

# Announcement of Korea Research Fellowship (KRF) for Postdoctoral Researchers – (2<sup>nd</sup> Call in 2020)

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 prospective overseas Ph.D. researchers to join the Korea Research Fellowship (KRF) program. This program is designed to help overseas post-doc researchers produce outstanding achievements and pursue mutual growth in South Korea. Interested applicants are requested to file an application in accordance with the relevant procedures.

June 8th, 2020

**Choi, Kiyong**

**Minister of the Ministry of Science and ICT**

**Roe, Jung-Hye**

**President of the National Research Foundation of Korea**

## 1. Program Goal

To create outstanding results by potential and competent overseas early stage postdoctoral researchers by inviting researchers in Korea for long term and to strengthen Korea-friendly networks.

## 2. Program Overview

**A. Eligibility of KRF candidates:** Overseas post-doc researchers or \*Korean national post-doc researchers currently residing overseas within the past five years

**B. Fields of Research:** All fields in science and technology

\* Preference fields: research fields highly correlated to “\*8 leading industry technology fields”, “\*3 strategic investment fields”, “\*13 innovation growth engines, materials, components, and equipment”

\* (3 strategic investment fields) ① Data Economics (Big Data/Block Chain/Shared Economy), ② Artificial Intelligence, ③ Hydrogen Economy

\* (8 leading industry technology fields) ① Smart Factory, ② Smart Farm, ③ Smart City, ④ FinTech, ⑤ New Energy Industry, ⑥ Drone, ⑦ Future Vehicle, ⑧ Bio Health

\* (13 innovation growth engines) ① Big Data, ② Next Generation Communications, ③ Artificial Intelligence, ④ Autonomous (Driving)Vehicles, ⑤ Drone, ⑥ Customized Healthcare, ⑦ Smart City, ⑧ Virtual and Augmented Reality, ⑨ Intelligent Robot, ⑩ Intelligent Semiconductor, ⑪ Advanced Materials, ⑫ Innovative New Drugs, ⑬ New and Renewable Energy

**C. Duration of Program:** 3~5 years (support for each fiscal year)

(Less than a 3 year research period will be not be acceptable)

## D. Level of Funding:

Type	Program Period	Program Type	Personnel Costs	Living Expenses	Others	Subsidies for Host Institutions	
[Type 1] Inviting researchers residing overseas (Overseas=> Korea)	3-5 years	1-1	Support up to KRW 70 million / year				KRW 5 million (fixed amount) (for the Assigned Staff, Nuri Course Subsidies, etc.)
			Up to KRW 50 million	Up to KRW 12 million (for housing, such as rent)	Up to KRW 5 million (Airfare, Moving Expense, Travel Expenses, etc.)		
		1-2	Support up to KRW 110 million / year				KRW 5 million (fixed amount) (for the Assigned Staff, Nuri Course Subsidies, etc.)
			50% or more of matching funds of the total amount of KRF fund from the host institution is mandatory (Ex. If the KRF fund for personnel costs, housing rent, child tuition fees, etc. total of KRW 100 Mil., the host institution is required to arrange additional matching funds of KRW 50 mil. Total: KRW 150 mil)	Up to KRW 5 million (Airfare, Moving Expense, Travel Expenses, etc.)			

- ※ For Type 1-1 & 1-2: Korean Nationals who are residing overseas and hold a Ph.D. degree from universities in Korea or abroad are eligible.
- ※ For Type 1-1: For corporate research institutions as a host, 70 % of personnel costs can be supported from KRF program.
- ※ For Type 1-2: 50% or more of matching funds from the host institution of the total amount of KRF fund for personnel costs, living expenses (housing rent, child tuition fees, etc.) is mandatory.

## 3. Quota and Eligibility

### A. Quota for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call of 2020: 00 fellows

### B. Qualifications

- **Host institution:** Government supported research institutes, national and public research institutes, universities and university-affiliated research institutes, corporate research institutes\* and nonprofit research institutes.

