Korea Awaits Your Brilliance

Unlock Your Potential in Korea:

Funding & Visa Programs Guide

Ministry of Science and ICT

KOSAC
Korea Foundation for Science and Creativity
한국과학창의재단

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Find your Programs

Find the programs that best match your career stage.

Stage	Recommended Programs
Early-Career	InnoCORE, Sejong Science Fellowship, K-STAR Visa Track Program
Mid-Career & Senior	Brain Pool (BP), Top-Tier Overseas Talent Program (Bio), K-Tech Pass Program
Top Talent	Brain Pool^{+} (BP^{+}), Top-Tier Visa Program
Open to All Stages	Global Aerospace Talent Development and Utilization Program

How to Apply

Individual Direct

Via Host Institution

Recruitment procedures vary by program.
Please check whether you can 'apply directly'
or need 'a host institution' to apply on your behalf.

Important Note

- **General Reference** The recommendations above are provided for general reference only. Applicants must review the detailed guidelines of each official announcement to verify their specific eligibility.
- **Annual Updates** Detailed program specifications and eligibility requirements may change each year. Please check the latest official announcements on each program's website. You can find the QR code for each website at the top of each page.

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Funding

- Sejong Science Fellowship
- InnoCORE
- Brain Pool
- Top-Tier Overseas Talent Program (Bio)
- Brain Pool+
- Global Aerospace Talent Development and Utilization Program

Early-Career

Sejong Science Fellowship

Return & Attraction Track

A 5-year independent research grant designed for early-career overseas Ph.D. researchers settling in Korea.

Target Candidates

Overseas Ph.D. degree holders who meet either:
1) **within 7 years** of Ph.D. completion, or 2) **under age 39**, and are **NOT full-time faculty** at Korean universities in science and engineering fields, or are working on non-tenure/temporary tracks at public, national, government-funded, or private research institutes

Support Details

Direct costs around KRW 100 million

Funding / Duration

Approx. KRW 130 million/year | 5 years

Application Period

Typically between November and December of the preceding year
* Announcement: Nov 2026
* Application: **Late Nov – Early Dec 2026**

Individual Direct

How to Apply

Submit Letter of Intent (LOI) for Individual Research via IRIS

Inquiries
National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) Individual Research Support Team
+82-42-869-6803 dudtkd6725@nrf.re.kr

Ministry of Science and ICT NRF National Research Foundation of Korea

Early-Career

InnoCORE

Global Postdoctoral Researcher

A 5-year fellowship program at Korea's four major institutes of science and technology for early-career Ph.D. holders.

* Key details vary by research group; reviewing official announcements is required.

Target Candidates

Ph.D. degree holders in science and technology fields
within 5 years of earning their degree as of the official appointment date

Support Details

Personnel costs for outstanding overseas scientists, research incentives, family settlement allowances, etc.
(Additional details such as research space, multi-faceted mentoring, and benefits should be checked per research group.)

Funding / Duration

Personnel costs over KRW 90 million/year | 5 years

Application Period

Varies by research group

Individual Direct

How to Apply

1) Identify target research group and academic advisor
2) Submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and hold discussions
3) Undergo selection process by research group
4) Final appointment and contract signing

Inquiries

For research group information, recruitment schedules, and application inquiries, visit Innocore website announcements (www.innocore.or.kr)

Ministry of Science and ICT · KAIST · GIST Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology · DGIST · UNIST ULSAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mid-Career & Senior

Brain Pool Program (BP)

Individual Recruitment Track

A 1:1 joint research program connecting overseas researchers with host principal investigators in Korea.

Target Candidates

Ph.D. holders residing overseas for **at least 1 year** as of the hiring date (or researchers with 5+ years of R&D experience in local industry)

Support Details

- **Personnel Costs**
  Salaries up to KRW 300 million per year
- **Relocation & Settlement**
  Relocation expenses (including airfare), subsidies for child education and research activity incentives
- **Research Expenses**
  Extra funding for research activities (e.g., conferences, experimental materials)

Duration

12 months to 3 years (1:1 Joint Research with a Korean Host PI)

Application Period

Typically between January and February of the preceding year

Via Host Institution

How to Apply

1) Find a host R&D institution in Korea
2) Discuss project details and application
3) The host PI applies via IRIS

Inquiries
National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) International Talent Exchange Team
+82-2-3460-5746 minahhan@nrf.re.kr

Ministry of Science and ICT
NRF National Research Foundation of Korea

Mid-Career & Senior

Top-Tier Overseas Talent Program(Bio)

Attracting Top-Tier International Researchers in the Bio-Health Sector to Korean Companies

Target Candidates

Individuals residing overseas until immediately prior to recruitment, with experience as a research institute director, a government or industry research leader, a Chief Technology Officer (CTO), or in similar positions

Support Details

Personnel costs for outstanding overseas scientists, airfare, insurance, relocation expenses, children's tuition fees, research living allowance, etc.

