Announcement of Brain Pool (BP) Program for inviting outstanding scientists from overseas (1st round in 2019)

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 Program (BP Program). This program is designed to invite overseas outstanding scientists for the enhancement of research competence through joint research in R&D fields in Korea, and build a global cooperative research network more efficiently. Interested applicants are requested to file an application in accordance with the relevant procedures.

December 27th, 2018

You Young Min
Minister of Ministry of Science and ICT

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.
-Balancing the scientific and technical standards in the field of national research institutes, universities, and industries by focusing on compensating for the insufficient number of outstanding researchers.

2. Outline

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

- Provide strategic preferential support in areas where the country's private sector lacks R&D capabilities and where the government's role as a technology provider is critical in 8 innovation growth engine* and 3 strategic investment** technology fields
* Smart factory, smart farm, smart city, fintech, new energy industry, drone, future car, bio health
** Data economy(big data, bloc chain, sharing economy), artificial intelligence(AI), hydrogen economy

B. **Eligibility of Brain Pool Candidates**: Outstanding overseas scientists who have been awarded a doctoral degree for more than five years.

C. **Program period**: (**Type 1**) 6-12 months*, (**Type 2**) 3 years (2+1)

* (Type 1) 3-12 months for industrial bodies

※ In the case of ongoing BP project, it can be reapplied within 3 months of its closing date of the project year (for Type 1- Reapplication).

※ For Type 2, it will be decided whether to be continued or not the last year (3rd) based on the research achievement evaluation for the first 2 years.

D. Details of Support: Personnel costs and expenses incurred for inviting the Brain Pool Fellow.

- **Personnel costs:** KRW 3~17 million per month

  (Based on the evaluation criteria reflecting research achievements and level of current salary for invited scientist)

※ For research institutes affiliated to industries , only 70% of personnel costs will be supported.

- **Invitation Expenses:** up to KRW 17.6 million (airfare, child education subsidies, moving expenses (for those who participate in a 12-month project or more), insurance premiums, etc.)

3. Quota and Eligibility

A. Quota for the 1st Round of 2019: around 100 (for Type 1: around 60, For Type 2: around 40)

- In case those quotas cannot be filled due to lack of appropriate candidates who fit the aims of BP program, a second round will be announced at a later date.

B. Eligibility

- **Host Institution** : Government-funded research institutes, national/public research institutes, universities, research institutes affiliated with universities, research institutes affiliated with enterprises, and nonprofit research institutes.

- **Host Researcher (Brain Pool Applicant)**: Full-time employees of the respective host institutions who have the rank of at least assistant professor, senior researcher, or chair of a research institute (corporate research institute).

- **Invited Scientist (Brain Pool Candidate)**: Foreign and Korean scientists* who have more than five years of experiences in R&D abroad after obtaining a Ph.D.

* Brain pool candidate with Korean nationality must reside abroad when applying for the program (except for reapplying).

※ In the case of small or middle standing enterprises being the host organization, Brain Pool candidates who have five-years or more of on-site R&D experience in the overseas industry may apply regardless of his/her possession of a doctoral degree

※ Possibility of re-applying to the Brain Pool Program for a maximum of up to 3 times including the first term (For type 1)

※ Post KRF fellows who have completed the KRF (Korea Research Fellowship) program successfully and have received a higher rank for the final evaluation, are eligible as a Brain pool candidate.

※ Host researcher cannot apply for Type 1 and Type 2 simultaneously with the same Brain Pool candidates.

C. Preferences

- Minimum selection quota (30%) for ethnic Koreans or Korean nationals residing overseas.
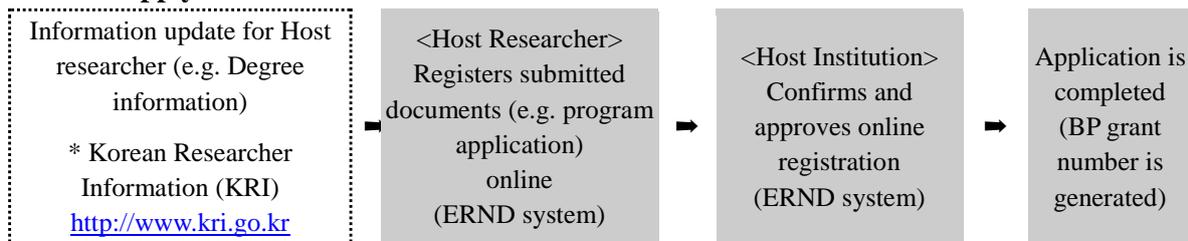
- Preferences for Type 1 (new selected project) in the case where the hosted Brain Pool candidate is full time (Permanent employee) by the institutions which are selected as a Global R&D Center

4. How to apply and what documents to submit.

A. Application submission period: Dec. 27 (Thur.) 2018 ~ Mar. 5 (Tues.) 2019 by 18:00

※ Approval from their host institutions on ERND: by Mar. 6, 2019 **(Thur.), (6 p.m.)**

 (Applications will only be accepted for projects that obtain approval from their host institutions within the application period.)

