GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

Call for joint scientific mobility projects

FWO (Flanders) – NRF (Republic of Korea)

Call 2021

In compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the National Research Foundation of the Republic of Korea (NRF) and the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) in June 2013, both Parties agree upon the following provisions. Present guide for applicants sets the selection and evaluation procedures and financial guidelines of joint scientific mobility projects under the above agreement for the period of 2022-2023.

From April 1st to June 30th 2021, the call is open for two-year joint scientific mobility projects between research groups from South Korea (Republic of Korea) and Flanders.

1. Objectives of the collaboration

To strengthen collaboration in scientific research between South Korea (Republic of Korea) and Flanders, by funding joint scientific mobility projects with a duration of two years.

Proposals for joint scientific mobility projects between researchers from Flanders and South Korea (Republic of Korea) can be submitted for fundamental research in all scientific domains with the objective of increasing and developing cooperation between the scientific communities of the Parties, with special attention to the exchange of junior researchers within the framework of joint scientific mobility projects.

Joint scientific mobility projects should:

a) encourage bilateral fundamental research,

b) promote the exchange of knowledge, and

c) promote the implementation of joint research activities.
2. Ways of Cooperation

A joint scientific mobility project is understood as a programme agreed between two or more research groups of both South Korea and Flanders, with clearly defined objectives to be achieved within the established timeframe, implemented through the exchange of scientists and experts between both Parties.

The proposals should meet the usual requirements for scientific research quality and meet the specific requirements for scientific cooperation projects of the research council they are submitted to. Please be aware that the guidelines as stated in this document are to be respected by the Flemish research team(s). For specific guidelines for the South Korean research team(s) we kindly refer to the NRF website and the NRF contact person (see below, section 7).

3. Application procedure

Projects must be endorsed by the Principal Investigators (PIs) (one South Korean and one Flemish) duly authorized to conduct research and providing the guarantees on the operational resources (financial resources).

- In Flanders, PIs are specifically required to have a PhD degree and must hold throughout the entire period of the project an appointment of at least 50% at:
  - a university in the Flemish Community (including the academic programmes within the corresponding association), or
  - a federal or Flemish scientific institute as scientific staff of the Dutch-speaking community, or
  - a university hospital in the Flemish Community as scientific staff, or
  - a hospital with an academic character recognized as research center in the Flemish Community as scientific staff.

- In South Korea, PIs are required to be affiliated to a university or a research institute in Korea. The affiliated universities or research institutes should be under Article 2 of the Sciences Promotion Act.

Applications should be submitted simultaneously to NRF by the researcher(s) in South Korea and to FWO by the researcher(s) in Flanders respecting the submission deadline and by using the respective application forms of the Parties. Lack of submission of the application to one of the Parties and/or reception after the deadline will cause the application to be considered ineligible. Please note that the title, names of the Flemish and South Korean PIs, project description, methodology, work packages, etc. in the research proposal submitted by the Flemish and South Korean PI should be identical.
Each application should be submitted according to the regulations of each Party:

**FWO:**

- The Flemish PI should submit the form ‘*Application for international cooperation programmes*’ and the ‘*Template Curriculum Vitae and publications*’ (to be found on the [FWO website](#)) to interprog@fwo.be.
- Once the application is approved, Flemish researchers should notify the FWO of each stay in South Korea by completing the form ‘*Notification of a stay abroad*’ at least two months before the actual departure.

**Please be aware:** all members of the South Korean and Flemish research teams should have or create an account on [the FWO e-portal](#) and keep their publication list up to date.

**NRF:**

For further information for South Korean applicants please contact:

**Park, Sungbeen (Mr.)**  
Global Exchange Program Team  
Directorate for International Affairs  
National Research Foundation of Korea  
Tel: +82 2 3460 5722  
E-mail: sbpark725@nrf.re.kr

**4. What can be funded?**

Exchanges of researchers in South Korea and Flanders in the framework of two-year joint scientific mobility projects can be funded. In addition, NRF foresees for the South Korean researcher(s) a grant covering the organization of seminars. **(Please be aware that FWO will only fund the exchanges of researchers.)**

**Please note** that at Flemish side, in each scientific mobility project at least one junior scientist should be involved to perform an exchange. This junior researcher is supposed to be a PhD student or a postdoctoral researcher with no more than 6-year postdoctoral experience, counted from the date of obtaining the doctoral degree.

Visits must be indicated in the application form, duly justified, including their duration, the estimated dates and names of the involved researchers. Project approval by both Parties shall imply approval of the visits in accordance with the terms established in the form, unless otherwise decided by both NFR and FWO.
All missions must be executed within the year for which they had been approved and are not transferable to the next year of implementation. Allocated resources expire if not used within the year for which they were approved.

