

**Announcement of 2023 Outstanding Overseas Scientist Invitation Program Plus (Brain Pool+)**

The Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) and National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) are now accepting applications for new projects under the 2023 Outstanding Overseas Scientist Invitation Program Plus (Brain Pool+) to support research institutes in Korea to attract outstanding overseas researchers in order to promote innovative growth by facilitating joint research in S & T fields, securing core technologies, and fostering excellent human resources. Interested applicants are kindly requested to file their applications in accordance with the relevant procedures.

Dec 5, 2022

Lee Jong-Ho  
Minister, Ministry of Science and ICT  
Lee Kwang-bok  
President, National Research Foundation of Korea

**1. Purpose**

- To enhance research and development (R&D) capabilities and promote innovative growth by attracting outstanding overseas researchers to research institutes in Korea, as a key factor in securing new growth engines for Korea
- To attract outstanding researchers for strategic research in the field of S&T led by Korean research institutes and establish a long-term support system to lay the foundation for the future influx of outstanding talent overseas

**2. Overview**

- A. Research areas : All fields in Science and Technology  
\* Preferred fields : 12 National Strategic Technology fields

**※ 12 National Strategic Technology fields**

- (Leading Innovation) Secondary Cells, Leading-edge Mobility, Next Generation Nuclear Energy, Semiconductor and Display
- (Challenging Future) Leading-edge Bio, Aerospace and Marine, Cybersecurity, Hydrogen
- (Essential Foundation) Artificial Intelligent, Next generation Communication, Leading-edge Robotics and Manufacture, Quantum

B. Invitation eligibility: Overseas residing researchers who hold a Ph.D or who have more than 5 years of onsite R&D experience in the industry regardless of a Ph.D with outstanding research capabilities (e.g., an overseas Korean resident, ethnic overseas Korean, foreign national, etc.) that a research institute in Korea wishes to hire as a full-time employee.

C. Program Period: Up to 10 (4+6) years

D. Details of Support: Personnel Costs, Research facility equipment fee, Research activity expenses, etc. **Max. KRW 600 Mil./year**

Program Duration	Direct Costs					Indirect Costs
	Personnel Costs	Invitation Expenses	Student Personnel Costs	Facility· Equipment Costs	Others	
Max. 10years (4+6)	(principal Investigator) More than the level of full-time employee's personnel costs	Invitation supporting Expenses (invitation grant*, housing allowances**) Initial costs of setting up a laboratory, airfare, insurance premiums, moving expenses, child education subsidies, other invitation expenses***	Personnel costs for student researcher	Facility· equipment buying·setting/ operation· maintenance costs, rent, research infrastructure costs	Material costs, research allowances, etc.	5%
	Personnel costs for participants (postdoc, etc.)	<b>Up to a total of KRW 600 million per year</b>				

\* The amount of invitation grant will be decided through arrangement between host institution and invited researcher and it should be more than invited researcher's salary at the original affiliated institution.

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

\*\*\* Other invitation expenses: Korean language course fee, Quarantine fee, visa issuance fee, etc.

- ※ ① In case of corporation(or corporate research institutes), the Enforcement Decree of the National Research and Development Innovation Act will be applied
- ② In the first year, government contributions will be prorated on a monthly basis for the actual research period (including indirect costs).
- ③ After the final selection, details of support may change at the submission of agreement or when signing the agreement due to the possible changes of the policy or circumstances.

### 3. Quota and Eligibility

#### A. Quota (planned): Around 5 projects in total

#### B. Eligibility

- R&D institutes: Government-funded research institutions, national/public research institutions, universities, research institutions affiliated with universities, nonprofit research institutions and corporations, corporations and corporate research institutions
- Principal investigator: A university employee holding a position equivalent to dean of academic affairs (head of faculty personnel department, etc.), dean, department dean, graduate school dean level, or an employee at a non-university research institutions, personnel department head and department head level
- \* The principal investigator described above(a dean of academic affairs etc.) 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).
- \* After the final selection is confirmed, the invited scientist should submit the research proposal as the principal investigator and sign the agreement (subject to the provision limiting the maximum

number of R&D projects that can be carried out simultaneously by a researcher).