※ **Date/Time is based on Korea Local Time (UTC/GMT +9 hours)**

※ Please complete submitting application at least 3-4 hours before the deadline to avoid a flood of applications.

B. How to apply: Online

Information update for Host researcher (e.g. Degree information) * Korean Researcher Information (KRI) http://www.kri.go.kr	➡	<Host Researcher> Registers submitted documents (e.g. program application) online (ERND system)	➡	<Host Institution> Confirms and approves online registration (ERND system)	➡	Application is completed (BP grant number is generated)

- Host research institutes discover Brain Pool Fellows and apply through the Integrated Research Support System of the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) (https://ernd.nrf.re.kr)

※ Information of Host Researcher (mandatory) must be updated three to four days in advance as when and how the updates are reflected to the KRI system differs according to the applicant's affiliate.

※ Application should be uploaded on the ERND system by the host researcher (BP applicant)'s ERND account not by the BP candidate's. The application shall be prepared within the deadline and made certain the BP application and necessary documentation required is uploaded in time)

C. Documents to be submitted: Please refer to a list of documents to be submitted in [Reference] and [Appendix]

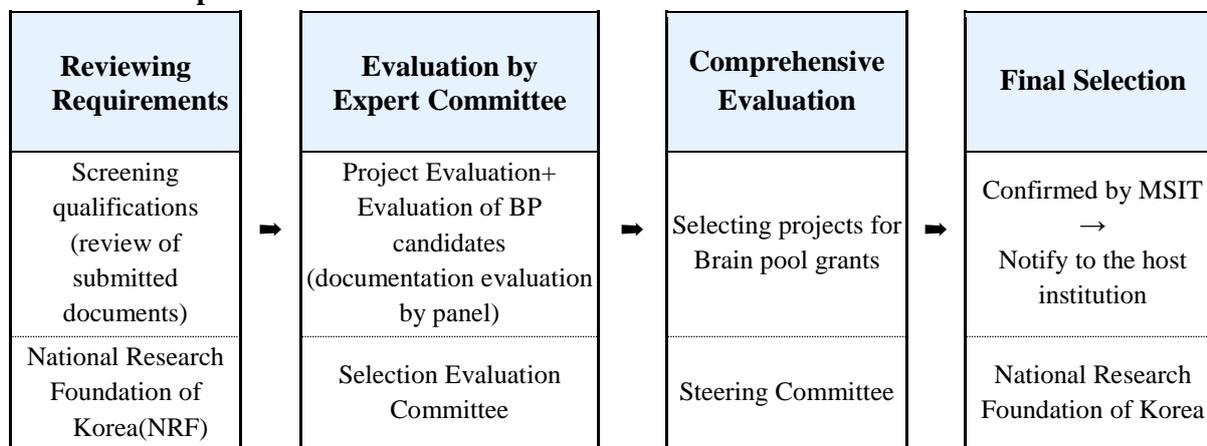| Necessary documents when applying |
|---|
| **- Brain Pool application form**   (choose one between [Appendix 1-1] to [Appendix 1-3])
 ①Appendix 1-1 (for Type 1 new application), ② Appendix 1-2 (for Type 1 re-application),
 ③Appendix 1-3 (for Type 2)

 ※Please select appropriate application form based on whether it is a new application or a re-application for an existing project. |

Necessary documents after final selection   (only for selected Brain Pool Projects)

- Paystub of Brain Pool fellow (invited scientist under BP program) for the entire recent year

- Latest degree certificate of Brain Pool fellow

- Invitation acceptance letter from Brain Pool fellow (for newly-selected project)

5. Evaluation Methods

A. Evaluation procedures

Reviewing Requirements	Evaluation by Expert Committee	Comprehensive Evaluation	Final Selection
Screening qualifications (review of submitted documents)	Project Evaluation+ Evaluation of BP candidates (documentation evaluation by panel)	Selecting projects for Brain pool grants	Confirmed by MSIT → Notify to the host institution
National Research Foundation of Korea(NRF)	Selection Evaluation Committee	Steering Committee	National Research Foundation of Korea

