

TÜBİTAK
Department of Science Fellowships and Grant Programs
2232- International Fellowship for Outstanding Researchers
2018 Call Announcement

1. The Goal and Scope of the Fellowship

The International Fellowship for Outstanding Researchers Program aims to support qualified researchers with leading scientific and/or technological achievements and international work experience to conduct their research in leading academic, industrial or public institutions to contribute in areas that are strategic value to Turkey.

This call announcement covers the program procedures and obligations for researchers who apply for and/or are supported by the program.

Definitions may be found under the “Definitions and Abbreviations” section in Chapter 11.

2. The Scope, Amount and Duration of the Fellowship

2.1. The Scope of the Fellowship

The program will include

- a. Scholarship for Project Leader
- b. Family allowance (if applicable),
- c. Initial research grant,
- d. Research grant
- e. Grant intended for establishing a research team, (scholarship for up to 5 doctoral students the project coordinator will include in the research team for conducting his/her research in Turkey)
- f. Project Incentive Bonus for researchers involved within the scope of the research grant
- g. Overhead for host institution
- h. Health insurance for the project leader and his/her family
- i. Travel allowance for the project leader and his/her family.

2.2. Amount and Duration of the Fellowship

- 2.2.1. Amounts for each item defined under the fellowship may be found at the program web site (link verilecek).
- 2.2.2. The minimum and maximum durations for fellowship are 24 to 36 months.
- 2.2.3. The project coordinator is allowed to spend up to 3 months per year at their previous institution abroad as a means of facilitating the transfer of knowledge. The project coordinator must notify TÜBİTAK about the duration of his/her secondment at least 1 week in advance. The project shall not be suspended, and payments shall continue during the secondment. The progress reports must include detailed justification for the secondment.
- 2.2.4. In case the project coordinator finds employment at the host institution on a permanent basis, all granted financial support items including scholarship shall continue for the project coordinator and his/her family .

- 2.2.5. Initial Research grant payment is offered to help the project coordinator launch his/her research activities in Turkey and to establish a suitable research environment within 1 year following the award of the grant.
- 2.2.6. The project coordinator is expected to complete his/her research within the grant period. The duration of the project can be extended to a maximum of twenty-five percent of the total project period. The inquiry of the project coordinator for extension shall be approved by the TÜBİTAK Presidency, upon the consent of the relevant Group Executive Committee. The Executive Council of TÜBİTAK shall decide for those cases where the aforementioned extension period is exceeded.
- 2.2.7. Upon the inquiry of the project coordinator, any additional payment decision will be given by the TÜBİTAK Presidency following the consent of the relevant Group Executive Committee. Additional payment request must not exceed the upper limits of the grant decision.
- 2.2.8. Payments listed under articles c, d, e, f and g of the grant will be transferred to the private account opened by the host institution. Payments listed under the other articles will be transferred to the bank account of the project coordinator by TÜBİTAK.
- 2.2.9. Expenditures of the allocated budget will be made under the scope of the “Rules and Procedures on the Expenditure of the Amounts to be Transferred to the General Budget Public Administrations and Special Budgeted Administrations for Projects from the TÜBİTAK Resources, and on the Expenditures for Foreign-Support Projects Run by TÜBİTAK,” “Rules on the Transfer, Expenditure, Accounting and Audit of the Amounts to be Granted by TÜBİTAK to Private Institutions and Foundation Universities for Projects,” or “Rules and Procedures to Apply in the Financial Transactions concerning the Amounts to be Transferred for Projects from the TÜBİTAK Resources to Research Infrastructures and Public Administrations Falling Outside the Scope of the Public Finance Management and Control Law, no 5018,” depending on the type of the expenditure concerned.

3. Terms, Methods of Application and Required Documents

3.1. Application Conditions

- 3.1.1. The application must be submitted by the researcher who will conduct the research.
- 3.1.2. The project coordinator must not have resided in Turkey for more than 12 months in the last 3 years prior to the call deadline.
- 3.1.3. One of the following work experience requirements must be met prior to the call deadline:

Early Stage Researchers:

- Researchers at the beginning of their careers **who have obtained a doctoral degree within the last 4 years, hold a position of at least Assistant Professor and/or carried out his/her research postdoctoral research**
- **At least 4 years of full-time research experience** abroad after obtaining bachelor’s degree (a maximum of 2 years of master degree, a maximum 3 years of doctoral degree with thesis completed abroad will be taken under consideration in this context).

Experienced Researchers:

- Researchers who have **worked 4 years as at least an Assistant Professor** abroad
- **At least 6 years full time research experience** abroad obtaining bachelor's degree (a maximum of 2 years of master degree, a maximum 3 years of doctoral degree with thesis completed abroad will be taken under consideration in this context).

