

THE DR. BESSIE F. LAWRENCE
INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCIENCE
INSTITUTE
JULY 1 – 24, 2025

Application Process and acceptance criteria:

1. **Age:** Participants are required to be **18 years** old by July 1st, 2025. Minors will not be able to participate in the program.
2. **Academic studies:** The program is intended for outstanding high school graduates, gap-year students and 1st or 2nd year bachelor's degree students.
3. **Academic requirements:** Candidates are required to present a strong scientific background. A successful candidate will demonstrate excellent academic achievements in science studies as well as proven involvement/ interest in scientific research outside the classroom. This can be manifested by means of extracurricular scientific activities, projects, competitions, summer programs, etc.
4. **English requirements:** The International Summer Science Institute (ISSI) is an English spoken program. High proficiency in English is mandatory.
5. **Social Skills:** While the ISSI is an international science program, the social interactions and activities are an integral part of the program. Thus, successful candidates will be required to work on a scientific project in teams of up to 10 students and team up for various cultural, artistic and social activities.
6. **Medical condition:** The program is committed to inclusion of candidates with disabilities and will reasonably try to provide such candidates with the possibility to participate in the program, depending on the adjustments/ adaptations/ modifications needed in the program to fit their medical needs. Candidates with disabilities should include a medical statement detailing their medical status and the adjustments/ adaptations/ modifications needed. Any information you provide will be recorded, processed and maintained in accordance with our standard data protection procedures and will be processed only after acceptance to the program based on all other qualifications.



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Participant Acknowledgment of Social Features of the ISSI Program

Applicants to the ISSI program should be aware that the ISSI is a multicultural program and thus the activities during the weekends are not specifically tailored to Shabbat observers.

Additionally, all weekend activities are obligatory and constitute an essential social and educational part of the program.

Your submission of the application indicates your acceptance and acknowledgment of these social features.

A complete application to the ISSI includes:

1. **Complete** application form as a **single pdf or docx file**.
2. A complete transcript or list of courses (with grades) the applicants have taken during their **last year's** academic studies.
3. **Two letters of recommendation** from teachers, advisors, school principal, professors or others, from relevant scientific oriented fields, who know the applicant well during the last couple of years.
4. A **photograph** of the applicant needs to be pasted in the designated box.

All forms must be completed digitally; handwritten forms will not be accepted!

The application deadline is **March 1, 2025**. Applications received after the deadline will be processed only on an availability basis. Note: Written responses and essays are not limited to the provided space.

Students in the U.S. should send completed applications to Rebecca Serber at r.serber@acwis.org.

Note: While the application is collected and disseminated by the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science, the program itself is overseen and implemented by the Davidson Institute of Science Education.

The Davidson Institute of Science Education, the Educational Arm of the Weizmann Institute of Science

📍 POB 26 Rehovot 7610001, Israel 📞 +972-8-9378300

Student Application Form

General Details

Name:

First Middle Last

Date of Birth:

Day/Month/Year

Home Address:

City, State, Zip:

Place of Birth:

Gender: Male Female Prefer not to say

Phone (mobile):

Email:

Current grade in school or year in the academia:

School Name:

School Address:





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List of classes you are taking this semester:

List of science classes you took in previous years:

Please specify **programming languages and computational analysis skills, experience, knowledge, and level**, (limited/fair/excellent):

List of academic or other significant **awards**:

List of **science journals** you read:

Extra-curricular activities, interests, and hobbies:

To which colleges or universities have you applied or currently studying at?



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Which colleges or universities have you been accepted to?

Which **field of study** do you intend to pursue?

Please describe your **general interest** to participate in the **ISSI program**:

Please describe your **general interest** to participate in a **multidisciplinary project** and how you & your team would benefit:

Please describe in which **academic fields** you could **assist** other participants on the program:

Essay Topics

The following essays will reflect on your academic and scientific backgrounds as well as your scientific and personal interests. **These essays will determine your assigned scientific project.** Thus, we strongly recommend that you elaborate on your previous achievements, interests, scientific and social goals, unique interests, traits, or hobbies - let us know who you are so we can match you with the most appropriate project.

1. Write your **personal statement**:

- 1.1. Elaborate on **science activities** you've been involved in, extracurricular scientific projects, university courses, etc.
- 1.2. Describe what your **main fields of interest** are and how you broaden your knowledge through your involvement in them.
- 1.3. Write about your current career goals and your motivation to pursue these particular professional directions.
- 1.4. Explain why you want to participate in the **ISSI program**, your **motivation**, your **expectations**, your **commitment** to the program: scientific, social, and other academic or cultural demands.

2. Please write an essay about a **topic of your interest**. You may choose to write about a project that you were involved with, a paper that you've read, a book that has made an impression, a talk that you found inspiring, your future professional plans, or other topics that are close to your heart.



