

## The Chance for Developing R&amp;D Career in Korea

# Brain Pool Program

## What is Brain Pool (BP/BP+) Program ?

- ✓ BP Inviting overseas outstanding researchers to Korean R&D institutions
- ✓ BP+ Inviting Distinguished / top-tier scholars to Korean R&D institutions through *full-scale support for salary, stay, travel, and research collaboration*

## Who is eligible for the program?

- ✓ Researchers in **Science and Technology field**
- ✓ **Ph.D. Holder who is living overseas**(If you are invited to universities and research institutions)
- ✓ Ph.D. Holder who is living overseas or who have more than 5 years of onsite R&D experience in the industry regardless of Ph.D. (If you are invited to companies)

## Supporting items (2026) ✓ Supporting items are subject to change

### BP Individual track

1:1 Joint Research  
Korean PI & BP Fellow

- 12 months ~ 3 years
- **Salaries** (Up to 300 million KRW per year)
- **Cost for Relocation** (Airfare etc.)
- **Research Activity Incentives**
- **Subsidies for Child Education**
- **Extra Funding for Research Activities**  
(conference, materials for experiments, etc.)

### BP+ Institution track

Korean Institution-led  
Global Talent Recruitment

- 5 years / potential for a tenure-track position
- **(Institution) Integrated package support** to invite/recruit global talent for R&D institution  
- International talent recruitment activity cost, etc.
- **(Invited International Scientist) Salaries, Family Settlement support, R&D operating Expense**  
- Airfare, relocation cost, family accompaniment, etc.
- **at least 2 distinguished scholars must be retained.**

## How to apply?

Check below QR for more information!



◆ If you need any help for finding Host PI in Korea, please access **RPIK(rpik.or.kr)** that has list of Korean research labs!

## Schedule of Brain Pool Program

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| ✓ <b>Announcement</b>   | Around year-end or early next year                            |
| ✓ <b>Application</b>    | Around February - April                                       |
| ✓ <b>Selection</b>      | Around June   |
| ✓ <b>Implementation</b> | (BP) 1 <sup>st</sup> July/November (BP+) 1 <sup>st</sup> July |
- Inviting researchers should enter into Korea before the start date to conduct project
  - The schedule is subject to change based on the program progress

Are you finding  
Research Position  
or Information  
in Korea ?!

[www.rpik.or.kr](http://www.rpik.or.kr)

[www.rdik.or.kr](http://www.rdik.or.kr)

# Brain Pool Program

which invites outstanding overseas researchers in S&T to Korea



**Sung Hoon Kang**

Associate Professor in  
Department of  
Materials Science and  
Engineering, KAIST

*“The BP+ program provided a seamless bridge for my transition to Korea.”*

While serving as a faculty member at Johns Hopkins University, I was actively seeking the right opportunity to elevate my research to the next level. I first learned about the Brain Pool Plus (BP+) program through Professor Jinkyu “JK” Yang at Seoul National University. Having made a similar transition from the U.S. to Korea himself, his firsthand experience served as a crucial guide for my decision.

To be honest, I initially had several practical concerns regarding the transition, particularly regarding the research landscape and the realities of daily life in Korea. However, the BP+ program provided a seamless bridge, offering a research and living environment that even surpassed my previous settings in the U.S.

Now, as a faculty member at KAIST, I am experiencing the most rewarding chapter of my career. The synergy between world-class facilities, distinguished colleagues, and exceptionally bright students has empowered me to push the boundaries of my expertise beyond what was previously possible. Every moment spent brainstorming and uncovering new solutions with my team is deeply fulfilling.



**Jun Zhang**

Professor, Ph.D, IEEE Fellow  
Dept. of Electrical and  
Electronic Engineering,  
Hanyang University, ERICA  
Campus

*“From my early research roots in Korea to my current tenure-track role at Hanyang University, the Brain Pool program has provided a steadfast foundation for top-tier global scholars to lead and innovate”*

My professional journey began with postdoctoral research in KAIST two decades ago. After advancing my career internationally as an IEEE Fellow, I returned via the Brain Pool (BP) program to join Hanyang University ERICA as a professor.

The BP program demonstrates Korea’s commitment to attracting world-class scientists by providing robust institutional support for lab and team development, allowing me to focus on strategic research.

Currently, I lead a frontier international research team comprised of distinguished scholars from Hong Kong, Australia, the Americas, and East Asia, alongside local experts. This collaboration fosters innovation and mentors the next generation of global research elites.

I highly recommend the BP and BP+ programs to global colleagues seeking to lead at the forefront of Asia’s innovation ecosystem.



**Jörn Kersten**

Visiting Professor, Korea  
Institute for Advanced Study

*“Join a vibrant academic community and experience a society that really values education and innovation!”*

I joined the BP program to work on gravitational waves at Yonsei University. Profiting from Korea’s excellent academic environment with great researchers and very good students, I studied how gravitational wave observations might allow us glimpses into the earliest moments of the Universe.

The BP program offers the unusual opportunity for a long-term stay that allows to build closer connections with colleagues and a more solid basis for continuing research than a regular visit or sabbatical. Besides, events organized by the program enable contacts with both Korean and international scientists from other disciplines.

Finally, the support team is extraordinary and an invaluable help in settling in Korea and dealing with the occasional challenges of daily life in a foreign country.