



U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE



Arab Republic Of Egypt
Ministry Of Foreign Affairs



Ministry of Higher Education
and Scientific Research

NATIONAL ACADEMIES
Sciences
Engineering
Medicine



U.S. - EGYPT JOINT BOARD ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

Conditions for Undertaking and Financing
Joint Science and Technology Activities

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT FOR JUNIOR SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT VISIT GRANTS

Submission Start Date: September 10th, 2024
Deadline for Submission: December 4th, 2024

U.S. - EGYPT JOINT BOARD • 2024

<http://www.stdf.eg/>
<http://www.nationalacademies.org/egypt>

GENERAL INFORMATION

The U.S. - Egypt Science and Technology (S&T) Joint Fund was established under an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt on Science and Technology Cooperation to strengthen scientific and technological capabilities between Egypt and the United States. The objectives of this cooperation are to help Egypt and the U.S. expand relations between the two scientific and technological communities, utilize science and apply technology by providing opportunities to exchange ideas, information, skills, and techniques, and to collaborate on scientific and technological endeavors of mutual interest to promote economic development.

The Joint Fund is governed by the U.S. - Egypt Joint Board, composed of six members each from the U.S. and Egypt, as detailed in the Agreement. It determines priorities among fields of cooperative activities based on mutual interests of both countries, recommends overall policies for the program, identifies areas and forms of cooperation, and approves the cooperative activities to receive funds. In so doing, the Joint Board shall consider the needs and capabilities of scientific and technological communities including the private sector in each country.

Joint Fund grants provide financial resources to support the add-on costs of bilateral cooperation. Applications submitted to the Joint Board should include strong elements of mutual interest and benefit, high scientific quality, and potential developmental impact on economy and society. Joint activities should be carried out in accordance with international obligations, national laws and regulations of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the United States of America.

COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

The National Academies of Sciences,
Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM)
500 Fifth St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
Tel: +1-(202)-334-2626
Email: usegyptjointfund@nas.edu
<http://www.nationalacademies.org/egypt>

Science, Technology and Innovation Funding
Authority (STDF)
101, Kasr El Aini St., 2nd floor, Cairo, Egypt
Tel: +20 (2) 27925081
Email: nourhan.adel@stdf.eg
<http://www.stdf.eg>

U.S. - EGYPT JOINT SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY BOARD JUNIOR SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT VISITS

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Junior Scientist Development Visits program provides grants for short-term (up to 9 months) research training visits to U.S. institutions for Egyptian researchers.

Objectives

To provide high quality training and research opportunities resulting in knowledge and skills that will:

1. Assist eligible Egyptian junior scientists in broadening their experience and training to advance their performance at their home institutions;
2. Strengthen and enhance mutually beneficial linkages between Egyptian and U.S. counterpart institutions, assisting in development of institutional capacity; and
3. Provide opportunities to access expertise and study areas normally unavailable to the Egyptian junior researchers.

Research Areas

Applications will be accepted for research under the five general areas of **agriculture, energy, health, water management, machine learning and AI**.

For Cycle 24, the Joint Board has identified as priority topics:

- Agriculture
 - Animal health
 - Sustainable food production (animal and crop)
 - Smart agriculture
- Energy
 - Renewable energy production and storage
- Health
 - Pandemic preparedness
- Water Management
 - Water-energy-food nexus
 - Sea-level rise mitigation and coastal resiliency
- *Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence (AI)*
 - Machine learning, AI, large language modeling, and quantum computing, applied to the areas of agriculture, energy, health, or water management

Proposals relevant to priority topics, as well as proposals at the nexus of two or more topic areas, will receive priority consideration during review. Applicants are urged to clarify the relevance of their proposals with respect to these priority topics.

CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION

- ❑ The applicant must apply within 10 years after receiving his/her PhD.
- ❑ The applicant must be affiliated with an Egyptian scientific institute, university, research center, or governmental agency.
- ❑ The proposed visit is to last no longer than nine months.
- ❑ Working proficiency in English is required.
- ❑ A complete application package must include the following:
 - 1) Completed application form;
 - 2) A letter of travel approval bearing the live signature and official stamp of the president of the applicant's home institution (no template provided);
 - 3) Letter of Recommendation from Home Institution Supervisor (see Appendix I);
 - 4) Conditions of Visit form with the applicant's live signature (see Appendix II);
 - 5) Signed letter of agreement from the proposed U.S. host institution endorsing the applicant and the proposed visit plan. The letter should be written on the U.S. institution's letterhead and include the months/period of the planned visit, as well as the U.S. state of the institution (see Appendix III);
 - 6) Budget plan for the visit;
 - 7) A copy of the PhD degree;
 - 8) List of recent publications.
- ❑ The proposed budget should include travel and per diem costs. Applicants should check with their host institution about health insurance coverage and cost.
- ❑ The applicant must agree to and provide a live signature on the Conditions of Visit form, which includes a statement of intent to return to their home institute following the completion of the visit.

