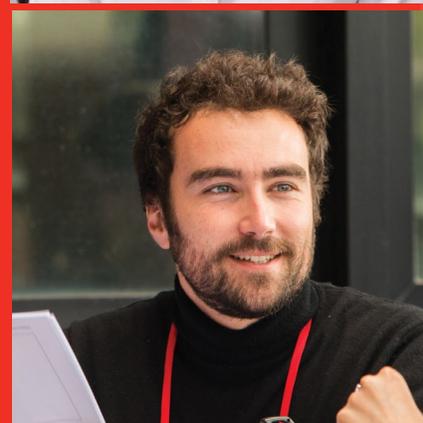


**CIFAR AZRIELI**  
Global Scholars

# CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars Program Detailed Overview



**CIFAR**

Fondation  
**Azrieli**  
Foundation



# 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 complex questions facing the world today. The CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program nurtures the next generation of research leaders and provides opportunities to enhance their impact.

Learn more at: [cifar.ca/global-scholars](https://cifar.ca/global-scholars)

The CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program is supported by the Azrieli Foundation and the Love Family Leadership Development Fund.



## CIFAR

CIFAR brings together outstanding researchers to work in global research programs that address some of the most important questions our world faces today. Established in 1982, CIFAR is a Canadian-based global organization, comprised of nearly 400 fellows, scholars and advisors from more than 120 institutions in over 16 countries.

Learn more at: [cifar.ca](https://cifar.ca)

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## A) Program Overview

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

### 1) Participation in a CIFAR research program - an interdisciplinary network of fellows

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars participate in a CIFAR research program for two years. Scholars have an opportunity to interact within a global network of internationally renowned researchers working on a fundamental research question. By meeting two to three times per year, 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.

- » **Scholars receive \$100,000 CAD in unrestricted research support over two years.** These funds 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.
- » **Scholars are also matched with a mentor in their respective 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).
- » **Seed funding to support collaboration across disciplines.** To enhance interdisciplinary collaboration, we provide seed funding to catalyze innovative, high-risk ideas.

### 2) Strengthening leadership and communication skills

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars from across CIFAR's research programs meet annually to strengthen core skills in leadership and communication. Highly interactive and facilitated sessions are designed to take a scholar's proven capacity and leadership to new levels.

At annual meetings, Global Scholars receive practical training with workshops in:

- » Building and managing a research group
- » Productivity & time management
- » Grant writing
- » Communicating to non-specialist audiences (e.g., op-ed, public talks)
- » Strategic and creative thinking

To bolster leadership skills training between annual meetings, Global Scholars also have opportunities to be matched with knowledge experts or are supported to attend courses.

### 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 Global Scholars or CIFAR fellows
- » Organizing a CIFAR Winter/Summer school
- » Leading or contributing to a knowledge mobilization activity with other CIFAR fellows
- » Interacting and discussing their research with stakeholders in academia, policy or business to understand perspectives and influence change
- » Writing and publishing an op-ed piece
- » Delivering a public lecture

## B) Eligibility

CIFAR is seeking to assemble a global cohort. There are no geographical restrictions on who may apply to this program. CIFAR is strongly committed to diversity within its community, and especially welcomes applications from underrepresented groups in research, including but not limited to women, indigenous persons, persons with disabilities, members of sexual minority groups and others who may contribute to the diversification of ideas.

To be eligible for this program, applicants must:

- » Hold a PhD (or equivalent).
- » Be employed at an institution of higher education or research and be **within the first five years of a full-time academic position**, including 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).
  - » The applicant's position must be secure for the duration of the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar active term (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021).
  - » The applicant's start date in this position must be no earlier than May 1, 2014. Note that special consideration may be given to those who have taken parental leave or those with exceptional circumstances.
  - » **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 (refer to section E).
  - » Demonstrate an outstanding level of research achievement and promise of future impact in their field, as evidenced by quality of 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 their research.
- » Be available to attend a two-day in-person interview on **June 26-27, 2019 in Toronto, Canada**. The interview consists of a series of individual and interactive group activities among invited candidates. In-person participation is required to ensure a fair and complete evaluation. Note that travel costs will be covered by CIFAR.
  - » An applicant must have a valid passport, and if required, be able to obtain travel visas, to attend the in-person interview meeting, in addition to other 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 by email at [global.scholars@cifar.ca](mailto:global.scholars@cifar.ca).

## C) Duration and Value

### 1) 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 July 1, 2019 and end on June 30, 2021. 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 Global Academy. Scholars may periodically be invited to attend research program meetings as guests, or in exceptional circumstances, some scholars may be appointed as CIFAR fellows.

### 2) Value

Scholars receive \$100,000 CAD in unrestricted research support. The funds are administered through the scholar's home institution and are intended to support his or her 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 meetings.

## D) Expectations

During the two-year term, CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars are expected 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 annual CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar meetings** (usually held in early May). We expect that each scholar will attend two annual meetings.
- » **Report** on successes and activities annually and where possible and appropriate, interact with CIFAR stakeholders and funders to share your experience.
- » **Acknowledge CIFAR.** Use 'CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar' in your professional signature and indicate CIFAR as an affiliation. Acknowledge CIFAR as a funder in research publications and presentations supported by this program's funding.

## E) Deadline and How to Apply

### 1) Application deadline:

February 5, 2019 - 11:59 PM Pacific Time Zone (UTC -8)

### 2) Application process and required information:

CIFAR accepts CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar applications annually.

CIFAR expects that applicants will select an eligible CIFAR research program to which their research and interests most closely relate. Applicants wishing to apply to more than one program must complete a separate application for each program. To learn more about our programs and fellows, please refer to [www.cifar.ca/research/](http://www.cifar.ca/research/).