\* Corporate research institutes are those established under Article 14 (1) of the Basic Research Promotion and Technology Development Support Act

**※ Possible to apply for this program in the case that the host institute is planning to hire the overseas researcher (KRF candidate) as a "full-time (permanent) employee" (When invited as a full time employee, the host researcher of the KRF program will be switched to the overseas researcher as a principal investigator by the agreement amendment after program selection)**

- **Overseas post-doc researchers (KRF Candidates)**

(Type 1-1, 1-2) Foreign national or Korean national post-doc researchers currently

residing overseas that have received their doctoral degree within the past five years

\* Please note that upon being selected, KRF fellows need to submit their physical doctoral degree certificate or diploma which must be conferred within Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 ~ Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

\*\*As a rule, provisional certificates are not accepted. Proof of work as a postdoctoral fellow without submitting the copy of actual degree certificate is not accepted.

### C. Major preferences

- Minimum selection quota (30%) for ethnic Koreans or Korean nationals residing overseas.
- Certain number of projects are scheduled to be selected in the fields of new industries, materials, components, and equipment
- In order to diversify the nationality of attracting researchers, the maximum selection rate (20%) per nationality (excluding Korea) is possible

## 4. How to apply:

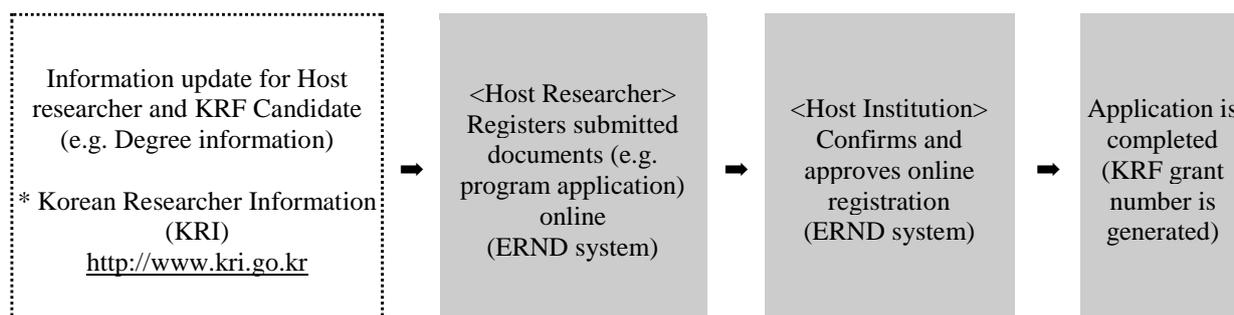
**A. Recruitment announcement period:** June 8<sup>th</sup> (Mon.) ~ July 10<sup>th</sup> (Fri.) 2020 by 18:00

**B. Application submission period:** June 22<sup>nd</sup> (Mon.) ~ July 10<sup>th</sup> (Fri.) 2020 by 18:00  
(Application submission and confirmation of host institution)

※ Approval from their host institutions on ERND system: **by July 10<sup>th</sup> (Fri.), 2020 by 18:00**

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

### C. How to apply: Online



- Host research institutes seek out outstanding KRF candidates and apply through the Integrated Research Support System of the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) (<https://ernd.nrf.re.kr>)

※ **Host researchers and KRF candidates can only submit application in ONE program type (either 1-1 or 1-2, not both).**

※ Information of Host Researcher and KRF candidates (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 (KRF applicant)'s ERND account not by the KRF candidate's. The application shall be

prepared within the deadline and made certain the KRF application and necessary documentation required is uploaded in time)

## D. What to submit

<b>Necessary Documents When Applying</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- KRF application Form Please select and submit based on the appropriate application form</li><li>① Appendix 1-1 (for Type 1-1), ② Appendix 1-2 (for Type 1-2)</li><li>- Agreement to personal information utilization</li><li>- Pledge agreement of executing contract of integrity</li></ul>
<b>Necessary Documents After Final Selection (Only for Selected KRF Projects)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Physical doctoral degree certificate or diploma of the KRF fellow</li></ul> <p>*(provisional certificates are not accepted)</p>

## E. Introducing 2020 Research Host Matching Service -

**- 2020 Research Host Matching Service -**

For interested postdoc researchers residing overseas who have not secured the host institutions in Korea may submit their full CVs with required information via email. For host researchers in Korea interested in research host matching service, please contact us regarding your interested KRF candidates, we will email you the candidate's CV via email.

