The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center

ISTRC Call for Conference Grants, Summer 2021

For conferences occurring between
May 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022

Call publication: 19.4.2021

Final submission: 15.6.2021

Background

The Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center (ISTRC) at the Technion, in collaboration with Bar-Ilan University, was established jointly by the Smart Mobility initiative in Israel's Prime Minister's Office, and the Council for Higher Education. The aim is to encourage research and development, entrepreneurship and industry in the field of smart mobility in Israel. You can learn more about the center from ISTRC website: https://istrc.net.technion.ac.il/.

ISTRC Vision

The vision of the Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center is to unite the academic and R&D community and various stakeholders to initiate and leverage Interdisciplinary and Intersectoral research activities that would contribute to smart, efficient, and green transportation, and position Israel as a world leader in the field.

For this purpose, we define the **Vision of Zero Transportation Externalities** in three dimensions: Zero casualties, Zero delays, and Zero environmental harm. (https://istrc.net.technion.ac.il/).

The center collaborates with all academic institutes and researchers in Israel to promote cutting edge research and insights as well as empower and develop human capital in the field.

As Smart Transportation is interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary in nature, ISTRC encourages students and researchers from different fields and academic departments to promote ideas and research in this field.

Objectives of this Call:

Aiming to generate cutting edge knowledge and insights, as well as empower and develop human capital in the Smart Transportation domain, the center initiates the Call for Conferences, to encourage students and young researchers to present at international conferences and empower the student by:

- Get exposed to new research in the field
- Establish professional network
- Represents the Israeli Smart Transportation research in the global professional community.

Funding

The ISTRC will publish Call for Conference grants twice a year. This is the 2nd Call for the current academic year.
This Summer Call will fund participation in conferences that will be held between **May 1st 2021 and January 31st 2022[1].**

Funding opportunities:

- Virtual conferences - ISTRC will fund conference registration fees.

- Physical attendance in conferences - ISTRC grant will contribute a lump-sum covering the conference fees and travel expenditures according to the conference location:
  - Conferences in Europe: up to 7,000 NIS
  - Conferences in America, Asia and Oceania: up to 10,000 NIS

ISTRC Conference grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to the conference participation, it is a contribution to the participation fees and the overall travel, accommodation, and other expenses of the grantee.

Payment of the grant is subject to proof of participation in the conference as well as submission of a conference report following the conference.

Eligibility criteria

- Student (at all levels) or young researcher (up to one year after PhD), whose research is within the scope of smart transportation and who submitted an article for an international conference.
- Applicant should be active / registered student or active young researcher fellow while applying to the conference grant. The conference should take place no later than nine months after graduating.

[1] Winter Call is for conferences occurring between November 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022.

- Without derogating from the above, receiving the conference grant after completing studies / fellowship is subject to the academic institute approval.
- The applicant shall make an oral/poster presentation at the conference in question and shall be listed in the official event/conference program. Receiving the grant is subject to presenting in the conference
- The applicant should be the first author on the paper submitted to the conference. (In case participation submission was not yet submitted or sent but not yet answered, you may apply to this call, as long as the conference will be held until January 2022).
- Funding is for the conference requested only. It cannot be transfer for another conference or another date.

How to apply?

Applications should be submitted through the relevant scholarship coordinator in your academic institute.

Submission to ISTRC no later than June 15, 2021

Specifications for submission:

- Full application will be sent in **one PDF file.**
- Conference grant applications should be written in English.
- Full application should include:

1. 1st page:
   - Full name of student, ID number, e-mail address, current study level (Bachelor, Master, PhD, young researcher).
   - Institute name, Faculty/department.
   - Name and e-mail address of supervisor(s).
   - Name and date of the conference.
2. Paper/ presentation/ poster title, panel title (if available), and the abstract of the paper.
3. Evidence of conference paper acceptance (In case participation application was not submitted yet or submitted but not yet answered, you may apply to the call, as long as the conference will be held until 31.1.2022, and declare the status of your application)
4. CV (including academic and research achievements, as publications, conference participation, awards etc.)
5. Research progress report (up to one page)
6. Letter of recommendation from the supervisor.
7. Amount of the grant requested in NIS based on:
   - Conference participation fees (including receipt, if already paid or print screen from the conference website specifying the fee) for virtual conferences.
   - Conference fees and Travel expenditure - in case of “physical” conference, based upon the conference location (see above).

- The submission is done by e-mail to istrc@technion.ac.il In the email subject please mention: ***ISTRC Call for Conference Grant Summer 2021 _ Last name of the student***
- **Applications must include all the above items. Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.**
- Following the submission of an application, further details and clarifications about the conference may be required from the student to assist with the evaluation of the application.
- In case of conference cancellation, participation cancellation, modification of the conference dates or configuration (virtual / physical), please contact us immediately. ISTRC reserve the right to cancel, modify or postpone the grant, in case of a change in the proposal terms.

Assessment of proposals and results

Eligible proposals will be reviewed by a review committee established by ISTRC.

Assessment criteria:

1. **Relevance of the paper and conference** to smart transportation and the potential to promote the center's vision of "Zero Transportation Externalities".
2. **Importance of the conference.**
3. **Supervisor recommendation.**
4. **Academic achievements of the candidate.**

ISTRC will publish winners and supervisor names, as well as the presentation title and conference name in ISTRC website and publications.

Reporting

Academic reporting

- The conference presentation/ poster will include acknowledgement of ISTRC.
- The grantee will write short conference report (up to two pages) of his/her impression from the conference and recommendations for future candidates. The report should be signed by the supervisor and sent within 30 days after the conference to: istrc@technion.ac.il. The report will be published on ISTRC website.

Financial reporting

The academic institute will receive budget commitment letter allowing the institute to allocate the grant payment to the student.

The grant sum will be in NIS, based on the conference registration fees indication or the travel allowance (and no more than the sum approved in the winning announcement).

ISTRC is working under the terms and conditions of the Council for Higher Education Call. According to The Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC), no institutional overhead will be charged from this grant.

The grant will be allocated to the academic institute after receiving:

- Payment execution report signed by the finance manager of the academic institute, no later than 10.10.2022.
- Participation approval, including the grantee name and presentation title on the conference agenda.
- Academic report from the conference (up to two pages) signed by the student supervisor.

Application Information

The information you share in the process of the application will only be used by ISTRC reviewers for the purpose of evaluation of your application.

To the extent that presentation include unique knowledge, the applicant undertakes to protect the rights arising from it in a timely manner. ISTRC will not be responsible for this.

ISTRC is working under the terms and conditions of the Council for Higher Education Call.

ISTRC is not and shall not be liable to the content of any presentation, to the performance of any research that has received funding from the ISTRC and for any implementation or use of the results generated in such research, either by the applicant or by any third party.