

# Announcement of Brain Pool Fellowship Program For outstanding overseas researchers 2023

The MSIT (Ministry of Science and ICT) and NRF (National Research Foundation of Korea) welcome applications from host researchers in South Korea who wish to invite outstanding scientists to join the Brain Pool(BP) Program. This program is designed to invite overseas outstanding scientists to domestic research institutions in Korea, required by domestic industry, academia and research sites, for the enhancement of research competence through joint research in R&D fields in Korea, in which he or she produces high level of R&D performance and to contribute to the internationalization of the domestic research environment, securing new growth engines, nurturing new researchers and establishing a global network. Interested applicants are requested to file 2023 BP application in accordance with the relevant procedures.

December 5th, 2022

Lee Jong Ho  
Minister, Ministry of Science and ICT

Lee, Kwang-bok  
President, National Research Foundation of Korea

## 1. Goals

- To enhance the R&D level of Korea by attracting outstanding overseas scientists through various joint research activities in R&D fields in Korea and to establish long-term international cooperation networks

## 2. Outline

### A. Research Fields: All fields in science and technology

※ Preference fields: 12 National Strategic Technology Fields

#### [12 National Strategic Technology Fields]

① Semiconductor and display ② Secondary cells ③ Leading-edge mobility ④ Next Generation nuclear energy  
⑤ Leading edge bio ⑥ Aerospace and marine ⑦ Hydrogen ⑧ Cybersecurity ⑨ AI ⑩ Next generation communications ⑪ Leading-edge robotics and manufacture ⑫ Quantum

### B. Eligibility of Brain Pool Candidates(BP fellow)

- ① Ph.D. holders who is living overseas(outside of Korea)
- ② In case of corporate and corporate-affiliated research institute being the host organization, scientist with five-year or more of on-site R&D experience overseas(outside of Korea) regardless of his/her possession of a doctoral degree

### C. Research Period: (Type 1: short-term research) 6-12 months, (Type 2: long-term research) Max. 3 years\*

| Type                   | Research Type              | Research Period            | Note  |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Type 1<br>(Short-term) | Full-time                  | 6~12 months                | 3~12months possible for corporate and corporate-affiliated research institute |
| Type 2<br>(Long-term)  | Full-time                  | Max. 3 years               | -   |
|                        | Flexible Research Duration | 6~12 months within 3 years | -   |

※ (Type 1,2) Re-application available (Re-application is available only once, with the same host PI and BP fellow)

**D. Details of Support: Personnel costs and direct costs for inviting BP fellows, indirect costs**

- **Personnel Costs(for BP fellow): Min. KRW 5 Mil./month ~ Max. KRW 25 Mil./month**  
 ※ Based on the annual salary(including severance pay) of the original affiliation of BP fellow
- **Research Activities Costs:** Housing allowance, airfare, insurance premiums, relocation costs, subsidies for children’s education\* and other expenses for research activities  
 \* Subsidies for children’s education covers tuition fees for preschool, elementary, middle and high school that are officially approved by the Ministry of Education, Health and Welfare.
- **Research Materials Costs:** Research materials for conducting the BP project
- **Indirect Cost:** Subsidies for assistant staff(Obligatory), indirect cost for host institution

| Research Type                | Research Period | Direct Costs  |   |  | Indirect Costs   |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|--|--|
|                              |                 | Personnel Costs   | Research Activities Costs   | Research Materials Costs                       |  |
| [Type 1] Short-term Research | 6-12 months     | Min.5~Max.25 Mil KRW per month<br>※ Based on the annual salary of the original affiliation of BP fellow | Housing allowance*, airfare, insurance premiums, relocation costs, subsidies for childrens’ education, other direct costs for inviting BP fellows** | Max. 1 mil KRW<br>Costs for research materials | Max. 8 mil KRW per year<br>(Includng 4 mil KRW for subsidies for assistant staff |
| [Type 2] Long-term Research  | Max 3 years     |   |   |  |  |

