

## Bilateral Korean-Swiss Science and Technology Programme

# **YOUNG RESEARCHERS' EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN SOUTH KOREA AND SWITZERLAND 2022**

### **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.

## **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.

### *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.

## **III. Application**

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

Deadline for proposals: **20 March 2022**

The submission of the application takes place in two **compulsory** steps (as stated in the call guidelines):

1. Submission of your application details via the application form online.
2. Upload of your application form with the requested appendices in **one** single pdf document via the application form online.

The application shall include:

- a) Completed research plan including a project description and details about the host institution and the planned stay in South Korea (see research plan).
- b) Supporting letter from the Swiss supervisor.
- c) Acceptance letter from the South Korean host supervisor.

For South Korean applicants the regulations of the NRF apply.

Incomplete applications, applications that do not follow the compulsory two steps, and/nor respect the **one single pdf** document guideline will be **automatically 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 2022. Candidates can start their stay in South Korea earliest from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 and stays need to end latest on 31 July 2023.

### **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**

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.

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:

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