

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 PhD Program in Democracy, Security and Human Rights

Application Deadline: March 15, 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.

Fully-funded Doctoral Program in Democracy, Security and Human Rights

A central component of the new Max Planck Center is a fully-funded multidisciplinary doctoral 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 Program is open to Hebrew University doctoral students from Law, Social Sciences or the Humanities, including Social Work and Education, whose research deals with issues that are relevant to democracy, security, human rights and the rule of law. The degrees will be awarded by the relevant department in which the student is enrolled. Candidates who are considering applying to the Hebrew University but have not yet done

so are also welcome to submit their candidacy for this Program, specifying potential supervisor/s.

A first cohort of five Doctoral Fellows commenced in 2025, comprised of Israeli and Palestinian students from multiple disciplines, including law, criminology, political science and education. **This Call is for a second cohort of up to five additional Doctoral Fellows**, commencing in October 2026. A third cohort will be added in 2027.

Doctoral candidates accepted to the program will receive scholarships of €24,000 per year for up to 3 years each (subject to annual review, and university regulations in cases where students have additional scholarships). 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.

Application requirements

Applications should include the following (in English):

- Letter of interest
- Detailed curriculum vitae
- Outline of the applicant's doctoral research project, its relation to the themes of democracy, security and human rights, its stage of progress and expected time of conclusion (2-3 pp)
- Two recommendation letters, including one from the applicant's doctoral supervisor at the Hebrew University if the applicant has already begun their doctoral studies

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 **March 15, 2026**. Interviews of select candidates will be held in the second half of March or early April, and decisions will be announced very shortly thereafter.

For questions, please contact the email address above.