

The Max Planck Center for Democracy, Security and Human Rights
and the Minerva Center for Human Rights
Faculty of Law, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Call for Applications for 2026-27

Multidisciplinary Postdoctoral Fellowships in Democracy, Security and Human Rights

Application Deadline: February 20, 2026

Background

The Max Planck Society and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem recently established the **International Max Planck Center for Democracy, Security and Human Rights**. Researchers of this new Center will focus on some of the most pressing domestic, regional and global concerns of our time - democratic decline and resilience; reconciling national security concerns and human rights; the role of judicial review and rule of law in the protection of human rights; AI, democracy and human rights; and other related issues.

The new Center is a collaboration between the [Minerva Center for Human Rights](#) at the Hebrew University's Faculty of Law and the [Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law](#) in Freiburg, Germany. Its co-Directors are Prof. Barak Medina and Prof. Ralf Poscher.

Postdoctoral Fellowships in Democracy, Security and Human Rights

A central component of the new Max Planck Center is a fully-funded multidisciplinary doctoral and postdoctoral program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, housed at the Minerva Center for Human Rights. The program seeks to provide a vibrant academic community for young researchers to study and explore issues in these fields, together with leading local and international scholars.

The Center's Postdoctoral Fellowships are open to researchers from Law, Social Sciences or the Humanities, including Social Work and Education. The proposed research should address issues that are relevant to democracy, security, human rights and the rule of law, and indicate its potential relevance to Israel or to Israel-Palestine. Applicants must have received their Doctorate after October 2022 and before October 2026.

Postdoctoral Fellows accepted to the program for the 2026-27 academic year (October 2026 – September 2027) will receive a scholarship of €35,000 per year, with the possibility of an extension of the Fellowship for one additional year. Travel funding for participation in international conferences may also be available.

All program participants will be provided with dedicated work space at the Minerva Center for Human Rights in the Hebrew University's Mount Scopus campus, and will be expected to be on campus at least 3 days a week and participate regularly in academic events of the Max Planck Center and the Minerva Center, including research seminars and conferences, as well as an annual joint workshop in Freiburg.

Fellows are expected to complete a peer-reviewed article or other significant research project during the year, and to present it at academic events.

Application requirements

Applications should include the following (in English):

- Letter of interest
- Curriculum vitae, including publications
- Research plan (up to 2 pp.) describing the topics the applicant intends to research during the Fellowship year, methodology and relevance to the Fellowship's research focus
- Summary of the applicant's doctoral thesis (up to 10 pp.)
- Official confirmation of the date the doctorate was awarded or (if not yet approved) submitted
- Two recommendation letters, including one from the doctoral supervisor

Applications should be submitted by email in one combined PDF file, to:

mchr@savion.huji.ac.il

Recommendation letters may be forwarded separately.

Application deadline

The final deadline for applications is **February 20, 2026**. Interviews of select candidates will be held in the second half of February or early March, and decisions will be announced very shortly thereafter.

For questions, please contact the email address above.