Funding / Duration

KRW 600 million/year | 2 years 6 months

Via Host Institution

How to Apply

1) Find host pharmaceutical/medical device companies or research-oriented hospitals in Korea
2) Discuss project details and application
3) The host PI applies via IRIS (www.iris.go.kr)

Program Announcement

Check KHIDI website announcements (www.khidi.or.kr)

Inquiries
KHIDI Bio-Pharmaceutical Industry Department
+82-43-713-8831 suin022@khidi.or.kr

Ministry of Health and Welfare
KHIDI Korea Health Industry Development Institute

Top Talent

Brain Pool Plus Program (BP+)

Institutional Recruitment Track

Institutional Funding to Strengthen the Competitiveness of Korean R&D Institutions through Global Talent Recruitment

Target Candidates

Ph.D. holders **residing overseas** for **at least 1 year** as of the hiring date (or researchers with **5+ years** of R&D experience in local industry) and top-tier global talent

Support Details

- **Comprehensive Package**
  Salaries, full family settlement support (airfare, relocation costs, family accompaniment), and R&D operating expenses
- **Research Environment**
  Full institutional backing to build independent research labs, retain team members, and manage strategic R&D projects

Duration

Up to 5 years (with potential transition to a tenure-track position)

Via Host Institution

How to Apply

1) Find a host R&D institution in Korea
2) Discuss project details and application
3) The host institution applies via IRIS

Application Period

Typically between January and February of the preceding year

Program Announcement

Check the official announcements on NRF (www.nrf.re.kr) or IRIS (www.iris.go.kr)

Inquiries
National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) International Talent Exchange Team
+82-2-3460-5744 sjhan@nrf.re.kr

Ministry of Science and ICT NRF National Research Foundation of Korea

Open to All Stages

Global Aerospace Talent Development and Utilization Program

KASA's specialized initiative to recruit overseas Ph.D. holders and industry experts for Korea's aerospace sector.

Target Candidates

Researchers **residing overseas** as of the announcement date **without full-time employment in Korea** who are:
1) **Ph.D.** holders, or 2) individuals **with 5+ years** of R&D experience in local industry abroad. (Open to all nationalities, ages, and majors)

* Note: Overseas Ph.D. holders researching and residing in Korea as of the announcement date are eligible. However, full-time employees at Korean institutions, temporary overseas residents, and others violating RFP terms are ineligible; refer to the RFP for details.

Support Details

Personnel costs for outstanding overseas scientists, airfare, insurance, relocation expenses, children's tuition fees, research living allowance, etc.

Funding / Duration

Total Program Budget: KRW 8.7 billion | 2026–2030
(KRW 1.3 billion allocated for 2027)

Via Host Institution

How to Apply

1) Find KASA-affiliated research institutes (KARI and KASI), aerospace-related universities, or enterprises in Korea
2) Discuss project details and application
3) The host PI applies via IRIS

Program Announcement

Check the official announcements on KASA (www.kasa.go.kr)

Inquiries
KASA Aerospace HR & Culture Development Division
+82-55-856-4232, 4236 white35@korea.kr, je0905@korea.kr

KASA

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VISA

- **Top-Tier Visa Program**
- **K-STAR Visa Track Program**
- **K-Tech Pass Program**

Top Talent

Top-Tier Visa Program

A fast-track visa program offering top science and technology talent simplified immigration privileges and accelerated permanent residency to support their long-term settlement in Korea.

Target Candidates

Top-tier foreign science & technology talent hired or scheduled to be **hired by domestic** research institutes, universities, or corporate labs in Korea, and those wishing to settle in Korea

Support Details

- Immediate issuance of **Resident Visa (F-2)** for candidate and spouse with unrestricted employment
- **Preferential Immigration Card** provided
- Accelerated pathway to **Permanent Residency (F-5)**, reducing required residence period from 5 years to 3 years
- Priority linkage to full-lifecycle **settlement support programs** run by MSIT (entry, housing, daily life, research site integration, etc.)