○ **Overview of Research Host Matching Service**

- **Target**

- Outstanding post-doc overseas researchers who are eligible for Type 1-1,1-2 conditions and have not secured hosts in Korea to apply for the KRF program
- Host researchers in Korea who are eligible to be a KRF applicant as a host PI and wish to host outstanding post-doc overseas researchers via the KRF program.

- **Procedures**

For host researchers: Host Researchers request candidates' CV via email -> confirm the eligibility of KRF candidates based on the KRF regulations by host PI -> Apply for the KRF program by host PI

○ **How to apply:**

- **Eligibility:** Same as the eligibility of the KRF program

- **How to apply:**

- Host researchers contact us via an email stating their interested candidates. (upon requested, NRF provided candidate' CV to host PI)
- For overseas researchers (KRF candidates) : Please send your CV with the scanned copy of Ph.D. certificate conferred via an email stating your nationality, field of research and official PhD conferral date stating on your certificate (provisional certificates are not acceptable)

**- Reminders**

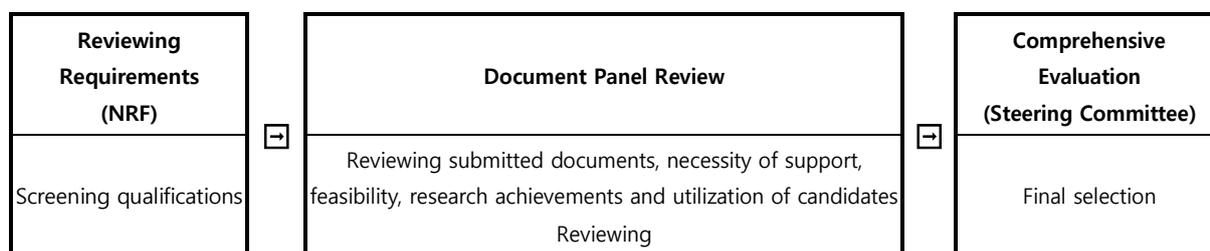
- Once research host matching is completed, an official decision is made to host the candidate in order to apply for KRF program after confirmation with their respective host institution and the KRF candidate
- Application and evaluation procedures will be the same with other applications in which host PIs secure their candidate on their own. (No extra scores for application via research host matching service will apply)
- Please apply for the "Research Host Matching Service" if needed as earliest as possible, in order to prepare the application in time after confirmation with the candidate and time to prepare the application form.
- The eligibility of the KRF candidates shall be screened and confirmed by host researchers

○ **Inquiries and application submission:**

- salee@nrf.re.kr (in Korean) / jenny@krf-help.net (in English)

## 5. Evaluation Procedures and Methods

### A. Evaluation Procedures



\* Evaluation procedures may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

### B. Criteria for Evaluation

Division	Evaluation Item	Evaluation Indicator	Marks
Research plan	Superiority of the research plan and the necessity for a support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Clarity of program objectives and the superiority of the project plan               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concreteness of the plan for attaining objectives</li> <li>- Composition and operation of the project implementation plan and the detailed program</li> <li>- Expected effect of the research and the appropriateness of the utilization plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ Necessity for a budget support from the government               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Necessity for a government support and attraction of foreign professionals in connection with the relevant field and projects</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	20
Capability of the Fellow	Research performance and capability of the Fellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Research performance and capability of the Fellow               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Superiority of the representative research performance of the Fellow (i.e., representative outstanding thesis, patents, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	10
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Whether the Fellow has a potential research capability and experience (know-how) in the relevant field               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A university who has conferred a doctorate on the Fellow and the reputation of his/her academic advisor</li> <li>- Superiority of the related research experience (for Fellows with a related experience after receiving his/her degree)</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ The Fellow's possible contributions to the Korean research field and the</li> </ul>	20