Applications must include a detailed description and approval of the proposed program for the visit.

Selection will be made on the basis of candidate qualifications, submitted recommendations, specific training and/or research needs, and how the knowledge gained from the visit will be used when the applicant returns to the home institute.

All costs for Egyptian researchers traveling to U.S. host institutions will be covered by grants issued by STDF. The grant's budget will be calculated as \$3,000 for airfare and \$2,500 per month for lodging and living expenses. For example, an applicant who will be traveling for only three months will receive \$3,000 for airfare and a total of \$7,500 for lodging and living expenses for the duration of the three months. Please note that lab fees for the U.S. institution are not eligible expenses.

A final report, including a summary stating the achievements of the visit, and how the visit may help improve future scientific cooperation between Egypt and the U.S. in the particular research area, should be submitted to the program administrators within 30 days of the return to the home institution.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

All proposals must be submitted to the STDF website at <http://www.stdf.eg/>. Please note that proposals submitted as hard copies or sent via email will not be considered.

The application deadline is 11:59 pm Cairo, Egypt time, December 4th, 2024.

The final approval of candidates will be made by the Joint Board, on the basis of candidate qualifications, submitted recommendation letter, specific research and/or training needs, and how the knowledge gained during the visit will be used by the candidate upon his or her return to the home institution.

Award Announcement – It is expected that STDF will notify the funded applicants of final decisions, following Joint Board approval, by the summer of 2026.

**U.S. - EGYPT SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY JOINT FUND PROGRAM
JUNIOR SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT VISITS**

**2024 APPLICATION FORM (NOTE: PLEASE TYPE)
APPLICATION AND ATTACHMENTS MUST BE IN ENGLISH**

I. Personal Information

Name: _____
Family Name First Middle

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Home Address:

(Street)	(Home Telephone)
	(Mobile Telephone)
(Town or City/Country)	(Email Address)

II. Academic Education and Training Experience

A) Academic

NAME OF INSTITUTION	FIELD OF STUDY	DATES ATTENDED	DEGREE OBTAINED & DATE COMPLETED

Field of Specialization: _____

Title of Ph.D. Thesis: _____

B) Training (list additional training in home country)

Field of Study	Dates	Language/Place of Instruction

C) Additional Training in Other Countries

Field of Study	Dates	Language/Place of Instruction
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Awards, Honors, Scholarships Received, Publications, Professional Memberships:

III. Employment

A) Current Employment

_____	FROM: / / TO: <u>present</u>
(Title or Position)	

(Organization/Company)	
_____	_____
(# Street)	(Employer's Email)
_____	_____
(Town or City)	(Employer's Telephone)

Description of your place of employment and your duties and responsibilities. Use additional pages as necessary.

B) Previous Employment (if at current position less than 2 years)

_____	FROM: / / TO: _____
(Title or Position)	

(Organization/Company)	
_____	_____
(# Street)	(Employer's Email)
_____	_____
(Town or City)	(Employer's Telephone)

Description of your place of employment and your duties and responsibilities (previous employment). Use additional pages as necessary.

IV. Languages

Please indicate English capabilities in first line, additional languages on remaining lines.

	Can Converse		Can Read		Can Write	
	Fluently	Passably	Fluently	Passably	Fluently	Passably
English						

V. Proposed Program

List proposal's eligible area(s) or priority area(s):

Applications will be accepted for research under the five general areas of **agriculture, energy, health, water management, machine learning and AI.**

For Cycle 24, the Joint Board has identified as priority topics:

- *Agriculture*
 - Animal health
 - Sustainable food production (animal and crop)
 - Smart agriculture
- *Energy*
 - Renewable energy production and storage
- *Health*
 - Pandemic preparedness
- *Water Management*
 - Water-energy-food nexus
 - Sea-level rise mitigation and coastal resiliency
- *Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence (AI)*
 - Machine learning, AI, large language modeling, and quantum computing, applied to the areas of agriculture, energy, health, or water management

A. Title of Proposed Work:

B. Please describe your program of work for the proposed visit including proposed dates of visit:

C. Proposed Host Institution:

D. Contact Person at Host Institution:

VI. Benefits of Proposed Visit

How will experiences gained during your visit benefit you and your home institution when you return?

VII. Attachments

Please include with your application **the signed and stamped letter of travel approval and the following attachments as Appendices:**

- Appendix I** Supervisor's Recommendation for Applicant's Proposed Visit
- Appendix II** Conditions of Visit form with the applicant's live signature
- Appendix III** Appraisal from the Proposed Host Institution for the proposed visit
- Appendix IV** Budget Plan for Proposed Visit
- Appendix V** Copy of Ph.D. Diploma
- Appendix VI** List of Recent Publications (max. 2 pages)

I certify that the information given in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge

Live Signature

Date

APPENDIX I
Supervisor's Recommendation for Applicant's Proposed Visit

Name of Participant: _____

Applicants: Please have your supervisor complete the following questions.

