

[Call for Proposal] Bilateral Exchange Program 2026-2027
- Belgium, Brazil, Czech, France, Swizterland, Thailand, Türkiye, Vietnam -

National Research Foundation of Korea, upon the agreements with its international partners, announces the call for the “Bilateral Exchange Program 2026-2027”.

April, 2026

Hong, Won-hwa

President

National Research Foundation of Korea

[NOTE]

The maximum number* of Research and Development task that one researcher may perform simultaneously is inapplicable to this program.

** S&T(3 projects as PI, 5 project as Co-I) / Humanities and social science(1 project as PI, 3 project as Co-I)*

1. Program Overview

1.1. Objectives

- Establish the global R&D network by supporting research exchange program between Korean researchers and researchers from partner countries.
- Secure the foundation for future joint research and meet international cooperation demands by providing exchange opportunities in form of seminar and personnel exchange.

1.2. Features

- Program Type : Research Exchange(personnel exchange, joint seminar, etc.)
- Program Summary by Countries

Country	Agency	Eligible Fields	Grant		Commencement	Selection *
			Funding(KRW/Yr)	Period		
Belgium	FWO	All Fields	20,000,000	2 years	January 1st, 2027	3
Brazil	FAPESP	All Fields	30,000,000	2 years	January 1st, 2027	3
Czech	GACR	All Fields	20,000,000	2 years	January 1st, 2027	3
France	CNRS**	All Fields	20,000,000	5 years	January 1st, 2027	3
Switzerland	SNSF	All Fields	Airfare(NRF) /Living Expense(SNSF)	1~6 months	November 1st, 2026	3
Thailand	NRTC	All Fields	Airfare(NRF) /Living Expense(NRCT)	within 1 month	January 1st, 2027	3
Türkiye	TUBITAK	All Fields	20,000,000	2 years	January 1st, 2027	7
Vietnam	VAST	S&T	15,000,000	2 years	January 1st, 2027	3

* The number of selection for each country is not guaranteed.

** CNRS Program Title : IRN(International Research Network), IRP(International Research Project)

- French PIs should apply through either IRN or IRP

※ Living Expense(SNSF) : About 3,000 CHF per month, Living Expense(NRCT) : About 8,800Baht per day

<NOTES>

1. Details of each program are subject to change based on the agreement among partner organizations.
2. The funding above is for Korean researchers applying to NRF. Partner researchers are encouraged to check their funding from the respective agencies.
3. Funding grant includes indirect expenses(Less than 5% of direct expenses).
4. This program is aimed at building the network and base for joint research by supporting various cooperation activities in form of academic and personnel exchange or seminar rather than conducting research itself. Therefore, when counting the costs of research equipment and materials is necessary, the relevance of the use thereof during the research should be specified in the proposal.
5. The names of partner organizations & researchers should be stated in application form(in English).
6. A due date for submission may vary depending on partner organization. The applicant is encouraged to check the period of submission and its results with his/her respective partner organizations.

※ ONLY jointly(simultaneously) submitted proposals are subject to evaluation

2. Application Guidelines

2.1. Eligibility

- Researchers at universities/institutes eligible under Article 2 of the Academic Promotion Act
- Researchers who are **NOT** restricted under the followings:

- ① A researcher, as of the commencement date, who is currently participating or intends to participate as PI in other NRF funded international cooperation programs*
** Short-term research exchange(international symposium/seminar/airfare funding) programs are NOT included.*
*** NRF funded International Cooperation Program**
NRF-NSFC Joint Research, NRF-JSPS Joint Research, NRF-NSFC Key Joint Research, A3 Foresight Program, ROK-GER Cooperation Program(DFG,DAAD,AvH), NRF-NORDIC Cooperation Program, NRF-IIASA Cooperation Program, NRF-CSTEC Young Researcher Exchange Program(dispatched researchers only) etc.
- ② A researcher under restriction by Enforcement Decree of National Research and Development Act as of the last day of submission. An applicant who gets restriction after the submission must report to NRF. and the respective proposal will be excluded from evaluation.
- ③ A researcher funded by the NRF, and has not yet submitted the final report on the respective projects within due date.
- ④ A researcher who intends to submit the same research already funded by either the NRF or other funding agencies. * NTIS inspection and expert review will decide redundancy.

