



Korea's Invitation Programs for Global Researchers

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Introduction

South Korea ranks first in terms of the ratio of government research and development (R&D) spending to gross domestic product (GDP) in 2018. As the innovation in science and technology is one of the key aspects to lead the economic growth in ones nations, the South Korean government puts a lot of efforts in the R&D investment. Korean Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) is one of the leading organizations that provide various R&D programs such as R&D exchange programs, international joint R&D projects, establishment of global research centers and exchange of individual researchers. Among all, in 2019, the exchange of individual researcher program (mobility program) budget will increase threefold compared to 2018. Together with the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF), MSIT is providing two mobility programs called Brain Pool and Korea Fellowship Program.

Brain Pool Program

Brain Pool Program is designed to invite overseas high-level scientists for the enhancement of research competence through joint research in R&D fields in Korea and to establish a long term international cooperation network. The invited scientists should hold a doctoral degree with 5 years or more of R&D experience outside of Korea. The applying scientists or engineers from overseas should have an outstanding research background, and the research field has to be strategically necessary for Korea's science and technology advancement. Below are some lists of specific areas.

Target sector

Area	Specific Area
Pure Science	Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Earth Science, Measurement and Instrumentation Standards, Astronomy
Mechanics, Materials and Aerospace	Mechanics, Naval Architecture, Aviation, Space, Materials
Electricity, Electronics, Information Communication Technology	Electricity Power, Electronics, Computer, Communications, Optical engineering, Applied Physics
Chemical Engineering and Bioscience	Applied Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Bioengineering, Agriculture, Fishery, Health
Resources, Ocean, Environment, Construction, Energy	Resources, Ocean Environment, Construction and Nuclear Power and Energy
S&T Policy and other Areas	Cognitive/emotional Science, Science and Technology policy, etc.



Netherlands Enterprise Agency

The program period is from 6 to 12 months and the level of funding depends on the results of evaluation of each fellow. The personnel costs ranges from 3 to 10 million KRW per month (2,340 to 7,850 EURO per month) and there will be additional subsidy for invitation expenses from 3.4 to 12.6 million KRW (2,670 to 9,890 EURO) including airfare, moving expenses, insurance premiums and so on. The application submission period has begun from 27th of December 2018 and will be opened until 5th of March, 2019. The application will be submitted by the Korean host organization, so the submission site will be in Korean

(https://www.nrf.re.kr/biz/info/notice/view?nts_no=111816&biz_no=372&search_type=&search_keyword=&page=).

Korea Research Fellowship Program

Korea Research Fellowship Program invites outstanding postdoctoral researchers to achieve an excellent performance in their early-mid stages of their professional careers. The program provides high potential young and overseas researchers with a chance to carry out creative projects in emerging fields and supports them to grow as research leaders of tomorrow. The goal of this program is to strengthen the network with the Korean scientists, to create an open research environment and to impact the development of society and benefit the wellbeing of humanity through R&D activities.

The candidate has to have PhD degree with less than 5 years of postdoctoral training, proficient in oral and written English or Korean and has to hold a citizenship of a country that has diplomatic relations with Korea. The duration of the fellowship is 3 to 5 years and the level of funding is KRW 70 million (54,900 EURO) per annum (personnel costs, living expenses, etc. for KRF fellow). The application submission will begin from January 2019.

For more information on these two programs, please visit KRF & BP support website: <http://www.krf-help.net/>

Sources

<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=26955>

<http://www.krf-help.net/>