- \* For type 2, Max. 12 million/year KRW of housing allowance will be supported for projects over 12 months
- \*\* Other direct cost for inviting BP fellows : Korean language course fee, costs for quarantine(COVID-19), visa issuance fee, etc.
- ※ In case of corporate and corporate-affiliated research institute, only 50-75% of personnel costs will be offered. (Following National Research and Development Innovation Act of Korea)

**3. Quota and Eligibility**

**A. Quota(Expected):** Approx. 122 projects

**B. Eligibility**

- **Host Institution:** Government-funded research institute, national/public research institute, university, research institute affiliated with university, corporate, corporate-affiliated research institute and nonprofit research institute
- **Host Researcher(Program Applicant):** Full-time employees of the respective host institutions who have the rank of at least assistant professor, senior researcher or a chair of a research institute or corporate and corporate-affiliated research institute  
 ※ Host researcher CANNOT apply for type 1, 2 simultaneously with the same BP fellow
- **BP Candidate**
  - ① Ph.D. holders who is living overseas(outside of Korea) as of the submission date
  - ② In case of corporate and corporate-affiliated research institute being the host organization, scientist with five-year or more of on-site R&D experience in the industry overseas(outside of Korea) regardless of his/her possession of a doctoral degree as of the submission date
 ※ Candidates who are expected to obtain a degree or temporary overseas residents throughout the application period are not eligible for BP application.

**4. Application Period and Submission Procedure**

**A. Call Announcement:** Dec.5<sup>th</sup>(Mon) 2022 ~ Jun.30<sup>th</sup>(Fri) 2023

**B. Application Period**

| Call No.             | Application Period(Host Researcher)  | Approval by Host Institution  |
|----------------------|--|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Call | Jan.16 <sup>th</sup> (Mon) 2023 ~ Jan.31 <sup>st</sup> (Tue) 2023 18:00:00 | Jan.16 <sup>th</sup> (Mon) 2023 ~ Feb.3 <sup>rd</sup> (Fri) 2023 18:00:00 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call | Feb.1 <sup>st</sup> (Wed) 2023 ~ Apr.28 <sup>th</sup> (Fri) 2023 18:00:00  | Feb.1 <sup>st</sup> (Wed) 2023 ~ May.2 <sup>nd</sup> (Tue) 2023 18:00:00  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Call | Apr.29 <sup>th</sup> (Sat) 2023 ~ Jun.30 <sup>th</sup> (Fri) 2023 18:00:00 | Apr.29 <sup>th</sup> (Sat) 2023 ~ Jul.4 <sup>th</sup> (Tue) 2023 18:00:00 |

※ 3<sup>rd</sup> Call may not open upon the project selection results of previous call.

※ It is recommended to proceed the submission in advance as the system will be close automatically on time.

### C. Submission Procedure

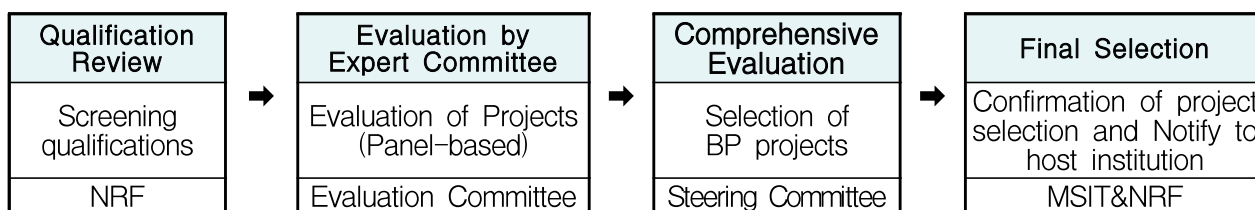
▶ Proposal submission, evaluation and project management of 2023 Brain Pool Program will be managed by IRIS\*(<https://www.iris.go.kr>) which is run by KISTEP(Korea Institute of Science & Technology Evaluation and Planning).

\* IRIS(Integrated R&D Information System): An integrated system for project management (Previously project management was managed by each different system run by each government department.)

- The host researcher(program applicant) should log onto IRIS(<https://www.iris.go.kr>) and fill out the required information and submit the research proposal. After that, the approval from the host institution must be obtained.

