Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning, Public Notice No. 2017-0203

**Announcement of Korea Research Fellowship (KRF) for Postdoctoral Researchers – (2nd round in 2017)**

The MSIP (Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning) and NRF (National Research Foundation of Korea) welcome applications from 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 candidates are requested to file an application in accordance with the relevant procedures.

**Eligibility:** Overseas post-doc researchers who have obtained their doctoral degree within the past five years starting from February 28th, 2017.

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

\* Preference fields: high correlation fields related to 10 major category investment strategies such as ICT/SW, biotechnology, energy resources, nano-materials, machinery, agriculture/fishery and food, aerospace/aviation and marine, construction and transportation, meteorological environment, and basic research field of science.

**Duration of Fellowship:** Up to five years

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

※ Team Project needs to be a 5 year-plan. After completing the 2nd year, the project evaluation will be performed to decide to continue the rest of 3 years or not.

**Level of Funding:**

-Type 1 (Inviting researchers residing overseas): Up to KRW 70 million per annum (personnel costs, living expenses, etc. for KRF fellow)

- Type 2 (Long-Term Residency in Korea: Around KRW 40 million per annum (personnel costs for KRF fellow)

\*Type 2: Personnel costs of the KRF fellow- 20% or more needs to be set by the matching funds from the host institution (including host researcher’s projects)

(Please take extra caution that the matching funds shall be more than 20% of personnel costs of the KRF fellow, not the total amount of KRF funds for Personnel costs)

※ To apply as a team is possible for this round in our new trial "the team project"(Type 1 and Type 2 can be combined together.)

<KRF Funding for Team Project>

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| ㆍ Type1 (1 Fellow) + Type 1 (1 Fellow): around 140 (70+70) Million Korean Won |
| ㆍ Type1 (1 Fellow) + Type 2 (1 Fellow): 110 (70+40) Million Korean Won |
| ㆍ Type 2 (1 Fellow) + Type 2 (1 Fellow): 80 (40+40) Million Korean Won |

Quota for the Second Round of 2017: Around 20 fellows (Total of individual fellows and team projects fellows )

*Type 1: Fellows who will enter Korea from overseas: about 15 fellows,*

*Type 2: Fellows who are currently residing in Korea: about 5 fellows*

**Qualifications:**

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

\* Corporate research institutes are those established as SMEs and venture businesses under Article 14 (1) of the Basic Research Promotion and Technology Development Support Act and Article 16 (1) of the Enforcement Decree of the same Act.

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

(Type 1) Foreign national or \*Korean national post-doc researchers currently residing overseas that have received their doctoral degree within the past five years (as of February 28th, 2017)

\*Korean nationals - limited to those who are residing overseas and have earned their doctoral degrees abroad.

(Type 2) Foreign national post-doc researchers currently residing in Korea that have received their doctoral degree within the past five years (as of February 28th, 2017)

**\* Please note that KRF candidates need to have obtained their physical doctoral degree certificate or diploma as of the date of February 28th, 2017. 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.**

※ KRF fellows who are currently enrolled in their KRF tenure, cannot join as a fellow of team project.

**How to apply:**

**1) Application submission period: April 17th to May 25th, 2017 (6 p.m.)**

**\*** Approval from their host institutions on ERND: by **May 26th, 2017 (6 p.m.)**

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

**2)Application from a Korean Host Researcher**

Applications for the KRF program must be submitted to ERND system of NRF by the host researchers in Korea through the head of his/her institution. Overseas researchers wishing to participate in the KRF program are advised to establish contact with a Korean researcher in their field and to ask him/her to submit an application.

**3)For overseas researchers wishing to participate in the KRF program but currently do not have host researcher in Korea**

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| - For the Second Round of 2017 of the KRF announcement, interested overseas  postdoc researchers who have not secured the host institutions in Korea(hereafter applicants) may submit their full CVs with a proposed research  plan for KRF program according to the **[form 3 appendix]** via email to:  [Jenny@krf-help.net](mailto:Jenny@krf-help.net)  -Upon submitted documents, successful applicants screened will be recommended to the appropriate institutions and prospective host researchers in Korea.  ※Only successful applicants will be recommended to the prospective host institutions in Korea after screening by the review board and advisory committee.  ※ For the Second Round of KRF 2017, documents must be submitted by May 8th (Mon.), 2017 to be considered for screening in order to recommend to the Korean institutions, and the host researcher must submit the KRF application (form 1 appendix) by May 25th, 2017. An official decision is made to host the applicant after confirmation with their respective host institution and the applicant. |

**4) Submission of KRF Application:** Online submission via the research support system (ERND) of the National Research Foundation of Korea (<http://ernd.nrf.re.kr>) by host researcher by May 25th 2017, and approved by your host institution by May 26th 2017.

