

Announcement of Brain Pool Fellowship Program For outstanding overseas researchers 2024

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 2024 BP application in accordance with the relevant procedures.

December 29th, 2023

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 Cyber security 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: 12 months ~ Max. 3 years (~26.12.31.)

Type	Research Type	Research Period	Note
Long-term	Full-time	12 months ~ Max. 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research can be conducted until 2026.12.31. (Minimum 12 months ~ Maximum 3 year) • Research commences on the 1st of every month

※ Re-application available (Re-application is available only once, with the same host PI and BP fellow who have conducted previous BP project until 2023 or 2024)

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	
Full-time	12 months ~ Max. 3 years	Min.5~Max.25 Mil KRW per month ※ 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 Costs for research materials	50% of notification rate for host institution ※ Including subsidies(50%) for assistant staff

* Max. 12 million/year KRW of housing allowance will be supported

** 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. 81 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 should stably conduct the research project until the end date.

- 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.29th(Fri) 2023 ~ May.31st(Fri) 2024

B. Application Period

Call No.	Application Period(Host Researcher)	Approval by Host Institution
1 st Call	Dec.29 th (Fri) 2023 ~ Feb.29 th (Thu) 2024 18:00:00	Dec.29 th (Fri) 2023 ~ Mar.4 th (Fri) 2024 18:00:00
2 nd Call	Mar.11 th (Mon) 2024 ~ May.31 st (Fri) 2024 18:00:00	Mar.11 th (Mon) 2024 ~ Jun.4 th (Tue) 2024 18:00:00

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

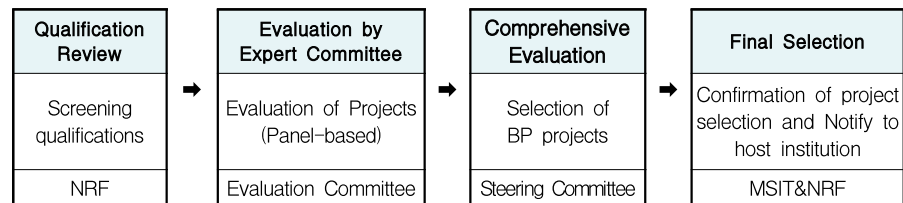
C. Submission Procedure

▶ Proposal submission, evaluation and project management of 2024 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 50% successful projects from A country, NRF will select only 40% of projects of them in order to balance the nationality ratio. **(Except for 12 National Strategic Technology Fields or Korean Scientists)**
- 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 · 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 ※ Improvement of domestic research capabilities in the project field or relevant field · 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 · Continuous network plan after finishing BP project ※ Possibility of advancing the professional relationship between the host PI and BP candidate	10
Research Plan (30)	Research Plan by BP Candidate	· Initiative of BP candidate's motivation for BP project · Excellence and creativity of BP candidate's research plan	10
	Competence of host PI	· Competence of host PI to utilize BP candidate (research capacity) · 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) · Excellence of support plans for BP candidate's settlement in Korea(residence, etc)	10
BP Candidate (40)	Responsibility of BP Candidate	· Concreteness of host PI and institution's plans for utilizing BP candidate · 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 · Excellence of BP candidate's achievements in SCI papers, patents, and academic activities for the past 5 years ※ BP candidate's possession of skills related to the project ※ 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
Total			100

6. Schedule planned for 2024 Brain Pool Fellowship Program

Schedule	Details
Dec 29 th 2023	The call announcement for 2024 Brain Pool Fellowship Program
Feb 29 st 2024	1st Round Submission Deadline(Host PI)
Mar 4 th 2024	1st Round Submission – Host Institution Approval Deadline
Mar~Apr 2024	Evaluation of Projects(1st Round) and Final Selection
May 31 st 2024	2nd Round Submission Deadline
Jun 4 th 2024	2nd Round Submission – Host Institution Approval Deadline
Jun~Jul 2024	Evaluation of Projects(2nd 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.
 - ※ BP fellow should enter Korea beforehand as research project will commence on the 1st of every month
- 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.**
- If the BP fellow is hired as a full-time employee at the hosting institution while conducting BP project, the project will be terminated early.
- When publishing research results, the acknowledgement and the name of the host institution must be included.

8. Required Documents

Required Documents when applying
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Brain Pool Application Form(form) ② Residency certificate or equivalent document issued by a recognized government in the overseas jurisdiction of residence ③ Scanned Copy of a final degree certificate OR proof of employment*(5 years or more of R&D career) of Brain Pool Fellow * Proof of employment is required only for projects <u>applied by corporation.</u> ④ An invitation acceptance letter written by the Brain Pool fellow(free style) ⑤ Consent to the Provision and the Use of Personal and Tax Information(form) ⑥ Pledges of Research Ethics, Integrity and Confidentiality(form) ⑦ (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)) * required only for projects <u>applied by corporation.</u>
Additional Documents to submit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Paystub of the BP candidate for the past one year from the original affiliated institution. ② Confirmation of relatives between host PI and BP fellow(form) ※ If necessary, additional documents may be required to submit before the selection

Notes on Document Submission

- ※ **The R&D plan that includes cover, summary, attached documents, and information should be submitted.**
- **The R&D plan Must be filled out in the designated form(attached on the web)**
- ※ There is **no designated format** for the invitation acceptance letter written by the Brain Pool fellow. An e-mail containing an electronic signature is also acceptable.
- ※ **The paystub for the past one year is a mandatory document** for the arrangement of personnel costs upon the final selection of the project for the BP program. **Failure to submit the pay stub may result in the cancellation of the selection.**
- ※ **Required documents* must be written in Korean or English.** Documents written in other languages should be translated into Korean or English and notarized, and a notarial certificate should be attached.
* The R&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.
- ※ **Inclusion of any false information in the documents submitted may result in the cancellation of the final selection.**

9. Contact Point

Contact Point	
Program Inquiry	<p>International R&D Collaboration Team, National Research Foundation of Korea(NRF) (For Korean) ☎ +82-2-3460-5744, 5746, 5747 / Email: sjhan@nrf.re.kr</p> <p>Brain Pool Support Team (For English) ☎ +82-70-8806-5191 / Email: esrm@etners.com</p>

※ If the line is continuously busy, please send us an email.