

Bilateral Korean-Swiss Science and Technology Programme

YOUNG RESEARCHERS' EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN KOREA AND SWITZERLAND 2016/17

I. General Description

I-1. Scheme for the Exchange of Young Researchers between Korea and Switzerland

Korea has been listed as a priority country for bilateral relations in science and technology in the Swiss confederation's dispatch on education, research and innovation in 2008. In the same year, the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) commissioned ETH Zurich as the Leading House (LH) for its bilateral collaboration with Korea on the basis of the recommendation by the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities.

After a first successful phase from 2008-2012 with a programme for seed funding and joint research projects between Switzerland and Korea, the Swiss bilateral programmes with partner countries have now entered a new funding phase from 2013-2016. The Leading Houses have been charged with a strategizing function as well as with a budget for smaller funding and exchange instruments. ETH Zurich will be using these funds to run a joint exchange programme for young researchers with the Korean National Research Foundation (NRF).

I-2. Aim of the Programme and Research Field

The main purpose of the exchange programme is to foster and facilitate the direct exchange between Korean and Swiss research groups and to enable the mobility of young researchers such as PhD students. With stays in a partner research group in Korea or Switzerland, respectively, the researchers should be motivated to spend part of their later scientific career abroad while they are at the same time given the chance to learn a new technique or use some infrastructure directly relevant to their current research project.

The programme will fund research stays for a duration of 3 months and is open to all scientific fields including social sciences and humanities.

I-3. Prospective Applicants

ETH Zurich as the Leading House of the programme invites PhD students (with justification also young postdocs are accepted) currently working in research groups at Swiss Universities, Universities of Applied Sciences or public Research Institutes to submit their application for a research stay in a Korean group. At the same time Korean young researchers can apply to the NRF for a stay in Switzerland.

Please observe:

Applicants with Korean nationality cannot be considered for stays in Korea.

Host researchers in Korea must be full-time employed principal investigators at a university or research institute in Korea.

II. Financial Support by NRF/ETH Zurich

It is anticipated that 20 fellowships can be financed within this Call from each side. Fellowships to Swiss researchers will be covered by NRF, fellowships to Korean researchers by the Swiss side through ETH Zurich.

Budget for Swiss Researchers going to Korea (NRF)

NRF will provide the following support to Swiss fellows:

- Maintenance allowance: KRW 2'500'000 a month for 3 months
- International air ticket of max. KRW 2'500'000.

The duration of the stay in Korea is limited to 3 months.

Budget for Korean Researchers in Switzerland

The Swiss side of the programme through ETH Zurich will support the Korean fellows with a monthly allowance of CHF 2'500 for 3 months and an international air ticket of max. CHF 2'000.

III. Application

The Swiss applicants will have to submit their application to ETH Zurich. The application shall be written in English.

The application shall include:

a) Completed application form including a project description and details about the host institution and the planned stay in Korea (see application form).

b) Supporting letter from the Swiss supervisor.

c) Acceptance letter from the Korean host supervisor.

For Korean applicants the regulations of the NRF apply.

Submission of Application

Deadline for proposals in Switzerland: **25 December 2016**

Swiss applicants should send applications to Dr. Rahel Byland by email:

(rahel.byland@sl.ethz.ch).

IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals

Evaluation Procedure and time schedule

Swiss applications will be evaluated by experts in Switzerland. Based on the experts grading ETH Zurich in its Leading House function will make a nomination of candidates to the NRF by mid-January 2017. The NRF will make a final selection, and decisions will be communicated to the candidates by ETH Zurich at the end of January 2017. Candidates can start their stay in Korea earliest from 1st March 2017 and stays need to end latest on Feb 28, 2018.

IV-2. Evaluation Criteria

- Conformity with Programme Aims
- Suitability of candidate and Korean host supervisor for the proposed project
- Benefit of proposed exchange for cooperation between Korea and Switzerland, synergies between the two involved research groups (previous contacts between the groups are considered an advantage)
- Scientific excellence of the proposed project

V. Responsibilities of Research Leaders of Approved Proposals

Final Report:

After completion of the period of international research exchange, the fellows together with their Swiss host shall promptly submit a final scientific report to the NRF and ETH Zurich in accordance with the forms that will be provided.

More information Swiss side:

<https://www.ethz.ch/en/the-eth-zurich/global/funding-opportunities/swiss-bilateral-programmes/south-korea.html>

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