

Association Séphora Berrebi

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Women in Advanced Mathematics & Computer Science

Séphora Berrebi Women in Advanced Mathematics & Computer Science Scholarships

I – Purpose

Séphora Berrebi Women in Advanced Mathematics & Computer Science Scholarships aim at encouraging active involvement of young women in scientific research, especially in the Mathematics and Computer Science areas.

These scholarships are awarded in complement of a main financing to young female researchers, enrolled as a PhD student or as a post-doctoral fellow in a doctoral school, research laboratory or institute. The candidates may be:

- of French nationality whatever the country in which they carry out their research, or enrolled in a French entity whatever their nationality;
- of Israeli nationality whatever the country in which they carry out their research, or enrolled in an Israeli entity whatever their nationality.

A total of four laureates will be selected by a prestigious jury of recognized researchers: one laureate per discipline (whether PhD student or post-doctoral fellow) and per country (of research or of nationality). The amount of each scholarship is 2000 euros.

II – Targeted fields

Mathematics and Computer Science are to be understood as follows.

Mathematics: Fundamental Mathematics and Applied Mathematics.

Computer Science:

This heading covers fields unanimously classified in Computer Science (eg. programming languages) but also, at the risk of appearing improperly titled, others which are or can be classified differently (for example, signal processing), especially in engineering :

Big Data, bio-informatics, cognitive algorithms / artificial intelligence, computer vision, cryptology, cybersecurity, databases, data science, imaging technology, machine learning, programming languages, signal processing, software engineering, theoretical computer science, theory of information systems.

III – Requirements to apply

III.1 General requirements

- . Applicants may be:
 - of French nationality whatever the country in which they carry out their research, or enrolled in a French entity whatever their nationality;
 - of Israeli nationality whatever the country in which they carry out their research, or enrolled in an Israeli entity whatever their nationality;
- . Applicants should carry out research in mathematics or information science (please see beyond);
- . Applicants should choose the category in which they apply (mathematics or computer science);
- . Applicants should already benefit from a main financing;
- . Applicants should be fluent in English.

III. 2 Requirements regarding doctorates

- . Applicants should have already started their thesis project when applying. Applicants should not have defended their thesis yet on March 2022.

III.3 Requirements regarding post-doctorates

- . Applicants should have defended their thesis and obtained their doctorate;
- . Applicants should have started their post-doctorate when applying.

IV – Screening and award criteria

The criteria used to shortlist some applicants then to select the recipients are:

IV.1 Quality of the application

The quality of the application is assessed mainly on the following criteria:

- Excellence of the applicant's theoretical and practical knowledge and relevance of this knowledge to conducting the current research;
- Excellence of her academic path (diplomas, academic record, publications, patents obtained, etc.);
- Excellence of the research project: innovative project, contributing to advances in knowledge in the field concerned. Projects whose possible anticipated applications present a general interest or public utility dimension are particularly appreciated.

IV.2 Quality of the application file

The excellence of the application file will be assessed through the following documentation:

- A clear and substantial research summary in 4 maximum pages (including scope of the research, description of the issues, research plan and methodology);

- Publications and pre-publications;
- Letters of recommendation: no more than 4 letters, among which that of the thesis supervisor is highly desirable (number of letters is not a criteria as such);
- A synthesis in 400 maximum words, as pedagogical as possible, intended to communicate with a broad public of non-specialists;
- A Curriculum Vitae;
- A motivation letter in 650 maximum words.

The substance and the form of the file will be taken into account.

IV.3 Quality of the applicant profile

The personal skills of the applicant will be taken into account:

- Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing;
- Ability to promote her field both in front of an expert audience and towards neophytes;
- Ability to promote women's contribution to the scientific area;
- Professional and scientific ambition, multidisciplinary (scientific knowledge and other culture).

IV.4 The financial and medical situation of the candidate

Once the four Scholarship recipients are selected based on the previous criteria by the members of the jury, their financial or medical situation can be analysed on an optional basis at their request: in this case, the applicant should complete the file with all the relevant supporting documentation (her household income & expenses situation, her medical file etc.). The jury and the Association Séphora Berrebi may decide on this basis to give the laureate a supplementary amount of 500 to 1000 euros.

V – Scholarship process and timeline

The call for applications starts on **November, 18th 2021** and ends on **May, 15th 2022** at midnight.

The application process is online only, from the following website: <https://www.sephoraberrebi.ai>. Letters of recommendation should be sent directly by the issuers to the Association via this website as well.

Two separate juries (Mathematics and Computer Science) are under the responsibility of a jury president. They may decide not to award one of the scholarships in the absence of submissions of sufficient level.

The names of the laureates will be announced around June 2022.

VI – Commitments of the applicant / scholar

The applicant / scholar agrees to:

- be present at the award ceremony in France or in Israel if it can be organized despite the COVID crisis;

- keep her candidacy confidential with respect to the media before the announcement and the award ceremony;
- continue the research work for which she was awarded the scholarship;
- include in all publications resulting from research done for one year from the ceremony an Acknowledgment according to which she is a recipient of the Séphora Berrebi Scholarships from the Séphora Berrebi foundation;
- carry out 3 actions (a half day each one) to sensitize young girls and young women to scientific stakes and challenges in a framework determined by the Association Séphora Berrebi and before May, 31st 2023;
- accept to be photographed, filmed, interviewed in order to communicate on the objectives and achievements of the Association Séphora Berrebi;
- use the amount of the scholarship to:
 - (i) enhance her research, in particular by traveling abroad¹ to give lectures, establish cooperations, participate in congresses, meet experts and publicize her work;
 - (ii) meet expenses (travel, etc.) related to a temporary stay² in a research establishment abroad¹, other than the laboratory in which the researcher is registered;
 - (iii) meet the costs of enrolling in a research institution abroad¹;
 - (iv) meet childcare expenses (depending on the income of the researcher, father of the children and parents);
 - (v) incurring expenses to optimize research that are linked to a disability or long-term illness and not reimbursed by Social Security;
 - (vi) to meet any other expenditure aiming to give her the means to optimize her research work.

Under no circumstances can the scholarship be used as a substitute for the obligations of the laboratory or research institute vis-à-vis the researcher. The researcher may decide not to use the amount of the scholarship without losing her title of jury recipient.

Paris, 18th November 2021

Emmanuelle and Gérald Berrebi

President and Vice-President of the Association

¹ ie in another country than the one where she conducts her research

² For example, for a PhD student, a stay of a few months in a laboratory abroad