Via Host Institution

How to Apply

1) Verify Eligibility: Check eligibility through designated HR/Visa personnel at host university, research institute, or company in Korea
2) Apply for Recommendation: The host institution submits a recommendation request to the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT)
3) Visa Issuance: Submit recommendation letter and apply for the visa via the official Korea Visa Portal (www.visa.go.kr)

Program Announcement

Please check the joint announcements from the Ministry of Science and ICT (www.msit.go.kr) or the Ministry of Justice (www.moj.go.kr)

Inquiries
MSIT Future Talent Policy Division
+82-44-202-4848 toptiervisa@korea.kr

Ministry of Science and ICT

Early-Career

K-STAR Visa Track Program

A university-partnered immigration track designed to help top foreign science and technology scholars settle and build long-term research careers in Korea.

Target Candidates

Outstanding international students and researchers **earning Master's or Ph.D.** degrees, or working as **Postdocs** at university campuses designated under the K-STAR track (A total of 32 designated institutions, including KAIST, GIST, DGIST, UNIST, UST, and other universities.)

Support Details

- **Immediate Resident Status (F-2)**
  Granted immediately upon graduation/degree completion upon university president's recommendation—without requiring prior employment.
- **Accelerated Permanent Residency (F-5)**
  Eligible to apply for Permanent Residency after maintaining F-2 status for 3 years
- **Special Naturalization Track**
  Fast-tracked citizenship application available immediately for candidates demonstrating outstanding research achievements, regardless of residence duration

Via Host Institution

How to Apply

1) University Nomination: Selected as an outstanding talent by the president of a participating K-STAR university
2) Status Change: Apply for F-2 Resident Visa status directly upon graduation via the immigration office
3) Permanent Residency / Citizenship: Transition to F-5 permanent residency after 3 years of research or apply for special naturalization based on research performance

Inquiries

Ministry of Justice Immigration & Foreigner Policy Headquarters, Stay Management Division
or contact the office at your participating university
+82-2-2110-4100 (Ministry of Justice)

Ministry of Justice

Mid-Career & Senior

K-Tech Pass Program

Government-certified support package combining fast-track immigration, tax incentives, and relocation concierge services for global talent in advanced technology sectors.

Target Candidates

Outstanding foreign tech talent and researchers who have signed (or are scheduled to sign) **an employment contract** with Korean companies in the **8 Advanced Industry Sectors:** Semiconductor, Display, Secondary Battery, Bio, Robotics, Defense, AI, and Advanced Mobility

Support Details

- **Fast-Track Top-Tier Visa (F-2-T)**
  Issued within 2 weeks online without TOPIK/KIIP language requirements, with full employment rights for spouses
- **Tax Incentives**
  50% reduction in income tax for up to 10 years
- **Relocation & Concierge Services**
  KOTRA 1:1 VIP settlement support (airport protocol, interpretation, banking/housing setup, foreign school admissions)
- **Accelerated Permanent Residency**
  Eligible for F-5 permanent residency application after maintaining F-2 status for 3 years

Via Host Institution

How to Apply

1) **Eligibility Check:** Confirm qualification via Quantitative, Qualitative, or Government-linked track
2) **Application Submission:** Host company or candidate submits application via KOTRA TradeInvest24 (www.kotra.or.kr/gtc_eng)
3) **Certificate & Visa Issuance:** Obtain K-Tech Pass Certificate (within 2 weeks) and apply for Top-Tier Visa (F-2-T) on the Korea Visa Portal

Inquiries

KOTRA Global Talent Center
+82-2-3460-7379 ktech.pass@kotra.or.kr, concierge.desk@kotra.or.kr

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources
kotra Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency

Korea Awaits Your Brilliance

EVENT & PLATFORM

EVENT

The Invitation: Korea Awaits Your Brilliance

Korea, a more attractive destination -

A Flagship Inter-Ministerial Outreach for Global Talent

hosted by the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT), this flagship event brings together talent attraction programs from multiple ministries for international scholars and researchers. As part of Korea's "Brain to Korea" initiative (2026–2030), which aims to attract 2,000 outstanding STEM professionals, the event showcases R&D funding grants, specialized research programs, and fast-track immigration policies under one roof. As an overseas researcher, you can explore your career opportunities in Korea, engage face-to-face with host institutional leaders, and receive comprehensive support through our key event features below.

