

Call for Proposals 2013

The Humanities Fund is a joint venture of the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education in Israel (VATAT) and Yad Hanadiv. The Fund was established in 2008 with the purpose of helping to improve the quality and reach of Humanities programs at Israeli universities. Following international review and local discussions with the Deans of Humanities and university leaders, it was decided to extend the operation of the Fund for an additional three years, while significantly increasing its budget. During this period the Fund will focus on the following goals:

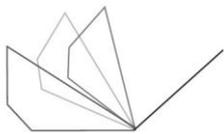
1. Increasing the number of outstanding students studying the Humanities;
2. Promoting frameworks that balance disciplinary specialization with broad based education for undergraduate students;
3. Supporting the establishment of high quality structured and collaborative graduate programs

In addition, the Fund will provide some support towards enabling programs funded through The Humanities Fund in 2009-2012 to attain long term sustainability, in collaboration with universities.

Application Procedures

Detailed descriptions of program areas may be found below. Prospective applicants are encouraged to review the guidelines for each program carefully and to contact program staff with any and all questions. **All applications must be signed by the Dean of Humanities, the Rector at each participating university and the Finance Officer.**

- **Institutions must provide at least 25% of the funding for every program approved.**
- **Universities must commit to maintaining existing levels of investment in relevant programs throughout the grant period.**
- **Institutions must demonstrate long term sustainability. This includes demonstration of sufficient permanent staff to maintain program, taking into account existing commitments.**



- In some cases, the Academic Committee may accept applications from existing program provided they are within the first two years of their establishment.
- Funding may only be used towards new activities.

Please read this section carefully, as changes have been made since the previous year:

Applications for the Humanities Fund 2013 grants will be processed in **one stage**.

- Proposals for new graduate programs are due on May 20th 2013.
- The committee may be willing to consider applications in the first two program areas in March 2013, provided programs can demonstrate the ability to begin operations in the coming academic year.
- Proposals are limited to 15 pages in length (not including supplementary materials such as budget, candidate CV etc.)
- All proposals will undergo external evaluation.
- Proposals must be written in English.

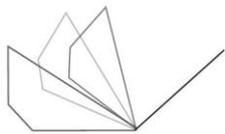
Institutions may submit up to two proposals in each program area.

Questions regarding proposals may be directed to Asher Ragen at Yad Hanadiv or Maayan Gormes at the Council for Higher Education.

Dr. Asher Ragen
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All application materials can be downloaded from the website of the Council for Higher Education (www.che.org.il)



Detailed Grant Programs

1. Attracting new and outstanding students to the Humanities
(Maximum grant 1.5 M. Nis over 3 years)

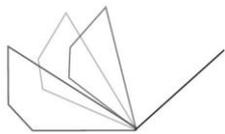
Through exploration of the Humanities we learn how to think creatively and critically, to understand multiple viewpoints and identify and appreciate the various cultural lenses through which to view the world. Skills acquired in the Humanities allow us to gain new insights into everything from poetry and paintings to business models and politics. A Humanities education is therefore critical not only to students considering a career in the Humanities, but to outstanding students in all disciplines. Students wishing to combine a program of study in Humanities with a program of study from other faculties are often confronted with academic and bureaucratic challenges which discourage pursuing this option. The purpose of this track is to support programs that will encourage outstanding students to combine a degree program outside of the Humanities with a rigorous, demanding Humanities education.

Applications that meet the following criteria will be considered:

- Establishment of new dual degree BA **programs** with one degree in the Humanities and the second in another faculty.
- **programs** must involve courses at the intersection of Humanities and other disciplines (e.g. Computer Science and Linguistics, Literature and Law etc.), and demonstrate an ability to attract a high caliber of students.
- Proposals should include appointment of a permanent staff member to head the **programs** and administrative staff that will pay special attention to bureaucratic challenges facing students in the **programs**.
- **programs** of study will be given priority in submission for approval by the CHE.

Funding may be requested towards the following types of activities:

- Instruction: Limited support for interim teaching needs Undergraduate scholarships
- Extra-curricular activities
- Program administration
- Faculty time towards course development



2. Innovations in Humanities Teaching (Maximum grant 1.0 M. Nis over 3 years)

The ideal course of studies in Humanities strikes a balance between deep disciplinary knowledge and a broad intellectual framework- even at the BA level. Cuts in the size of faculty and available resources have made this increasingly difficult, especially in small departments.

An innovative approach to Humanities curriculum and the promotion of collaboration across departments in the Humanities can help to strengthen the disciplinary core while broadening the scope of studies for students. Collaboration between units in developing courses that will serve departments with shared disciplinary or cultural interests can be of particular importance in helping small units maintain their courses of study.

Funding will be provided to programs that:

- Build bridges between departments in the Humanities
- Encourage intellectual contact among students from departments with shared disciplinary or cultural interests;

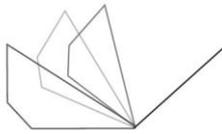
The following activity will be funded:

- Teaching hours
- Materials
- Administration
- Course Development

All programs will be expected to demonstrate innovation in curricular content and structure, leading to a more optimal use of existing resources, and (where relevant) the removal of administrative barriers. Special attention should be given to allowing faculty the time to engage in innovative restructuring of university curricula.

3. Structured Graduate Programs (Maximum grant 6.5 M. Nis)

The creation of vibrant graduate programs, with a critical mass of researchers, structured programs of study, and adequately supported graduate students, can lead to significant improvements in the quality of Humanities graduate education in Israel. Collaboration between



הקרן למדעי הרוח

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THE HUMANITIES FUND

Institutions may be especially beneficial in creating a stable intellectual community so essential to the academic growth of our graduate students.

The Fund will support the creation of graduate **programs** where the following can be demonstrated:

- The graduate program will be of outstanding academic quality, competitive internationally, and capable of drawing graduate students from abroad;
- There is a sufficiently large potential pool of outstanding graduate students available to sustain a vibrant research community.
- Participating institutions have a critical mass of outstanding researchers available to teach and advise students
- The programs take full advantage of resources within and across all universities.
- **Preference will be given to programs with a significant inter-university collaboration.**

Graduate students in these programs will be expected to receive full fellowships, as is the model in the natural and exact sciences. Programs may include direct path PhD programs (including the MA) or PhD programs (without the MA).

Funding is available towards:

- Development of courses and curriculum
- Graduate student fellowships
- Conferences
- Extra-curricular activity
- Travel grants for students (short and long term)
- Visiting professors
- Administration