In 2019, the CIFAR research programs accepting applications are:

- » Azrieli Program in Brain, Mind & Consciousness
- » Bio-inspired Solar Energy
- » Gravity & the Extreme Universe
- » Humans & the Microbiome
- » Molecular Architecture of Life

### 3) Applicants are required to submit the following:

#### a) Summary Section

- 1) A brief description of your most significant paper or research achievement. (150 words maximum)
- 2) A summary of how your research complements or contributes to the themes and goals of the CIFAR research program you would like to join. (150 words maximum)
- 3) A summary of your most important leadership experience to date. (150 words maximum)
- 4) A summary of your engagement to date with non-academic communities to extend the impact of your research. If you have not been active outside of academia, briefly discuss why, and the type of activities you would like to pursue. (150 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, and how participating in the program would advance your research. Propose areas of potential research interaction and collaboration with fellows in the program. (1000 words maximum)
- 2) An extended discussion of your desire to make an impact outside of academia. How can you see your research changing the world, even in a small way? Who needs to be engaged with your research for that to happen? (1000 words maximum)

- 3) A short description of your research interests using lay terms for a general audience and public use. (100 words maximum)
- 4) An up-to-date short CV (maximum of 5 pages), 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 letters** of recommendation submitted to your online application prior to final submission. 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, 2019, you must upload a copy of your appointment letter to your application.

**The application MUST include two recommendation letters, directly submitted by the referees, before it can be submitted as final.** Applicants will not be able to edit the application or send/resend recommendation letter requests, or receive reference letters after they submit the application. Given the importance of these letters, we encourage applicants to reach out to referees to confirm they received the request. **The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the application is complete, including two recommendation letters, and is successfully submitted by 11:59 PM Pacific Time Zone (UTC -8) on February 5, 2019.**

All applications must be submitted through the online application system (opens December 3, 2018). 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?

Applicants must arrange to have **two** letters of recommendation. 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 well-placed to understand the applicant's scholarly achievements and its 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. Where applicable, applicants may request up to **one letter** of recommendation from a CIFAR program member (Fellow, Associate Fellow and Advisor), only if they directly supervised the applicant.

### 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.

Applicants will submit the names and e-mail addresses of referees through the online application form. Please be sure to inform your referees that you are applying to the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars Program and confirm their agreement to provide a letter before entering their information into the online portal, as your referees will immediately receive an automated e-mail informing them that you are requesting a reference letter. The e-mail sent to your referees will provide instructions on how to submit a confidential letter directly to your online application. The system will send an e-mail to both you and the referee when a reference letter is successfully uploaded and submitted to CIFAR. Applicants may track the status of reference letters within the online application form.

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, applicants 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.

**Two letters of reference MUST be submitted before 11:59 PM Pacific Time Zone (UTC-8) on February 5, 2019. The applicant is responsible for tracking the submission of reference letters and for following up with referees to ensure all letters are submitted on time.**

## F) Application Review Process and Criteria

CIFAR is strongly committed to diversity within its community and through the application review and selection process.

The total span of time from application deadline to final selection is about five months. Candidates invited to the in-person selection meeting will be contacted no later than April 10. The table below summarizes key dates for 2019.

### The application review and selection process:

- 1) Basic Eligibility:** CIFAR ensures all applications meet basic eligibility requirements.
- 2) Application Review:** A CIFAR research program sub-committee, comprised of CIFAR fellows and/or advisors, is assembled for each eligible program. This committee reviews and assesses the applicant based on three criteria: i) research excellence, ii) potential to contribute to their 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 reviews applications and recommends a small number of shortlisted candidates (up to 5 candidates per program), who will be invited to attend the in-person meeting.
- 3) Final In-person Selection:** CIFAR invites shortlisted candidates to attend a two-day meeting in Toronto, Canada on June 26-27, 2019. This meeting consists of a series of individual and interactive group activities. Assessments will be conducted by a diverse committee of researchers from academia and a mix of leaders with expertise in other areas such as policy, communications and leadership. The Selection Committee evaluates and assesses candidates' capacity, potential and desire to actively engage with peers across a full spectrum of disciplines and their potential to have a broader impact. This committee provides their ranking and recommendation to CIFAR. **NOTE: Applicants must attend this meeting in-person. Shortlisted candidates unable to attend the in-person meeting will not be considered.**

### Summary of Key Dates:

<b>December 3, 2018</b>	Launch call for applications
<b>February 5, 2019</b>	Application deadline <b>11:59 PM Pacific Time Zone (UTC -8)</b>
<b>By April 10, 2019</b>	Shortlisted candidates are notified and invited to attend the Selection Meeting*
<b>June 26-27, 2019</b>	Candidates meet in-person in Toronto, Canada
<b>By July 15, 2019</b>	Applicants are notified of competition results
<b>September 2019</b>	CIFAR announces 2019 CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars

\*Candidates in countries requiring visas to enter Canada are encouraged to research and assemble required visa application documents before receiving an interview invitation to facilitate timely visa processing, should one become needed. If selected for the interview, CIFAR will provide a letter of invitation to the candidate, in support of the visa application.

## G) Administrative Guidelines and Policies

### 1) Term

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars' active term is two years, beginning in July 2019.

CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars must hold a formal full-time position at an institution of higher education or research for the full duration of their term. At the application deadline, the scholar will be within five years of their first full-time position, which includes responsibility for both conducting an independent program of research and supervising/teaching graduate or postdoctoral trainees.

### 2) Eligible Use of Funds

CIFAR expects that the scholar will use the \$100,000 CAD to enhance his or her 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 meetings and other pre-approved CIFAR-related travel such as the annual meeting – will be reimbursed by CIFAR through the completion of an expense claim form.

### 4) Parental Leave Policy

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.

Requests for parental leave should be made 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.