A) What do you want the applicant to learn during the proposed visit?

B) How will the applicant's visit be useful for the organization when he/she returns?

C) Please comment on the applicant's suitability to carry out the proposed visit.

Live Signature

Title

Date

APPENDIX II

Conditions of Visit

Name of Participant: _____

If I am accepted to receive a grant for a scientific visit under the U.S – Egypt Science & Technology Joint Fund Program, I agree to adhere to my arranged program, to devote my time and attention to my research and/or practical training, and to conform to program regulations and procedures for the duration of the visit. I will not seek extension of the period of my visit but will return to my country without delay upon completion of my visit under this program. I also agree to conform to all rules and policies of the host institution and laws of the host country and agree at all times to conduct myself and my research in a professional and ethical manner.

Furthermore, I thoroughly understand the following policies of the Junior Scientist Development Visit Grants Program:

- I. Dependents: The Program strongly discourages family members from accompanying or joining a participant during the visit. The Program is not responsible in any way for family members.
- II. Attendance of Participants at Conferences and Meetings: While at the Host Institution, attendance of participants at national or international conferences, conventions or meetings of professional, trade, or other associations will not be supported by the program funds, unless such attendance is part of the approved program.
- III. Conditions for Termination of the Visit: The Joint Board reserves the right to terminate the visit of those participants who:
 - A. Change the program of the visit without authorization from the Joint Board or their representatives.
 - B. Fail to show sufficient interest in or to effectively pursue their program during the visit.
 - C. Conduct themselves in a manner prejudicial to the program or to the laws of the United States or Egypt.
 - D. Have in any way falsified information on the application and/or supporting documents.
 - E. The Host Institution determines that continuation of the visit is not in the interest of the Host Institution.
- IV. Financial Support: The applicant is aware that the financial support provided by the program covers fees, lodging and food only. The daily maintenance allowance is adequate for modest lodging and food. The Joint Board does not fund any expenses related to family members accompanying the participant.

V. Health Insurance: Participants must have health insurance coverage during their exchange visit period. Egyptians traveling to the U.S. must have a minimum level of health insurance coverage. This can vary, depending on the type of visa the exchange visitor obtains, but as an example, for a J-1 visa to the U.S., the following is required:

- Medical benefits of at least \$100,000 per accident or illness
- Repatriation of remains in the amount of \$25,000
- Expenses associated with the medical evacuation of the exchange visitor to his or her home country in the amount of \$50,000
- A deductible not to exceed \$500 per accident or illness.

If the exchange visitor does not have health insurance coverage through their home institution, check with the host institution about short-term medical insurance coverage for foreign visitors. There are also private policies in the U.S. that meet the above requirements. Although information can be provided to assist the exchange visitor to choose health coverage, the Joint Board does not endorse any particular insurance company, nor will it be responsible for costs arising from illness or accident.

VI. Debts and Obligations: The participant will be responsible for all debts and financial obligations incurred while in the United States.

The Participant releases the host institution from any liabilities that may arise out of or in connection with Participant's visit.

Rights to Intellectual Property, Patents or Copyrights created during Participant's visit at Host Institution shall be determined in accordance with the policies of the host institution. Unless superseded by statute, treaty or prior agreement, the Host Institution shall have the right to take the entire right, title and interest in the United States of intellectual property developed by Participant during Participant's visit.

Signature below indicates agreement to and understanding of the above conditions.

Applicant's Live Signature

Date

APPENDIX III

• Appraisal from the Proposed Host Institution •

This appraisal must be filled out by the proposed U.S. host scientist.

1. Name of U.S. Host Scientist: _____

2. Name of Egyptian Junior Scientist: _____

3. Scientific Evaluation of the Egyptian Junior Scientist Proposal.

4. Additional Comments, if any.

Signature of the U.S. Host Scientist

Date

*The letter should be written on the U.S. institution's letterhead and include the months/period of the planned visit, as well as the U.S. state of the institution.

Appendix IV
Budget Plan for Proposed Visit

Name of Participant: _____

Duration of Proposed Visit: _____

Note: List all amounts in U.S. dollar equivalents only.	Total U.S. \$ (up to \$25,500)
1. International Airfare	\$3,000
2. Lodging and Living Expenses (no of months × \$2,500)	
Total	

Important Note:

The budget will be calculated as \$3,000 for airfare and \$2,500 for lodging and living expenses. For example, an applicant who will be traveling for only 3 months will receive \$3,000 for airfare and a total of \$7,500 for lodging and living expenses for the duration of the 3 months:-

APPENDIX V
Copy of Ph.D. Diploma

APPENDIX VI
List of Recent Publications (Maximum 2 Pages)