

# ScienceAbroad

Great minds think Israel



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**ScienceAbroad** was evaluated by Midot, a public benefit company, that evaluates the transparency and effectiveness of Israeli nonprofit organizations, and was awarded the Midot Seal of Effectiveness.

**ScienceAbroad** is working in collaboration with Israel's Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, and is supported annually by all Israeli Universities and the Israeli American Council.

The donation to **ScienceAbroad** is tax deductible in both the US and Israel.

# We Are **Science**Abroad

**ScienceAbroad is an Israel-based non-profit organization that encourages and facilitates the return of Israeli scientists living abroad to Israel.**

By maintaining a wide-reaching, dynamic, professional and social network for Israeli scientists abroad, we advance scientific careers and cooperation, provide valuable tools, inspire connections with local communities, international scientists and the academic and scientific communities in Israel, promote the value of industry and technological entrepreneurship in Israel and bolster the Israeli identity of scientists living overseas – All this so that great minds will always think about Israel and return home.

## **Our Vision: Bring Our Best Brains Back**

**We believe that the scientific minds and research of a nation are its most precious resource and the key to a better future.**

We seek to position Israel's industry and we seek to position Israel's industry and academia as a magnet for Israelis with advanced degrees, who are living abroad, and bring them back home.

### **The Science behind ScienceAbroad**

3,400 members  
300 campuses  
27 branches worldwide  
More than 900 ScienceAbroad members returning to Israel (Since inception in 2006)

# Why We Do **What** We Do

Most Israeli academic institutions encourage Ph.D. graduates to travel abroad for training and require tenure track researchers to complete their post-doctoral work at leading academic institutes outside of Israel, where they will be exposed to advanced work methodologies and technologies that are currently unavailable in Israel.

300 researchers leave Israel for post-doctoral training each year.

2,000 Israeli researchers are employed in institutions of higher education abroad, mainly in the US and Europe.

**We want them back.**

## **What are the Challenges?**

- 30% of life-science graduates actually continue in their profession
- Only 7% of life-science Ph.D. graduates are able to gain positions in academia
- Lack of training for doctoral graduates, a prerequisite for the Israeli industry
- Limited number of academic positions
- Lack of awareness in the Israeli industry
- Unfamiliarity of Ph.D.s and other academics with Israel's industry

**We want to change all that.**



# We Know **It Can Be Tough** **Out There**

The move abroad is filled with professional and personal challenges – The pressure and need to prove oneself in a new lab or research group. Interruption to spouses' careers, who sometimes find themselves only tending to house and family chores, a fact that can lead to an actual crisis of identity. Living expenses are high, post-doctorates' salaries are low. The obvious cultural differences – being far from the support of family and friends. These can all result in depression and anxiety. The children face challenges of their own – Coping with a foreign language and social difficulties. During their stay abroad, ties to Israel are loosened and the Israeli identity may weaken. What Israeli researchers' abroad need is a substantial support network and a true feeling of belonging. ScienceAbroad's community provides them with that feeling and support.



# Making Them **Feel at Home,** Wherever **They Are**

We see Israeli researchers as a living bridge between the Jewish communities abroad and Israel and as ambassadors of our wonderful country. When they return to Israel, they can bring values of pluralism and a long-lasting link to world Jewry. This is why the ScienceAbroad community promotes **the preservation of the Israeli identity and culture**, with an emphasis on children in every way possible. In the absence of family, community membership can provide a sense of belonging, social existence and mutual support.



# Goals and Modes of Action: From Brain Drain to **Brain Gain**

**We operate in all areas relevant to the lives of Israel's great minds abroad in order to make their return to Israel as easy, comfortable and fruitful as possible:**

- We maintain a support network for researchers and their families in order to ease their stay abroad and that they thrive in their research.
- We reinforce the Israeli identities of our members and their families, and strengthen their ties with Israel.
- We create a wide professional network for our members that includes: cooperation between Israeli researchers, acquaintance with top people in the industry and academia and more.
- We assist our members in dealing with bureaucratic barriers accompanying their return.
- We thrive to boost the number of research positions available in Israel.
- We engage in public activity aimed at reversing Israel's brain drain.



## What We **Do**

### **Our Regional Branches Worldwide. Creating Israeli Scientists' Communities Everywhere.**

ScienceAbroad is the only Israeli organization that fosters an international community of Israeli scientists and researchers. In our 27 worldwide regional branches, which are run by volunteer Israeli researchers, we organize professional events for members and offer support, guidance, valuable tools and connections both in Israel and abroad.

### **Professional and Social Events Bringing Opportunities to their Doorstep.**

In our professional and social gatherings, our members get to connect first of all with each other. They can share knowledge, get professional feedback from each other and find other people who face similar challenges to theirs. They get to consult on furthering their career paths and create professional networks. They receive tools and tips regarding how to improve their applications and chances to get a job in their field of expertise. Key figures from the Israeli industry, academia and government also attend and contribute their share of professional knowledge and connections.



# What We Do

## Employment Fairs Kick-Starting their Career at Home

We believe that supporting Israeli scientists abroad must have a practical aspect that is aimed at their future: To create occupational opportunities as a means to their return to Israel. Therefore, we organize employment fairs that facilitate local job interviews with Israeli employers and, if required, extend to subsidized flights to Israel.