- Invited scientist: An overseas-based researcher in S&T fields with outstanding research capabilities (e.g., an overseas Korean resident, ethnic overseas Korean, foreign national, etc.) that a domestic research institute wishes to hire as a full-time employee.
  - \* A doctorate-holder residing abroad (proof such as a certificate of employment at a research institute is required) or an R&D researcher without a doctorate degree with more than 5 years of industry experience overseas as of the date of the announcement.

#### 4. Application Procedure and Document Submission

**A. Announcement period:** Dec 5 (Mon), 2022 - Jun 30 (Fri), 2023

**B. Application submission period**

- **1st call:** Jan 16 (Mon) – **Jan 31 (Tue), 2023, 6PM (researcher application and institute approval)**
- **2nd call:** Feb 1 (Wed) - **Apr 28 (Fri), 2023, 6PM (researcher application and institute approval)**
- **3rd call:** Apr 29 (Sat) – **Jun 30 (Fri), 2023, 6PM (researcher application and institute approval)**
  - \* Approval from the inviting research institute must be completed by 6PM on the application due date. **(Applications not approved by the inviting institution will be treated as not accepted.)**

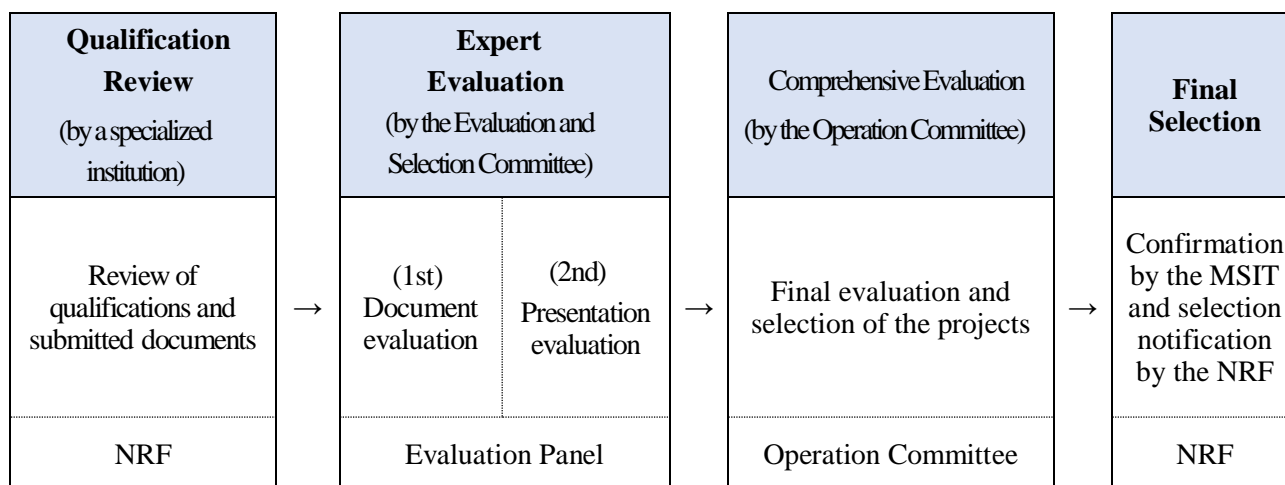
**C. Application procedure:** Online application (via the IRIS system of the KISTEP)

