provided at the Full Application stage.

Institutional Approvals

Please provide in a written narrative the applicable approvals (e.g., ethics for human subjects or animals, biohazard approval, etc.) you have in place at the Full Application deadline, and timeline for any addendums or additional approvals specific to the proposal that may need to be added thereafter. Please note that, if awarded, applicants will be required to provide documentation, where applicable, demonstrating institutional approvals and compliance with policies on the ethical use of human subjects, animals, and biohazards prior to funding release.

Certification and Signatures

All required signatures must be submitted with the application by the submission deadline for Full Application submission.

- Signatures of the co-Principal Investigators are mandatory for the application to be considered complete.
- Institutional Signatures: Signatures of the responsible officials of the institutions where the co-Principal Investigators will conduct the research are required.

Review Process

Registration Form

Registration Forms submitted by the deadline will undergo an administrative check and relevance review by Brain Canada and Weizmann Institute to ensure alignment with the scope of this funding opportunity and all eligibility criteria are met. All applicants will be notified regarding the administrative check and relevance review of their application. Eligible applications will be invited to the Full Application stage; ineligible applications will be withdrawn from the competition.

Full Application

Brain Canada will manage the peer review process, in collaboration with Weizmann Institute. Applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed by at least two members of an external Peer Review Panel composed of researchers from Canadian and international institutions with experience and expertise in the relevant field(s). Conflicts of interest and other relevant considerations will be taken into account to ensure a balanced panel.



Based on the reviewer scores, the Peer Review Panel will discuss the top applications. The Panel will recommend to Brain Canada and Weizmann Institute the applications that have received a high merit score.

Applicants will receive anonymized written reviewer comments. Applicants whose applications were discussed at the Peer Review Panel meeting will additionally receive Scientific Officer notes from the proceedings. Appeals against the assessment of the Peer Review Panel will not be entertained.

Confidentiality and Ownership

All materials submitted for this funding opportunity will be kept confidential and only share them with reviewers, Peer Review Panel members, and observers who have signed confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements. Brain Canada and Weizmann Institute do not claim ownership of intellectual property (IP) arising from the research they fund and expect that any IP arising from this funding is developed and commercialized according to the policies of the research institutions in which the research is performed.

Communications

Recipients of the *Brain Canada & Weizmann Institute of Science Team Grants* must make every effort to attend events organized by Brain Canada and Weizmann Institute, and present their projects, if applicable, to demonstrate the importance and impact of their research.

Contact Information

For more information, or if you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact Brain Canada at programs@braincanada.ca with a CC to yael.karhash@weizmann.ac.il.