What We Offer at Global Events

Government Policy Briefings

Direct updates on South Korea's national S&T policies, R&D grants, and visa support programs

Town Hall Meetings & Networking

Direct networking opportunities with leaders and representatives from top Korean universities, government-funded research institutes (GRIs), and enterprise labs

Career Matching & Consultation

1:1 tailored consultation booths covering recruitment, collaborative research, startup support, and settlement guidance



MAR 31, 2026 · Boston
Policy Briefing



JUL 21, 2026 · Toulouse, France
Career Consultation

Track Record & Key Statistics

Total Global Events Held:

10 Events across the United States and Europe (France)

Total Participants:

1,946 Global Scholars & Researchers

Key Innovation Hubs Visited

Round	Date	Region / Host City	Participants
1st	Oct 20, 2025	Boston, USA	241
2nd	Oct 27, 2025	San Francisco, USA	310
3rd	Nov 14-15, 2025	New York & Pittsburgh, USA	133
4th	Nov 17, 2025	Atlanta, USA	91
5th	Dec 5-8, 2025	Chicago, Champaign & Lafayette, USA	212
6th	Dec 12, 2025	Silicon Valley, USA	317
7th	Dec 14, 2025	New York, USA	180
8th	Dec 16, 2025	Austin, USA	143
9th	Mar 31, 2026	Boston, USA	194
10th	Jul 21, 2026	Toulouse, France	125

Join Our Next Event

Be part of the next global networking session and explore your career path in Korea.

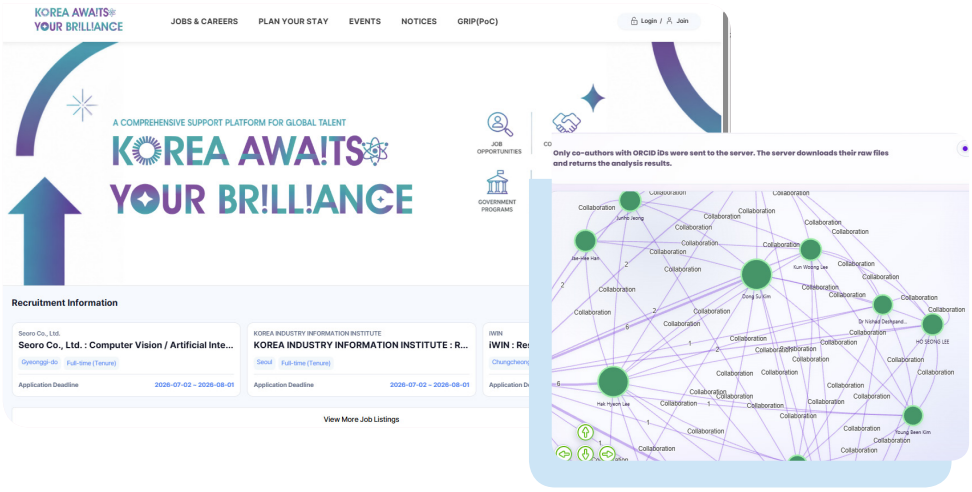
Inquiries

Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT)
Korea Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Creativity (KOSAC)
global-talent@kosac.re.kr

The Gateway: Global Talent Support Platform

Connecting Top Research Talent to Opportunities in Korea -

The Global Talent Support Platform connects international scholars with Korea's leading researchers, institutions, and national R&D programs. From career opportunities and collaborative research matching to fast-track visas, the platform serves as your all-in-one digital hub for building a long-term research career in Korea.



What You Can Do on the Platform

R&D Job Opportunities

Explore openings across top Korean universities, government-funded research institutes (GRIs), and corporate labs

Collaborative R&D & Host PI Recruitment Calls

Discover joint research project calls, lab matching opportunities, and host PI invitations for international research collaboration

Policy & Visa Guidance

Access official guidelines and fast-track pathways for national funding programs and talent visas (Top-Tier, K-STAR, K-Tech Pass)

Find My Research Network (GRIP/PoC)

Map and visualize your global co-authorship and academic network powered by ORCID

Unlock Your Potential in Korea:

Funding & Visa Programs Guide

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