**D. Document submission**

<b>Document Submission for Applications</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An application for the Outstanding Overseas Scientists Invitation Program Plus (BP+)</li> <li>- An agreement for the Outstanding Overseas Scientists Invitation Program Plus (BP+)</li> <li>- Final degree certificate and Proof of employment (or proof of employment history) for the invited outstanding overseas scientist</li> <li>- Documented proof of research achievements of the invited scientist <u>※ Submission of the first page of each thesis and the bibliographic information of each patent is mandatory, but submission of other documents is optional.</u></li> <li>- A certificate of recognition of a corporate research institute or confirmation on the classification of a business enterprise (only applicable for a project applied for by a business enterprise)</li> </ul>
<b>Document Submission after the Final Selection and Prior to the Agreement</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A research and development (R&amp;D) proposal</li> <li>- A copy of the employment contract (or an official internal notice of personnel appointment)</li> <li>- Proof of annual salary at the original institution</li> <li>- An agreement to the provision and utilization of personal information and taxation information</li> <li>- A statement of compliance with ethical standards of research</li> </ul>

## 5. Project Evaluation

### A. Evaluation procedure



\*Above procedure is subject to change depending on the application results

- Qualification review
  - Qualifications of the inviting research institute and the invited scientist will be reviewed
  - When the application is filed, all required documents must be submitted and all information in the documents must be accurate. A serious error in the documents or failure to submit any of the required documents will result in the rejection of the application at the qualification review stage.
- Document evaluation
  - Submitted documents will be reviewed and evaluated according to the field of research and technology.
  - The Evaluation Committee members will review the submitted documents based on the evaluation index.
  - The Evaluation Committee members will gather the evaluation results and write their opinion for project's improvement
- Presentation evaluation & Comprehensive evaluation
  - The Evaluation and Selection Committee composed of experts (possibly including members who will also participate in the document evaluation) will conduct evaluation on the project presentation.
    - \* During this face-to-face evaluation, Evaluation Committee members may request changes such as addition or deletion of certain areas of the application, and the inviting research institute may reveal whether it has been accepted or not.
  - The face-to-face presentation will be directly given by the principal investigator and invited scientist from the research institute (or a person delegated by the principal investigator), and a Q&A session will be conducted.
    - \* The presentation will be conducted by joint presentation, but the invited scientist who is residing overseas can participate through the video meeting at the same time.
  - The selection and order of priority will be decided after a comprehensive review of prospective support for the research institute (including support for personnel costs, permission of concurrent industry employment, support for family settlement, support for the initial costs of laboratory construction, etc.); utilization plan (in connection with the institute's development plan to nurture talent and to establish an R&D cluster in collaboration with outstanding business enterprises, etc.); the necessity of the invitation; and the research capabilities of the candidate.

- Review of the research proposal and conclusion of the agreement
  - After the hiring of the invited scientist is confirmed, the scientist is required to prepare and submit a research proposal.
  - A special committee consisting of experts will conduct an in-depth review of the research proposal and appropriateness of the calculated research budget to determine matters to be revised and supplemented.
  - After the research proposal is revised and supplemented, the agreement will be concluded and the research budget will be provided.

## B. Evaluation items and scoring

Evaluation Item	Evaluation Criteria	Score
Necessity of support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Necessity of inviting the overseas scientist of the inviting research institute</li> <li>• Necessity of government support for the field of the project applied by the inviting research institute</li> </ul>	20
Capabilities of the research institute to utilize the invited scientist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research capabilities of the inviting research institute to utilize the invited scientist (e.g., key research field, capabilities, standard of research in related fields, etc.)</li> <li>• Expected impact of inviting the overseas scientist based on the analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the research institute</li> <li>• Likelihood of the overseas scientist to accept the invitation</li> </ul>	20
Support plan for the invited scientist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic support plan such as treatment of the invited scientist (e.g., status-related matters such as maximum salary and allowance for concurrent industry employment, salary, and welfare benefits), matching support for research expenses, and the project budget utilization plan, and the soundness of the plan</li> <li>• Settlement support system (e.g., designated administrative staff, child education and spouse settlement support, etc.)</li> <li>• Physical research environment (laboratory, equipment, etc.) support plan and the soundness of the plan</li> <li>• Other support plans such as a network support plan in related fields</li> </ul>	10
Capabilities of the invitation candidate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theses, patents, research achievements, technology commercialization, R&amp;D experience, awards, etc. (5 major research accomplishments such as thesis publications and technology commercialization over the recent 5 years)</li> </ul>	30
Expected impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expected impact of the project execution on the national economy</li> </ul>	20
Total		100

