

Partnership Opportunity Notification: Special Guidelines for Submitting Collaborative Proposals under National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and US-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) Cooperative Research Opportunities

November 13, 2025

The U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on humanities research cooperation. The MOU:

- provides an overarching framework to encourage collaboration between U.S. and Israeli research communities,
- sets out the principles by which jointly supported activities might be developed, and
- provides for an international collaboration arrangement whereby U.S. researchers may receive funding from NEH, and Israeli researchers may receive funding from the BSF.

This NEH-BSF collaborative funding opportunity is based on the BSF's long-standing collaboration with the [U.S. National Science Foundation](#). The purpose of this partnership is to encourage more international collaboration in humanities research between U.S. and Israeli scholars. Through this opportunity, U.S. and Israeli researchers will be able to submit a collaborative proposal that will undergo a single review process at NEH, the lead agency. This opportunity is intended to be ongoing and will be assessed annually for renewal.

Collaborative proposals will be accepted to the NEH programs listed on the [NEH International Opportunities](#) webpage. Note that deadlines and application windows vary by program.

Israeli researchers are invited to read the [BSF Call for Proposals](#). The BSF website indicates the funding limits and submission regulations for the Israeli partners in an NEH-BSF collaborative proposal. BSF support for the Israeli partners will be for the duration approved by NEH for the U.S. grantee. Israeli researchers may be part of only one NEH-BSF award at any given time. Any limits for U.S. researchers on the number of proposals and awards are described in the relevant NEH Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) or program description (see also guideline 6 below for participating NEH programs).

Proposals **must** represent an integrated, collaborative effort. This document provides guidelines for the preparation, submission, review, and award of NEH-BSF collaborative proposals.

Applicants are advised that documents submitted to NEH or BSF may be shared with the other agency to implement the two-way agency activities. This includes but is not limited to interim and final reports, revised budgets and work plans, etc. In general, applicants and awardees will be expected to submit duplicate copies of all relevant documents to both NEH and BSF.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

U.S. applicants will submit proposals to NEH through Grants.gov. Israeli applicants will submit the same proposal to the BSF within one week after the NEH deadline. Applications will be reviewed using NEH's merit review process as detailed in the corresponding program NOFO. **Applications eligible for this partnership opportunity will not receive preference over other proposals in the same competition.** BSF will check that the Israeli researcher has an active and appropriate role and confirm their eligibility at the onset of the process but will not conduct a parallel merit review and will not rank proposals. BSF intends to support the Israeli effort for those projects whose U.S. research partner is funded by NEH.

Upon receipt of the applications for this co-funded opportunity, NEH and BSF will separately review the eligibility of each application and inform each other of the results of the eligibility review process. Any application that is eligible for NEH support but not eligible for BSF funding will be kept in the regular NEH competition but only for the NEH component of the project budget, while applications that are ineligible for NEH support will be rejected and no longer considered for support.

There are no separate NEH funds available for these efforts; proposals must compete with all other proposals submitted to the relevant NEH program.

DEADLINES

All proposals are due to Grants.gov by the submission dates indicated in the program NOFO. In general, proposal review is completed within eight months of submission. Proposers may wish to consult a program officer in the relevant program about timing of submission.

In all cases, the same proposal must be provided to BSF within one week of the NEH submission.

GUIDELINES

1. The proposed work submitted under an NEH-BSF collaboration must represent an integrated collaborative effort. The project narrative must include a description of the collaboration, including an explanation of the role(s) of the required Israeli co-director(s) and other collaborator(s), and an explanation of how the U.S.-Israeli team will work together.
2. The proposal must describe the significance and impact of the proposed research, including the value of the international collaboration, and the anticipated benefits of the collaboration to both the United States and to Israel.
3. The proposal should describe the full proposed research program, including the total U.S. and Israeli resources that will be part of the project. NEH applicants should indicate only the NEH expenses on the NEH budget form. BSF proposers should indicate only the Israeli research expenses on the BSF budget form. **The Israeli budget and budget justification should be included in the NEH proposal in “Attachment 6: Additional Materials” (for Collaborative Research applications) or in “Attachment 7: Appendices” (for Scholarly Editions and Translations applications).** The Budget Justification section of the NEH proposal

should clearly differentiate the NEH budget from any similar funds requested by the Israeli team and justify the full NEH project budget. Proposals that request duplicative funding may be returned without review.

4. An eligible U.S. institution must submit the proposal to a participating NEH program using Grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov/>). Proposals must comply with requirements in the relevant program guidelines or program description provided on the [NEH International Opportunities](#) webpage. The Israeli institution **submits the same proposal** with any required additional information to the BSF via the [BSF submission system](#).
5. By submitting, Project Directors (PDs) and their institutions agree that NEH may share reviews and other documents pertaining to the review process with the BSF.
6. The title of the proposal should be prefixed with "NEH-BSF:" to indicate that the document is to be considered by both NEH and BSF.
7. Do **NOT** list the Israeli budget as a sub-award in the NEH budget. Sub-awards can be requested only for collaborating U.S. institutions eligible for NEH funding. The Israeli costs should be listed on the BSF budget form and included in the NEH proposal in the appropriate attachment.
8. Israeli investigators should **NOT** be listed as the Project Director on the NEH Cover Sheet or in the NEH budget, but they should be described as a co-director or key collaborator in the Narrative section and in any list of project personnel.
9. CVs should be provided in the NEH application for both U.S. and Israeli collaborators and should be prepared in accordance with the format described in each NOFO listed on the [NEH International Opportunities](#) webpage.
10. Israeli collaborators may request up to US\$50,000 per year from the BSF for the NEH-BSF co-funded project. The amount requested per year from the BSF must be less than or equal to the amount requested per year from the NEH. The number of years of support requested from the BSF must be equal to the number of years of support requested from the NEH.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

The NEH proposal must include the documents requested in the NOFO to which the proposal will be submitted.

In addition, provide a copy of the **proposed Israeli budget** requested from BSF in English using U.S. Dollars, **and a budget justification** that explains the request. These documents should be included in "Attachment 6: Additional Materials" (for Collaborative Research applications) or "Attachment 7: Appendices" (for Scholarly Editions and Translations applications).

POST AWARD CONSIDERATIONS

Awardees will be required to acknowledge both NEH and BSF in any reports or publications resulting from the award. Requests for changes in awards (for example, for changes in scope) will be discussed by NEH and BSF before a joint decision is made.

Questions about this PON may be directed to collaborative@neh.gov.

Stefanie Walker

Director, Division of Research Programs