2.2. How to Apply : Online Application via IRIS system * URL : <https://www.iris.go.kr>

2.3. Requirements **Forms for each requirement is enclosed*

- Research Proposal * Foreign applicants may submit the proposal in English
- Letter of Collaboration between PIs(either e-mail or official documents)
- Personal Information Collection and Use Consent Form

2.3. Schedules

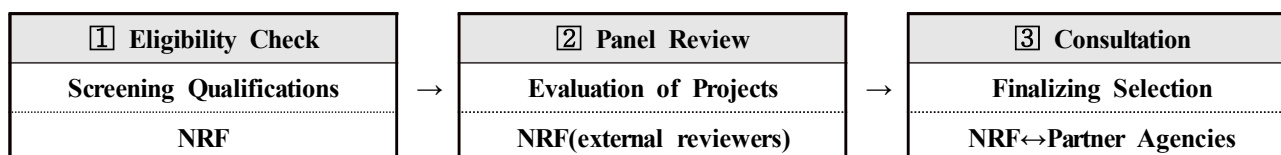
Schedule		
Open Call	Application	Deadline
April 15 th 2026	April 22 nd 09:00 KST, 2026	June 30 th 16:00 KST, 2026

<NOTES>

- PI application and organization approval should all be done within application period. Application without approval from organization is not accepted
- The above schedule is for those applying to the NRF. Parter PIs are encouraged to check application schedules from their respective agencies
 - * For Czech(GACR), the application period is Feb 10th 2026 ~ March 31st 2026
 - * For France(CNRS), the application period is April 1st 2026 ~ May 15th 2026
 - * For Brazil(FAPESP,), the application period is TBD

3. Evaluation and Selection Procedures

3.1. Evaluation Procedures



※ Each Procedure except for the final selection is conducted according to the protocols of each agency.

3.2. Criteria for Belgium, Brazil, Czech, France, Türkiye, Vietnam

Criteria	Evaluation Indicators	Score
Research Plan (40)	• Creativity and necessity of research project - Validity, feasibility and innovation of research objectives	10
	• Fidelity of plans and adequacy of implementation system - Previously conducted exchange activities, and basis for cooperation - Validity and concreteness of exchange(technical/personnel) plans - Distribution of workload between partners, and validity of plans	20
	• Budget allocation adequacy	10
Research Capability (30)	• Capability and research performance of a Principal Investigator	15
	• Capability and research performance of a partner researcher/institute	15
Research Impact (30)	• Expected effects of research result and utilization plans - Contribution to globalization(establishment of network, strengthening cooperation, etc.)	10
	• Possibility of further development to domestic/international cooperation - Development to joint research group via research exchange with partners	20
Total		100

Criteria for Switzerland & Thailand

Criteria	Evaluation Indicators	Score
Research Plan (30)	• Creativity and necessity of research project - Validity, feasibility and innovation of research objectives	10
	• Fidelity of plans and adequacy of implementation system - Previously conducted exchange activities, and basis for cooperation - Validity and concreteness of exchange(technical/personnel) plans - Distribution of workload between partners, and validity of plans	20
Research Capability (30)	• Capability and research performance of a Principal Investigator	15
	• Capability and research performance of a partner researcher/institute	15
Research Impact (40)	• Expected effects of research result and utilization plans - Contribution to globalization(establishment of network, strengthening cooperation, etc.)	25
	• Possibility of further development to domestic/international cooperation - Development to joint research group via research exchange with partners	15
Total		100

3.3 Selection

- Selection is finalized through consultation among funding agencies.
- A project that does not qualify conditions stated in *[Management Guideline for International Cooperation Program]*, will be excluded from the final selection.
- Agencies may not select any projects if they are under-qualified for funding.

4. Project Management

4.1. Management of Research Fund

- Provision : NRF provides contracted fund to an affiliated institute after concluding contract.
- Management : An affiliated institute is responsible for management of research funds.
- (Airfare) NRF will provide airfare in a fixed amount.
- (Living expense) SNSF/NRCT will provide expense to researcher through host organization.
- Use : Fund should be used according to the proposal for contract and *[Management Guideline for International Cooperation Program]*
 - ※ Must use Research Credit Card and be managed through EZbaro System
- Financial Report : A financial report shall be submitted via Ezbaro system within three months after the end of the research.
 - ※ For other details, refer to the *Management Guideline for International Cooperation Program*

4.2. Submission of Reports ※Forms and other details(how to submit, lengths etc.) will be provided by the NRF

- Mid-term report : Must be submitted to the NRF one month before the end of the current year
- Final report : Must be submitted to the NRF within 60 days after the end of project

4.3. Research Outcome and Acknowledgement

- An affiliated institute(or PI) should register/upload research outcomes to IRIS system for five years after the end of the project. The NRF may request an affiliated institute(or PI) to submit research outcome in hard copy
- In any research outcome(thesis, journal, etc.) acknowledgement should be stipulated

< Acknowledgement >

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- Other details shall conform to the *[Management Guideline for International Cooperation Program]*

5. Schedules

- April 22th 2026 : Start of Application
- June 30th 16:00 KST 2026 : Application Deadline
- July 2026 : Qualification Screening and Evaluation
- August-September 2026 : Evaluation
- October-November 2026 : Consultation and Final Selection
- November 2026 : Commencement (Switzerland)
- January 2027 : Commencement

※ Schedules may change upon the agreement between funding agencies

6. Contact Point

6.1. National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)

Name	Contact	
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