B. (Type 1) Evaluation Items and Distribution of Points for a New Application

Evaluation Item		Evaluation Criteria	Allotted Score
Project Evaluation (40)	Excellence and necessity for support	▪ Excellence and concreteness of research project ▪ Necessity for government support and utilization of the Brain Pool candidate in the area and the research project	15
Project Evaluation (40)	Utilizing the capabilities of the host researcher and the support system	▪ Capabilities of the host researcher to utilize the Brain Pool candidate (e.g., research capabilities, network, research budget, and others) ▪ The system of the host researcher and the host institution for supporting the Brain Pool candidate (e.g., support for research, living, and others)	15
Project Evaluation (40)	Level of utilization and expected impact of the research project	▪ Possibility of a domestic/international linkage and cooperation in a research project	10
Evaluation of the Brain Pool Candidates (60)	Roles of the Brain Pool candidate	▪ Concreteness of the roles and the utilization plan of the Brain Pool candidate ▪ Whether the Brain Pool candidate possesses technologies that are desperately needed for the research project ▪ Validity and viability of the objectives and indicators of a joint research	25
Evaluation of the Brain Pool Candidates (60)	Capabilities of the Brain Pool candidate	▪ Diploma and research career ▪ Theses published in SCI-enlisted journals, patents, and achievements of academic activities made for the recent six years ※ In the case of industrial bodies, they can be substituted with achievements of technologies and businesses including patents, technical transfers, and technical commercialization.	25

Evaluation Item	Detailed Item	Detailed Evaluation Criteria	Allotted Score
	Expected impact and volition for job fulfillment	▪ Ripple effects as the results of joint R&D ▪ Activeness of the Brain Pool candidate's motive for applying to the program	10
Total			100

(Type 1) Evaluation Items and Distribution of Points for a Reapplication

Evaluation Item	Detailed Item	Detailed Evaluation Criteria	Allotted Score
Research Performance of the Existing Project (70)	Level of achievement of objectives with regard to the research plan	▪ Whether the objective of the research plan has been achieved ▪ Whether the research result and performance have been utilized	25
	Details and methods of research implementation	▪ Excellence and ripple effects of research performance including theses, patents, and technical developments ▪ Adequacy of research method and budget spending	20
	Status of support for the Brain Pool candidate	▪ Status of the support provided by the host institution and the host researcher for the Brain Pool candidate (e.g., support for research, living, and others)	15
	Level of utilization of the Brain Pool candidate	▪ Adequacy of the utilization of the Brain Pool candidate , faithfulness of the Brain Pool candidate , level of utilization/cooperation, and others	10
Extended Research Plan (30)	Future research plan and operating policy	▪ Plan for an extended research, details, and operating policy ▪ Linkage with the existing research details	15
	Research objectives and methods	▪ Adequacy and concreteness of the objectives of the extended research and the research methods for achieving the objectives ▪ Adequacy and other matters of budget compilation and spending	10
	Volition for research fulfillment	▪ Volition of the host institution, host researcher, and the Brain Pool candidate for research fulfillment	5
Total			100

※ For a reapplication of projects that have benefitted from the program, the evaluation shall be conducted with a separate evaluation criteria and panel apart from new application projects
.※ For a reapplication of BP projects, 3-5 percent of selection evaluation scores will be added or deducted depending on evaluation results

C. (Type 2) Evaluation items and Distribution of Points

Evaluation Item		Evaluation Criteria	Allotted Score
Project Evaluation (30)	Excellence and necessity for support	▪ Excellence and concreteness of research project ▪ Necessity for government support and utilization of the Brain Pool candidate in the area and the research project	10
	Utilizing the capabilities of the host researcher	▪ Capabilities of the host researcher to utilize the Brain Pool candidate (e.g., research capabilities, and others)	10
	Level of utilization and expected impact of the research project	▪ Possibility of a domestic/international linkage and cooperation in a research project	10
	Subtotal		**30**
Research Plan of Brain Pool Candidates (30)	Research Plan of Brain Pool Candidates	▪ Research Plan of Brain Pool Candidates ▪ Continued networking plan with a Brain Pool candidate after completing the Brain Pool program	15
	Host institution's intention to support	▪Plan for supporting the Brain Pool candidate (Supporting the research funding from host institution, office space, research environment, administrative assistance, etc.) ▪ Plan to support the settlement of the Brain Pool Candidate (Housing, etc.)	15
	Subtotal		**30**
Evaluation of the Brain Pool Candidates (40)	Roles of the Brain Pool candidate	▪ Concreteness of the roles and the utilization plan of the Brain Pool candidate ▪ Whether the Brain Pool candidate possesses technologies that are desperately needed for the research project ▪ Validity and viability of the objectives and indicators of a joint research	15
	Capabilities of the Brain Pool candidate	▪ Diploma and research career ▪ Theses published in SCI-enlisted journals, patents, and achievements of academic activities made for the recent six years ※ In the case of industrial bodies, they can be substituted with achievements of technologies and businesses including patents, technical transfers, and technical commercialization.	15
	Expected impact and volition for job fulfillment	▪ Ripple effects as the results of joint R&D ▪ Activeness of the Brain Pool candidate 's motive for applying to the program	10
	Subtotal		**40**
Total			**100**

