

# Bilateral Korean-Swiss Science and Technology Programme Young Researchers' Exchange Programme between South Korea and Switzerland 2023 Guidelines for Swiss Fellows

## I. General Description

### I-1. Early-Career Researchers' Exchange between South Korea and Switzerland

South Korea is a priority country for bilateral cooperation in science and technology of the Swiss Confederation. Mandated by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) as Leading House for bilateral cooperation with East and Southeast Asia (LH Asia), ETH Zurich manages the Bilateral Science and Technology Program with South Korea 2021–2024. The LH Asia collaborates with the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) to offer the current exchange programme to early-career researchers.

### I-2. Aim of the Programme and Research Field

The main purpose of the programme is to foster and facilitate the direct exchange between South Korean and Swiss research groups and to enable the mobility of early-career researchers such as doctoral students. With stays in a partner research group in South Korea or Switzerland, 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. Who can apply

The LH Asia invites doctoral students currently working in a research group at a Swiss university, university of applied sciences or public research institute to apply for a stay in a research group in South Korea. In exceptional cases and with due justification, Master's students and postdoctoral students are also eligible.

In parallel, early-career researchers from South Korea can apply to NRF for a stay in Switzerland.

#### **Please observe:**

Applicants of South Korean nationality **cannot** be considered for stays in South Korea.

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

### I-4. Export control

Project activities conducted under an exchange grant may be subject to export control rules and regulations (see [State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO](#)) regarding export, re-export of goods, technology and/or information procured/obtained and that these rules and regulations may affect the research exchange. The home and/or host institution are responsible for compliance with possible export control restrictions.

## II. Financial Support by NRF/Leading House Asia at ETH Zurich

NRF will cover fellowships for researchers from Switzerland, while the LH Asia will cover fellowships for researchers from South Korea. We expect to fund 9 fellowships within the present call from each side.

### *Budget for Swiss researchers going to South 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 South Korea is limited to 3 months. Please note that the stipend will be paid by the NRF to the host institution who will then transfer the stipend to your Korean bank account. Hence, opening a Korean bank account is needed and a certification of alien registration is mandatory to open a bank account. Please note that you need to stay in Korea for 90 days to be eligible for alien registration. Thus, your stay in Korea should be 91 days to circumvent any potential issues with alien registration.

### *Budget for Korean researchers in Switzerland*

The Swiss side of the programme through the LH Asia at ETH Zurich will support the South Korean fellows with a monthly allowance of CHF 2'500 for 3 months and an international air ticket of max. CHF 2,000.00.

## III. Application

**Switzerland-based applicants** submit their application to the LH Asia. The application must be written in English.

The application must be [submitted online](#) with the following attachments in one single pdf document:

The application shall include:

- Completed research plan including a project description and details about the host institution and the planned stay in South Korea (see research plan)
- CV of the applicant (Switzerland-based scholar)
- Supporting letter from the Switzerland-based supervisor
- Acceptance letter from the South Korean host supervisor

For South Korean applicants the regulations of the NRF apply.

Application deadline: **31 March 2023**

Applications that do not follow the instructions above will be **dismissed**.

## IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals

### IV-1. Evaluation procedure and time schedule

Swiss applications will be evaluated by experts in Switzerland or abroad, based on the expertise and availability of the suggested reviewers. Based on the experts' grading, ETH Zurich in its Leading House function will make a nomination of candidates to the NRF. The NRF will make a final selection, and decisions will be communicated to the candidates by ETH Zurich at the beginning of June 2023. Candidates can start their stay in South Korea earliest from 1 September 2023 and stays need to end latest on 31 August 2024.

## IV-2. Evaluation Criteria

- Conformity with programme aims
- Suitability of candidate and South Korean host supervisor for the proposed project
- Benefit of proposed exchange for cooperation between South 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

## IV-3 Reviewers

In order to prevent any conflict of interest, the suggested reviewers should not have contributed with the applicant nor with her/his supervisor in the past, nor be affiliated at the same research institution. The reviewers are preferably located in Switzerland, and in exceptional cases they can be located abroad.

## V. Final Report

After completion of the research exchange, the fellows will submit a report to the NRF which needs to be forwarded to the Leading House Asia. In addition, you are required to fill out the personal feedback form for the Leading House Asia (provided on our website) and submit it within one month after return from South Korea.

For more information on the Swiss side, please visit the specific [Swiss-Korean Young Researchers' Exchange Programme page](#) of the Leading House Asia.

### Contact for inquiries of Switzerland-based applicants:

Office of the President

International Affairs

ETH Zurich

Robin Anna Vital

HG E 39, Rämistrasse 101

8092 Zurich, Switzerland

Tel. +41 44 632 84 65

[robin.vital@sl.ethz.ch](mailto:robin.vital@sl.ethz.ch)

[www.leadinghouseasia.ethz.ch](http://www.leadinghouseasia.ethz.ch)