**Number of exchanges:**

**At Flemish side,** the Principal Investigator may apply for a total of 6 months per project (for the entire project duration of 2 years). This annual quota can be divided into maximum 6 visits per year.

**At South Korean side,** the Principal Investigator is encouraged to conduct exchange activities within the planned budget. No specific limitation regarding the number of visits and the duration of the visits is determined by NRF.

**Funding:**

Visits shall be funded as follows:

- NRF will cover the international travel expenses and living expenses of the South Korean researchers travelling to Flanders, and other exchange activities:
  - Korean researchers will be funded with the total amount of 20,000,000 KRW per year (approximately 14,900 euro).

- FWO will cover the international travel expenses and the *per diem* for the Flemish researchers travelling to South Korea:
  - International transport expenses from Belgium to South Korea and back, to be booked through a travel agency authorized by the FWO;
  - A daily allowance of € 66 per person for accommodation, domestic travel and other costs in South Korea, with a maximum of € 1,650 per month.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of support</th>
<th>For researchers in Flanders travelling to South Korea</th>
<th>For South Korean researchers travelling to Flanders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airfare tickets</td>
<td>In charge of FWO according to its internal regulations. Tickets are to be booked through a travel agency authorized by the FWO.</td>
<td>In charge of NRF according to its internal regulations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living expenses</td>
<td>In charge of FWO according to its internal regulations. A daily allowance of € 66 for accommodation, domestic travel and</td>
<td>In charge of NRF according to its internal regulations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
other costs in South Korea, with a maximum of €1,650 per month.

During their travel and stay abroad, all researchers (from the Flemish as well as from the South Korean research teams) involved in an allocated NRF-FWO project and independent of nationality, can rely on a **travel and assistance insurance** (‘reis- en bijstandsverzekering’) and repatriation covered by FWO. This insurance is **not a health insurance**. Regardless of the aforementioned insurance, all researchers should have a valid health insurance entitling the holder to free emergency medical treatment in the host country.

The responsibility for the provision of adequate **insurance against accidents** that may occur during the stay in the host country (‘arbeidsongevallenverzekering’) rests with the **research institution** to which the researcher stays affiliated during the joint scientific mobility project. The research institution to which the researcher is travelling, shall provide the visitor with all indispensable organisational assistance in situations requiring such steps.

**5. Evaluation criteria**

**At Flemish side**, the evaluation criteria for regular research projects are considered, yet with special attention for:

- Scientific quality of the proposal
  - Expected impact/importance
  - Originality
  - Feasibility
  - Focus
  - Methodology
- Scientific track record of the applicants
- Collaboration of research teams
  - Added value of the collaboration
  - Complementarity of the research teams involved
  - Balanced contribution of research teams involved
  - Necessity of planned stays and exchanges

**At South Korean side**, the evaluation criteria are the following:

- Research Plan
  - Necessity of exchange and topic adequacy
  - Excellence of objectives and contents, and their feasibility
  - Distribution of workload between partners, and validity of plans
- Research Capability
6. Possibility to enhance bilateral cooperation
   - Capability of Principal Investigator and his/her team – Korean side
   - Capability of Principal Investigator and his/her team – Partner side

   - Utilization of Results and Budget Allocation
     - Expected effects of research result and utilization plan
     - Utilization and development of human resource
     - Budget allocation adequacy

6. Time schedule

   - Opening of the call for applications: April 1st, 2021
   - Deadline for receipt of applications: June 30th, 2021
     - At FWO: 5 pm Belgian time
     - At NRF: 6 pm Korean time
   - Evaluation procedure: July-November, 2021
   - Final joint decision on the funded projects: November-December, 2021
   - Communication of the results: December 2021
   - Start of projects: January 1st, 2022

7. Contact details

For further information on the FWO modalities, visit the FWO website or contact:

**Tinne Jacobs**
Advisor International Affairs
Tel: +32 2 550 15 44
Tinne.Jacobs@fwo.be

Account administrators international mobility
Tel: +32 (0)2 550 15 92
interprog@fwo.be

**Isabelle Verbaeys**
Head International Affairs
Tel: +32 2 550 15 31
Isabelle.Verbaeys@fwo.be

For further information on the NRF modalities, visit the NRF website or contact:

**Park, Sungbeen (Mr.)**
Global Exchange Program Team
Directorate for International Affairs
National Research Foundation of Korea
Tel: +82 2 3460 5722
E-mail: sbpark725@nrf.re.kr