6. Schedule for the Brain Pool 1ˢᵗ round (2019) Recruitment

Schedule	Contents
Dec. 27, 2018 (Thur.)	Recruitment Announcement for the 1st round 2019
Mar. 5, 2019 (Tues.)	Application deadline for program plans (18:00)
Mar. 6, 2019 (Wed.)	Approval deadline for host institutions (18:00)
March 2019	Selection evaluation (requirements evaluation, evaluation by experts, comprehensive evaluation)
Early April., 2019	Final selection

7. Application and participation restrictions

A. Brain Pool Fellows are required to enter the Republic of Korea and commence research within three months from the date of final selection.

※ Failure to enter Korea within the time limit will lead to the cancellation of selection

B. Researchers under sanctions to participate in National R&D programs can neither apply for nor participate in the program.

C. This program is excluded from the projects subject to the restrictions (The number of R&D projects that can be simultaneously conducted by a host researcher shall not exceed five, among which the number of R&D projects that can be simultaneously conducted as a principal investigator (PI) shall not exceed three) referred to in Article 32 of the Regulations on Management, etc. of National Research and Development Projects.

8. Others

- In principle, the residence of Brain Pool Fellows is provided by host institutions (institution that host the Brain Pool fellows).
- Unclear research purpose or contents, or missing information in the application form may lead to disadvantages for the screening evaluations.
- Brain Pool fellows must enter Korea and launch their research within three months after being selected.
- For more information, please visit the website of National Research Foundation of Korea* or refer to the Brain Pool Guidelines (Appendix 4).

* (Visit www.nrf.re.kr (in Korean)- by selecting Program Information on Menu – Program Classification – Training and Human Resources Development – Global Research Invitation Programs -> Notice)

[Contact]	
Program Inquiry	**Global R&D Cooperation Team** **National Research Foundation of Korea(NRF)** ☎ 02-3460-5637, 5624 / E-mail: leehyencho@nrf.re.kr, is7990@nrf.re.kr
Online Inquiry	**Research Advisory Center (Call Center)** **National Research Foundation of Korea** ☎ 1544-6118

[Reference]   **List of Documents to be Submitted**

Necessary documents when applying
- Brain Pool application form (choose one between [Appendix 1-1] to [Appendix 1-3]) ① Appendix 1-1 (for Type 1 new application), ② Appendix 1-2 (for Type 1 re-application), ③ Appendix 1-3 (for Type 2)
Appropriate application form based on whether it is a new application or a re-application for an existing project.

Necessary documents after final selection (only for selected Brain Pool Projects)
- Paystub of Brain Pool fellow(invited scientist under BP program) for the entire recent year - Latest degree certificate of Brain Pool fellow - Invitation acceptance letter from Brain Pool fellow (for newly-selected project)

<List of documents to be submitted>

※ Please select an application form between [1-1] to [1-3] based on whether it is a new application or a re-application (within 30 pages excluding cover, summary, appendix and instruction)

※ Acceptance letter of Brain Pool candidates-**no fixed form**.
Exchange of letters (e.g. e-mail) including signature can also be accepted.

※ The **paystub for the entire recent year** is a **mandatory document** for the calculation of the personnel costs when selected as a Brain Pool fellow

※ **Documents must be written in Korean or English. Other languages should be translated into Korean or English, and the translation should be notarized.** The translated notarial documents should be attached.

*   In principle, the application form should be written in Korean by the host researcher (academic parts like research contents can be written in English as to share research plans with overseas researchers). "General Information of Invited Scientist (Brain Pool candidate)" shall be written by Brain Pool candidate in Korean or English.

※ Any false information in documents submitted may lead to withdrawal of selection even after the final evaluation.

※This guideline has been translated from original Korean documents with regards to Korean research. Therefore, this translation has focused on providing the main contents and points to brain pool overseas candidates for better understanding and subject to change without prior notice. The actual details will follow the "Guidelines for the Management of the Brain Pool(BP) Program" and "BP agreement".

※In the event of any discrepancy between the Korean original and this English translation, the Korean original shall prevail.