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

※ Application should be uploaded on the ERND system by Host researcher (KRF applicant)'s ERND account not by KRF candidate's.

※ Please confirm the deadline (the application shall be prepared within the deadline and make certain the KRF application and necessary documentations required uploaded in time)

※ Host researcher can apply to host only one KRF candidate except for team project.

**5) Necessary documents to be submitted: Refer to [Note 1] < Materials to be Submitted> and Appendix documents.**

※ Please make the KRF application around total 30 pages except for cover, summary, attachments, and guidelines. (around 40 pages for team project)

6) Contact Information

- **KRF program: Academic Infrastructure Support Team, NRF**

(+82 42-869-6577/6374/6378(for English))

-**Online application**: NRF researcher help system (1544-6118, Help Desk)

**Evaluation Procedures**

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| **Reviewing Requirements** | ➡ | **Selection Evaluation** | ➡ | **Final Selection** |
| Screening qualifications | (1) Document examination  (2) Presentation  ※ On-site inspection, if necessary | Announcement on selection results |
| NRF | Evaluation Committee | Operating Committee |

※ Presentation (interview) will be scheduled for both host researchers and overseas postdoc researchers (candidates) that have passed documents examination screening.

**Assessment Criteria -All Applications**

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| ∙ The quality of the proposed research project and necessity of support.  ∙ Candidates’ capacity, potential, and willingness to participate in the KRF program.  ∙ Plans for supporting the growth (settlement) of candidates; infrastructure of host institutions.  ∙ Suitability of proposal to the KRF program/objectives and appropriate amount of research grants.  ∙(For team project) Networking and synergistic interactions between fellows |

**<Schedule>**

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| **Schedule** | **Details** |
| April.20th (Thur.) 2017 | Announcement of the 2nd-round KRF program of 2017 |
| May 25th (Thur.), 2017 | Application closed (18:00 Korea time) |
| May 26th (Fri.) , 2017 | Approval from host institutions on ERND closed  (18:00 Korea time) |
| June , 2017 | Selection evaluation (document, presentation) |
| The End of June, 2017 | Final selection |

**Restrictions to Application or Participation**

* KRF fellows are required to enter the Republic of Korea and commence research within three months from the date of final selection.
* Host researchers subject to restrictions for participation in national R&D projects are allowed to apply and participate only if the period of such restriction terminates before the deadline for application submission.
* 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.

Note 1. < Documents to be submitted>

Appendix 1. (Type 1) KRF application form

(Type 2) KRF application form

(Team Project) KRF application form

2. KRF guideline

3. Application form for KRF individual candidate

**[Note 1]**

**< Documents to be submitted >**

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| **No.** | **Title of Forms** | **Condition** |
| 1 | KRF application | Mandatory |
| 2 | Agreement to personal information utilization |
| 3 | Pledge Agreement of Executing Contract of Integrity  (INTEGRITY DECLARATION) |
| 4 | Resume of Candidate |
| 5 | Certificate of Ph.D. degree and working experience of Candidate |
| 6 | Letters of recommendations- for candidate |
| 7 | Host institutions’ confirmation to provide support |
| 8 | Other certificates(Language-related certificates, etc.) | If applicable |
| 9 | Evidential document for corporate research institute |

※ KRF candidate’s physical doctoral degree certificate or diploma(copy) must be submitted. As a rule Provisional certificates are not accepted. Proof of work as a postdoctoral fellow without submitting the copy of the actual degree certificate is not accepted. (Only official certifications stating the degree conferral date issued by your degree awarded by the university can be granted. Certificates not showing a degree conferral date or provisional certificates are not acceptable.)

※ All the documentations including application form shall be written in Korean or English

If any documents required are written in a language other than Korean or English, please submit certified translations for all foreign language documents into Korean or English.

-KRF application form shall be written in Korean by KRF applicant (host researcher), however, portions regarding academic contents can be written in English in order to share research plans with the KRF candidate (KRF fellow),

“Chapter Ⅱ. Overseas Post-doc Researcher (Candidate)” shall be written by KRF candidate in Korean or English

※ Résumé of the post-doc researcher: No fixed form

-Please include KRF candidate’s educational background (degree), career, research field, outstanding results in about 2~3 pages

※ Letters of reference for KRF candidates

2 or more recommendations including from PhD professors except for the host researcher (no fixed form)

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

※These guidelines have 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 post-doc researchers for reference purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy between the Korean original and this English translation, the Korean original shall prevail.