## 5. Evaluation and Selection Procedures

### A. Evaluation Procedures



- Qualification Review: Screening qualifications of host institutions, host researchers and BP candidates

- Evaluation by Expert Committee: Selecting the recommended projects for comprehensive review with an average score of 80 or higher through an evaluation and discussion by a panel of experts in each field

- Comprehensive Evaluation: Selecting the projects with consideration of internal policies through comprehensive review by the steering committee of a BP fellowship program

※ In order to diversify the nationality of BP fellows, NRF may limit the nationality ratio of successful BP fellows.

Ex) If there are over 30% successful projects from A country, NRF will select only 20% of projects of them in order to balance the nationality ratio.

- Final Selection: Final approval on selected projects by the Ministry of Science & Technology and then NRF will notify the results to the host institution

### B. Evaluation Criteria and Score

| Evaluation Criteria |   | Note   | Score |
|---------------------|---|--|-------|
| BP Project (30)     | Excellence and creativity of research project | · Excellence and creativity of research projects and plans<br>· The need for official support for the project and for utilization of overseas researcher   | 10    |
|                     | Utilization of research project               | · Expected effects of the outcomes from the joint research and possibility of utilizing research performance<br>※ Improvement of domestic research capabilities in the project field or relevant field<br>· Possibility of enhancing international cooperation through establishment of research network with a BP candidate | 10    |
|                     | Expected effects of research outcomes         | · Possibility of further domestic/international cooperation and ties through the research outcomes<br>· Continuous network plan after finishing BP project   | 10    |

|                           |   |  |            |
|---------------------------|---|--|------------|
|                           |   | ※ Possibility of advancing the professional relationship between the host PI and BP candidate  |            |
| <b>Research Plan (30)</b> | Research Plan by BP Candidate                 | · Initiative of BP candidate's motivation for BP project<br>· Excellence and creativity of BP candidate's research plan  | 10         |
|                           | Competence of host PI                         | · Competence of host PI to utilize BP candidate (research capacity)<br>· Validity and attainability of the proposed purpose of the joint research and performance indicator  | 10         |
|                           | Willingness of host institution to support BP | · Fidelity of research support plans of host PI and host institution (support for managing the use of research grant, workplace, research environment, administration)<br>· Excellence of support plans for BP candidate's settlement in Korea (residence, etc)  | 10         |
| <b>BP Candidate (40)</b>  | Responsibility of BP Candidate                | · Concreteness of host PI and institution's plans for utilizing BP candidate<br>· The main role of BP candidate and the level of contribution to achieve the research goal   | 20         |
|                           | Competency of BP Candidate                    | · Excellence of BP candidate's degree and research experience<br>· Excellence of BP candidate's achievements in SCI papers, patents, and academic activities for the past 5 years<br>※ BP candidate's possession of skills related to the project<br>※ For any proposal hosted by corporate, personal achievements can be replaced with technology and commercialization performance such as patents, technology transfer, and technology commercialization. | 20         |
| <b>Total</b>              |   |  | <b>100</b> |

## 6. Schedule planned for 2023 Brain Pool Fellowship Program

| Schedule                    | Details  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Dec 5 <sup>th</sup> 2022    | The call announcement for 2023 Brain Pool Fellowship Program |
| Jan 31 <sup>st</sup> 2023   | 1st Round Submission Deadline (Host PI)                      |
| Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2023    | 1st Round Submission – Host Institution Approval Deadline    |
| Mar~Apr 2023                | Evaluation of Projects (1st Round) and Final Selection       |
| April 28 <sup>th</sup> 2023 | 2nd Round Submission Deadline                                |
| May 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2023    | 2nd Round Submission – Host Institution Approval Deadline    |
| May~Jun 2023                | Evaluation of Projects (2nd Round) and Final Selection       |
| Jun 30 <sup>th</sup> 2023   | 3rd Round Submission Deadline                                |
| Jul 4 <sup>th</sup> 2023    | 3rd Round Submission – Host Institution Approval Deadline    |
| Jul~Aug 2023                | Evaluation of Projects (3rd Round) and Final Selection       |

※ The schedule is subject to change according to circumstances.

