



Returning Scientists Program

Investing in People, Investing in Northern Israel

MAY 2026



Following two years of profound disruption, Israel's North stands at the threshold of renewal. Tens of thousands of residents were uprooted from their homes, businesses were forced to close, and the region's sense of safety and stability was deeply shaken. The war's impact reached beyond livelihoods — testing the North's social, economic, and ecological fabric like never before.

Amid these challenges, coupled with the troubling rise of antisemitism and intensifying anti-Israeli sentiment spreading across universities abroad, the urgency of our mission has only deepened. As Israel's leading university in the North, it is uniquely positioned to drive recovery through education, research, and innovation — nurturing the people and ideas that will rebuild and strengthen the region for generations to come.

A National Priority

At the heart of this mission is the University of Haifa's flagship **Returning Scientists Program**, which brings exceptional Israeli researchers—with valuable international postdoctoral experience—back home to advance innovation, collaboration, and regional renewal. A special focus is placed on scholars in STEM fields whose work connects directly with the University's new Herta and Paul Amir School of Medicine. Together, these disciplines are driving transformative research that strengthens health, wellbeing, and resilience across Israel.



Dr. Shani Stern (top left), Associate Professor at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, returned from the Salk Institute for Biological Studies (San Diego) through the Returning Scientists Program in 2020. Her research on autism and neurological disorders is gaining international recognition. At the University of Haifa, she heads the Lab for Precision Disease Modeling.

The Returning Scientists Program

To attract top Israeli researchers, the University of Haifa offers comprehensive support packages:



Competitive Salary for the first three years, funded by the University and its generous donors.



State-of-the-Art Research Facilities with access to advanced laboratories and research infrastructure.



Research Funding consisting of substantial research budgets to support groundbreaking studies and initiatives.

Program Partners

Our Returning Scientists Program is a collaborative initiative involving three key partners: the University of Haifa, Israel's Council for Higher Education, and the Haifa Municipality. The University of Haifa and its donors provide initial funding and laboratory space, ensuring that returning scientists have essential resources to begin their work. After three years, the candidate will become a full faculty member.

The Council for Higher Education contributes funding to attract top-tier researchers. Meanwhile, the Haifa Municipality will offer an attractive absorption package that includes reduced municipal taxes, making it more appealing for scientists to settle in the city. By joining forces, these partners create a robust support system to facilitate the successful reintegration of returning scientists into northern Israel's scientific community.

Request for Support

Your investment in the **Returning Scientists Program** is an investment in people—in the researchers shaping Israel's future and in the northern communities whose recovery depends on knowledge, innovation, and opportunity. Together, we can ensure that Israel's North not only recovers but emerges stronger, a model of resilience and national renewal.

>> A contribution of \$1,000,000 will provide seed funding for one returning scientist, covering three years of salary support (\$150,000 per year) and laboratory start-up costs (\$550,000).