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RECOMMENDATION FORM #1

NOTE: The Summer Science Institute at the Weizmann Institute in Israel, conducted in **English**, offers an exciting summer of study and experience in various branches of science under the guidance of the Weizmann Institute's researchers and students. Applicants are required to **excel** in their academic science studies and demonstrated their intellectual curiosity and self-initiative by participating in scientific research beyond the classroom – i.e. extra research projects, science competitions, summer programs, etc.

In addition, the applicant should have **good social skills**, **cooperate** in group activities, be **team players**, **be respectful** to their peers and staff and **follow the guidelines** and **regulations** of the program.

A major factor in the final selection of a candidate is the following evaluation submitted by the principal, science teacher or advisor. We would appreciate your valuable input.

Name of student:

Name and address of school:

Name, position, address and email of person filling out this form:

How long and how well have you known the applicant?

Please circle below your opinion of the applicant:

Academically: **Outstanding; above average; average; below average**

Personally: **Outstanding; above average; average; below average**

Behavior: **More mature than most students; average; immature**

Please elaborate on your above indications:

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1. Please describe the applicant's level of **scientific curiosity**, **proactive initiative**, knowledge, readiness for individual and extracurricular work and background along with a description of any particular project in which the applicant has excelled.
2. The ISSI program is highly academic and requires intensive individual and group study. This presents high responsibility, self-driven motivation, independent learning as well as reaching out to other team members. How does the student's previous experience relate to these skills and traits? Please include any observations you may have of the applicant's behavior in groups, both in a social and educational context.
3. Other comments which may be relevant for the candidate's application:

ALL RESPONSES WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

RECOMMENDATION FORM #2

NOTE: The Summer Science Institute at the Weizmann Institute in Israel, conducted in **English**, offers an exciting summer of study and experience in various branches of science under the guidance of the Weizmann Institute's researchers and students. Applicants are required to **excel** in their academic science studies and demonstrated their intellectual curiosity and self-initiative by participating in scientific research beyond the classroom – i.e. extra research projects, science competitions, summer programs, etc.

In addition, the applicant should have **good social skills**, **cooperate** in group activities, be **team players**, **be respectful** to their peers and staff and **follow the guidelines** and **regulations** of the program.

A major factor in the final selection of a candidate is the following evaluation submitted by the principal, science teacher or advisor. We would appreciate your valuable input.

Name of student:

Name and address of school:

Name, position, address and email of person filling out this form:

How long and how well have you known the applicant?

Please circle below your opinion of the applicant:

Academically: **Outstanding; above average; average; below average**

Personally: **Outstanding; above average; average; below average**

Behavior: **More mature than most students; average; immature**

Please elaborate on your above indications:

1. Please describe the applicant's level of **scientific curiosity**, **proactive initiative**, knowledge, readiness for individual and extracurricular work and background along with a description of any particular project in which the applicant has excelled.
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3. Other comments which may be relevant for the candidate's application:

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THE ISSI FAQ

Outstanding science students of all denominations and from a variety of countries will have the opportunity to meet and work together in the exciting atmosphere of the Weizmann Institute of Science. The program is conducted in English, consists of a dedicated scientific research and exposure to different scientific fields.

Q. WHAT SCIENTIFIC TOPICS ARE OFFERED TO PARTICIPANTS OF THE PROGRAM WITH THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE RESEARCH LABORATORIES?

- A. Participants will spend about four weeks working on scientific projects from the Weizmann Institute labs. The program provides participants with insights into the nature of scientific research by working directly with researchers. Projects are assigned according to participants' background and interests, as were described in the application form. The projects introduce scientific methods, planning, overcoming challenges, running experiments, data acquisition and analysis. At the end of the program students submit their scientific reports and present their projects as a group.

All efforts are made to assign students to a group that best suits their interests and skills. Research projects are offered according to the available research projects at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Q. HOW IS THE ISSI PROGRAM INTEGRATED IN THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE?

- A. The program is designed to be a mixture of scientific and cultural enrichment, including social activities and tours. Senior scientists meet with the participants and present different topics in science, technology, or worldwide problems. These invited lectures from diverse disciplines expose participants to various scientific subjects outside their specific fields of interest.

Q. I HAVE A DISABILITY THAT PREVENTS ME FROM PARTICIPATING IN SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES IF THERE ARE NO ADJUSTMENTS MADE TO THEM. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- A. ISSI is committed to inclusion of candidates with disabilities and will reasonably try to provide such candidates with the possibility to participate in the program, depending on the adjustments/ adaptations/ modifications needed in the program to fit their medical needs. Candidates with disabilities should include a medical statement detailing their medical status and the adjustments/ adaptations/ modifications needed. Any information you provide will be recorded, processed and maintained in accordance with our standard data protection procedures and will be processed only after acceptance to the program on the basis of all other qualifications.

Q. WILL I BE ABLE TO PRACTICE MY RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS?

- A. ISSI is an international and multi-cultural program. The weekend trips are obligatory. Some of the weekend activities may not be suitable for some religious practices, and it is the choice of the participant whether to join such activities.

While we do our best to accommodate individual needs, we are unable to tailor our program for all. Candidates with a specific question or need should contact the ISSI staff.