## 7. Application and participation restrictions

- Brain Pool fellows are required to **enter Korea within the year of selection and commence the project.**
  - \* In cases of global crises, natural disasters, etc., the duration may be subject to change and specified separately.
  - ※ It is recommended for BP candidate to enter Korea within 2–3 months from the selection and commence the project.
- Pursuant to the National Research and Development Innovation Act, researchers under participation restrictions are neither eligible for apply for nor participate in the program.
- Pursuant to the Article 64 of the National Research and Development Innovation Act and the Enforcement Decree of the same Act, the program is not subject to the provision limiting the

maximum number of R&D projects that can be carried out simultaneously by a researcher (3 as a principal investigator and 5 as a regular researcher).

- If the Brain Pool fellow (domestic principal investigator or overseas scientist) **fails to enter Korea and withdraws from the agreement without any justifiable cause**, they may **receive a penalty of a 3-year restriction when applying for the same program**.
  - ※ The Brain Pool fellow is required to have a close consultation with the host institution before applying for the BP program.
- In the event that the research period is **shorter than the minimum length of the program (12 months)**, **excess housing allowances and moving expenses must be returned** (\* Applicable for Type 2 projects).
- For Type 1 projects, in principle, the Brain Pool fellow is provided with accommodation by the host institution.

## 8. Required Documents

| <b>Required Documents when applying</b>  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brain Pool Application Form(form)</li> <li>- Scanned Copy of a final degree certificate/proof of employment of Brain Pool Fellow*               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Proof of employment is required only for projects applied by corporation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- An invitation acceptance letter written by the Brain Pool fellow(free style)</li> <li>- Consent to the Provision and the Use of Personal and Tax Information(form)</li> <li>- Pledges of Research Ethics, Integrity and Confidentiality(form)</li> <li>- (if necessary) Participation commitment of corporate, proof of eligibility(corporate's registration certificate/accounting audit report for latest 2 years OR financial statement/type of corporate(conglomerate, medium or small sized corporation))</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Additional Documents to submit</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paystub of the BP candidate for the past one year<br/>(For reapplication, please submit a paystub of the BP fellow's current affiliation in Korea)</li> <li>- A pledge of confidentiality (form)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>※ If necessary, additional documents may be required to submit before the selection</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| <b>Notes on Document Submission</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>※ <b>The R&amp;D plan that includes cover, summary, attached documents, and information should be submitted.</b></li> <li>※ There is <b>no designated format</b> for the invitation acceptance letter written by the Brain Pool fellow. An e-mail containing an electronic signature is also acceptable.</li> <li>※ <b>The paystub for the past one year is a mandatory document</b> for the arrangement of personnel costs upon the final selection of the project for the BP program. <b>Failure to submit the pay stub may result in the cancellation of the selection.</b></li> <li>※ <b>Required documents* must be written in Korean or English.</b> Documents written in other languages should be translated into Korean or English and notarized, and a notarial certificate should be attached.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The R&amp;D proposal must be written in Korean by the principal investigator as a rule, but academic content including research details may be written in English so that the research proposal can be shared with the Brain Pool fellow. The "Outstanding Overseas Scientist Overview" section should be written in Korean or English by the Brain Pool fellow.</li> </ul> </li> <li>※ <b>Inclusion of any false information in the documents submitted may result in the cancellation of the final selection.</b></li> </ul> |

## 9. Contact Point

| Contact Point   |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Program Inquiry | <p><b>International R&amp;D Collaboration Team</b><br/><b>National Research Foundation of Korea(NRF)</b><br/>(For Korean) ☎ +82-2-3460-5629, 5622<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:yokang@nrf.re.kr">yokang@nrf.re.kr</a>, <a href="mailto:serang.w@nrf.re.kr">serang.w@nrf.re.kr</a><br/>(For English) Email: <a href="mailto:esrm@etners.com">esrm@etners.com</a><br/>※ If the line is continuously busy, please send us an email.</p> |