		necessity of inviting the Fellow - Concreteness and superiority of the research plan that is supported by the capability of the Fellow and the possible contributions of such plan	
	Roles and invitation effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Contribution to and the ripple effect on the Korean research field</li> <li>- Introduction of technology and construction of networks at home and abroad through the Fellow</li> </ul>	15
Utilization and support of the Fellow	Plan for the utilization and development of the Fellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Appropriateness of the utilization plan for the Fellow</li> <li>- Capability of the host researcher and the roles and necessity of the Fellow</li> <li>- Securing of research funds and exchanges with Korean research professionals and others</li> <li>- Securing of research professionals and equipment and an education support system</li> <li>◦ System for supporting the development of the Fellow such as career development and others</li> <li>- Support for the Fellow's development such as education and capability promotion for the KRF Program period and others</li> <li>- Plan for the continued utilization of the Fellow and a long-term vision such as an employment after the completion of the KRF Program period</li> </ul>	20
	Structure and support system of the host institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Host institution's intention to implement and support</li> <li>- Plan for supporting the office space and life of the Fellow</li> <li>- Plan for assisting the Fellow through a budget and administrative support</li> <li>◦ Construction of infrastructure of the host institution (i.e., plan for utilization of the assigned staff and others)</li> <li>- Plan for utilization of the assigned staff</li> <li>- Operation of the specialized team in charge of foreigners and plan for supporting the specialized team</li> <li>- Building of a cooperation network with foreign researchers for the adjustment of the Fellow</li> </ul>	15
	Research funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Appropriateness of the level of the personnel costs</li> <li>- Present status of the personnel costs in the related fields, and appropriate personnel costs based on the capability of the Fellow</li> </ul>	
Total			100

## 6. Schedule

Schedule	Details
June 8 <sup>th</sup> (Mon.), 2020	Announcement of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> call KRF program of 2020
July 10 <sup>th</sup> (Fri.), 2020	Application closed & Approval from host institutions on ERND closed <b>(18:00 Korea time)</b>
July ~ August, 2020	Selection evaluation (Document/Panel) Comprehensive Evaluation and Selection notification
September 1 <sup>st</sup> (Tue), 2020	Project Implementation

## 7. Restrictions to Application or Participation

- A. KRF fellows are required to enter the Republic of Korea and commence research by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 from the date of final selection.
- B. Host researchers subject to restrictions for participation in national R&D projects can apply and participate only if the period of such restriction terminates before the deadline for application submission.
- 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.
- D. In the event that the selection is abandoned by the applicant without any special reason after the notification of selection, penalty can be applied such as 3-year restriction for the future KRF application by the same applicant and candidate (host researcher & overseas researcher).
- ※ Close consultation with invited scientists (KRF candidates) on personnel costs and timing of the invitation are required before applying for the KRF program.
- E. Unclear research purpose or contents, or missing information in the application form may lead to disadvantages for the screening evaluations.
- F. For more information, please visit NRF website at [www.nrf.re.kr](http://www.nrf.re.kr) (In Korean)

[Contact]	
Program Inquiry	International R&D Collaboration Team National Research Foundation of Korea(NRF) (For Korean) ☎ 02-3460-5647 / E-mail: <a href="mailto:salee@nrf.re.kr">salee@nrf.re.kr</a> (For English) ☎ 044-866-6381 / E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@krf-help.net">info@krf-help.net</a> ※ If the line is continuously busy, please send us your inquiries via email
Inquiries for Online Application	Research Advisory Center (Call Center) National Research Foundation of Korea ☎ 1544-6118

- ※ 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 overseas researchers for better understanding and subject to change without prior notice. **In the event of any discrepancy between the Korean original and this English translation, the Korean original shall prevail.** We assume no responsibility for this translation or for direct, indirect or any other form of damage arising from the translation.