- Appropriateness evaluation prior to the agreement(after the selection notice)

Evaluation Item	Evaluation Criteria
Excellence of the R&D proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Necessity and importance of the research, appropriateness of the research methods and calculation of the research budget</li> <li>• Ingenuity (originality) and daring spirit of the research topic and content</li> <li>• Excellence and appropriateness of the research goals</li> <li>• Difference from existing research or potential for further development</li> </ul>

Excellence of the talent development plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellence and concreteness of the talent development plan</li> <li>• Excellence of the curriculum, if there is an education (training) program planned.</li> </ul>
Excellence of the researcher (and research team)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellence and appropriateness of the research capabilities of the principal investigator (and research team)</li> </ul>
Utilization of the research achievements and expected impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expected academic and technological impact on the research field or related fields</li> <li>• Possibility of social contribution through integration with applied research and commercialization</li> </ul>

## 6. Schedule (Planned)

Schedule	Description
Jan 31, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deadline for the 1<sup>st</sup> call for project proposals</li> </ul>
Mar-Apr, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st call evaluation (review of qualification requirements, expert evaluation, and comprehensive review) and final selection</li> </ul>
Apr 28, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deadline for the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for project proposals</li> </ul>
May-Jun, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2nd call evaluation (review of qualification requirements, expert evaluation, and comprehensive review) and final selection</li> </ul>
Jun 30, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deadline for the 3<sup>rd</sup> call for project proposals</li> </ul>
Jul-Aug, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3rd call evaluation (review of qualification requirements, expert evaluation, and comprehensive review) and final selection</li> </ul>
Apr-Oct, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invited scientist coming to Korea / submission of employment contract (R&amp;D institute-&gt;NRF)</li> <li>• Submission of R&amp;D plan that will be used in agreement</li> </ul>

\* The above schedule is subject to change depending on the performance and progress of the program.

## 7. Notes on Application and Participation

A. Once the selection is notified, the inviting research institute must complete the hiring of the invited overseas scientist by the end of October 2023 and report to the specialized institution (and by the end of the year. Subsequently, the invited scientist must enter Korea and submit a research proposal).

\* However, the schedule may be subject to change and specified separately, in the event of a global disaster or natural disaster.

B. The personnel cost born by the research institute must be equal to or higher than the salary of the institute's full-time salary.

C. The indirect cost of the research institute should follow the indirect calculation cost of the National Research and Development Act. Pursuant to the Act of standards of research and development costs


article 37, 2<sup>nd</sup> clause, third and fifth sub-paragraph, indirect cost should not exceed 5%.

○ Indirect cost calculation: (direct cost – spot goods – project outsourcing fee – cooperation development fee- research and development allotment) × indirect cost rate(5%)

D. Pursuant to the National Research and Development Act, the principal investigator will be limited to participate in other R&D projects under the 3 projects as a principle investigator and 5 as a regular researcher policy.

E. If the selection is abandoned without any special reason after the project selection is confirmed, the invited scientist and the research institute may receive a penalty in any future application for the program.

F. The lack of clarity of the research purpose or content, or the presence of any errors or omissions may be disadvantageous in the evaluation.

<b>【Contact】</b>	
Inquiries about the BP Program	Researcher Jun Sup Kim, International R&D Collaboration Team at National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)  +82-2-3460-5647 E-mail: sjhan@nrf.re.kr * Please contact us via email if you are experiencing difficulties contacting us by phone.