# What We Do

## Entrepreneurship Learn from the Best

In this exciting era, where scientists are spearheading so many projects in the fields of entrepreneurship, industry and technology, information is power and learning from the best is essential.

ScienceAbroad initiates entrepreneurship fairs in at least 3 of its branches annually, where scientists who founded successful companies, venture capital funds executives, patent developers and TTO managers meet our members to discuss initiative and innovation, sharing their knowledge and guidance.

In our yearly industry workshop, conducted in Israel, members are introduced to the latest research in the Israeli biotech industry and discover what roles they can play in it.



# What We Do

## Online Webinars Everything They Need. Now Online.

With so many members around the globe, keeping in touch and exchanging information can be a real challenge. To this end, we established an online webinars program, featuring professional online one-hour lectures that provide tools to career advancement: an introduction to employment in Israel, job-hunting tools, tips for transitioning from academia to industry, success stories, presentations from different research departments in Israel, technological entrepreneurship skill development and exposure to projects that are recruiting scientists within academia, industry and the public sphere.

# What We Do

## Web-based Job Center Finding the Next Opportunity

Within the ScienceAbroad website, we created a well-focused web-based job center that allows Israelis with a Ph.D. to search for industry-based and academic positions and to contact potential employers, giving them the advantage they need while searching the Israeli job market. It also houses the Candidates – Search Engine, which allows employers to undertake a filtered search for researchers worldwide.



# What We Do

## Flight Grants Giving them Wings to Succeed

With funding from the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, through its Center for Integration in Science and Business Entrepreneurship Department, ScienceAbroad offers flight grants for scientists and researchers in order to attend job interviews in Israel, or for those wishing to establish a technological initiative.

## Industry Workshop in Israel A Connection to Innovation

ScienceAbroad, in cooperation with partners from the biotech and pharma industries in Israel, organizes a five-day professional workshop in Israel, providing tools and an introduction to applied research for scientists seeking to return to Israel, as well as instruction on how to obtain a foothold in the industry.



# What We Do

## Information Center All They Need to Know and More

At ScienceAbroad we know that moving one's family, career and life back to Israel is a big step, which is often accompanied by questions, concerns and bureaucracy. Our unique information center provides our members with support and guidance on questions relating to the bureaucratic procedures in relation to their return. It also includes an informative active blog and contact person in Israel.



Shiran - Brigham Research Institute, BRI

# What We Do

## Career for Women in Science Program Equality as a Part of the Equation

While the achievements of Israeli women scientists and their contribution to the Israeli industry and scientific research are growing there is still prominent inequality between men and women in senior positions in academia and industry. We believe Israeli women should be equal partners in advancing Israeli academia, industry and entrepreneurship. Career for Women in Science Program deals with the unique challenges facing Israeli women researchers at the outset of their careers. We connect women researchers in order for them to create a support network based on equality, provide mentoring and build connections to Israeli academia and industry.



# What We Do

## Research and Policy Formation Shaping the Agenda that will Shape Our Future

Along with all the work invested in aiding Israeli scientists abroad, we know very well that our initiative also requires comprehensive domestic efforts. This includes helping Israel's decision makers – ministers, Knesset members, industrialists and the academic community – to form their agenda and course of action through research, policy formation, public activity and more.





# A2I - Academia to Industry Boosting Israel's **Biotech Industry**

## The Israeli Biotech Challenge

In Israel, there are more than 1,500 active biotech companies, with a financial turnover of around 300M ILS annually. In the past years, Israel has made great advancement in the biotech field, with numerous investments and acquisitions, and initiatives in the field are rising. For ScienceAbroad this is an opportunity. We want to contribute to the success and rise of Israel's biotech industry and help turn it into the Israeli hi-tech success story of the next decade.

## Taking it "Personnel"

While Israeli bright researchers are conducting groundbreaking research in world-class universities and private institutes abroad and in Israel, they might lack managerial and entrepreneurial skills, which are essential to the success of any industry. Equipping scientists with those skills will enable them to become incorporated in managerial and leading positions in Israeli life-science companies and to strengthen the infrastructure of those companies.

## Turning the Biotech Bowl Over

ScienceAbroad wishes to contribute to the growth of the life-science sector in Israel. We wish to form a network of Israeli biotech professionals working successfully in foreign industries and to empower them to take leadership roles in creating the next generation of life-science leaders in Israel.

## Sharing the Knowledge

At ScienceAbroad we believe that the Israeli life-science industry is a national treasure waiting to flourish further. We are dedicated to supporting and cultivating it by creating and promoting:

- Networking between Israeli scientists and the life-science business community
- Training and internship programs
- Mentorship for building industry-relevant skills
- Professional forums in cities with major life-science industries
- Online webinars to expand knowledge

**We are committed to supporting the Israeli biotech industry and helping its great minds take it to new heights.**



# We need your **Help** Join Israel's national effort

**ScienceAbroad is the only foundation in Israel that deals directly with the challenge of Israel's Brain Drain, while managing the community of Israeli researchers and scientists abroad.**

Because of this uniqueness, we believe we hold the link to Israel's most important resource and the key to a better future. The return home of more Israeli scientists and researchers contributes immensely to the economic and social strength of Israel and to its security.

**Join us in our effort to bring about the change that will shape the future of Israel in years to come.**

