

## Bilateral Korean-Swiss Science and Technology Programme

# YOUNG RESEARCHERS' EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN KOREA AND SWITZERLAND 2019/20

### I. General Description

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

South 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 South Korea on the base 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, and a pilot call for the exchange of young researchers in 2016, the Swiss bilateral programmes have now entered a new funding phase from 2017-2020. The Leading Houses have been charged with a strategizing function as well as with a budget for smaller funding and exchange instruments. ETH Zurich is using these funds to continue the 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 9 fellowships on each side can be financed within this Call. 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: **29 November 2019**

Swiss applicants should send applications to Ms. Lucia Arpagaus by email:

[lucia.arpagaus@sl.ethz.ch](mailto:lucia.arpagaus@sl.ethz.ch).

## **IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals**

### **IV-1. 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. The NRF will make a final selection, and decisions will be communicated to the candidates by ETH Zurich at the beginning of February 2020. Candidates can start their stay in Korea earliest from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and stays need to end latest on 28 February 2021.

### **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.

For more information on the Swiss side, please visit the specific 'Mobility' [page](#) of the Leading House Asia.

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