Early stage and experienced researchers are expected to provide any one of the following qualifications:

For Early Stage Researchers:

- The University where researcher hold a position of at least **Assistant Professor** and/or carried out his/her **postdoctoral research** before coming to Turkey must be placed among the **top 100** universities in the field-based rankings according to the **QS** (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Ranking or **THE** (Times Higher Education) Rankings by subject in **any year within the duration of 3 years** prior to the call deadline.
- The project Coordinator is required to be placed in the "**Highly Cited Researchers**" published by Thomson Reuters in **any year within the duration of 3 years** prior to the call deadline.
- The company he/she worked at before coming to Turkey must be placed in the "**Top 2500 Companies**" according to the "Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard" published by the European Commission Joint Research Center in **any year within the duration of 3 years** prior to the call deadline.
- The institution he/she worked at before coming to Turkey must be placed among the "**Top 250 Institutions**" according to the "Scimago Institutions Ranking-Government" in **any year within the duration of 3 years** prior to the call deadline.

For Experienced Researchers:

- Experienced researcher is required to be placed in the "**Highly Cited Researchers**" published by Thomson Reuters in any year within the duration of **3 years** prior to the call deadline.
- The University where researcher hold a position of at least **Assistant Professor** and/or carried out his/her **postdoctoral research** before coming to Turkey must be placed among the **top 100** universities in the field-based rankings according to the **QS** (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Ranking or **THE** (Times Higher Education) Rankings by subject in **any year within the duration of 3 years** prior to the call deadline.
- The company he/she worked at before coming to Turkey must be placed in the "**Top 2500 Companies**" according to the "Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard" published by the European Commission Joint Research Center in **any year within the duration of 3 years** prior to the call deadline.
- The institution he/she worked at before coming to Turkey must be placed among the "**Top 250 Institutions**" according to the "Scimago Institutions Ranking-Government" in **any year within the duration of 3 years** prior to the call deadline.

- 3.1.4. Researchers who were previously awarded scholarships or grants to go abroad for education or research purposes and who are required to complete their compulsory service after returning to Turkey may not apply to this program as coordinators.

- 3.1.5. The application is submitted based on the most recent degree. In case that the recent degree was not used, the application will be returned without evaluation or provisions concerning the revocation of the fellowship will apply during the grant period.

3.2. Required Documents

- 3.2.1. Project proposal form
- 3.2.2. A motivation Letter, prepared by Project Leader and must include purpose for coming to Turkey, the research projects/plans and career plans after International Fellowship for Outstanding Researchers Programme
- 3.2.3. For those living abroad at the time of the application, documents proving residency abroad (such as tax certificates, tenancy agreements or monthly utility bills); for researchers with Turkish citizenship, entry/exit records for the last three years prior to call deadline, obtained from e-devlet.
- 3.2.4. Certified copy of the most recent diploma or graduation certificate. (A certified English translation must be submitted if the diploma is not in Turkish or English).
- 3.2.5. For researchers without doctoral degrees, document(s) proving their full-time research experience abroad (for instance, a certificate of employment obtained from human resources showing the applicant's position, working hours and duration of employment).
- 3.2.6. Declaration of commitment to comply with ethical rules and any required permissions (if required).
- 3.2.7. An invitation letter signed by the president or vice president of the university; by the director of the research infrastructure qualified under the Law no 6550; by the executive or his/her assignee of the private sector organization or other public institution.
- 3.2.8. Recent Curriculum vitae

Applications will be evaluated based on the documents uploaded to the system. Therefore documents related to each requirement must be submitted with clear and required content.

3.3. Documents to Initiate the Fellowship

- 3.3.1. Following the notification of the grant decision, the Project Coordinator must submit the following documents to TÜBİTAK and start his/her research within 6 months at the latest.
 - 3.3.1.1. A letter of commitment concretely specifying the benefits that will be provided to the coordinator for the duration of the research and, in case the host institution is a university, the letter must include the list of the course (s) to be offered by the project coordinator,
 - 3.3.1.2. The grant agreement to be signed among TÜBİTAK, the project coordinator, and the following officials of the host institution:
 - 3.3.1.2.1. Highest level official of the institution (chancellor, director-general, president, etc.),
 - 3.3.1.2.2. In case the host institution is a university, the top director (dean, institute director, etc.) and the department director (head of department, etc.) of the department,
 - 3.3.1.2.3. Director, in case the host institution is a research infrastructure qualified under the Law no 6550, or

- 3.3.1.2.4. Person/persons with the highest authority to represent the organization, in case the host institution is from private sector,
- 3.3.1.3. Originals or certified copies of the application documents uploaded to the system during application,
- 3.3.1.4. Ethics Committee Approval, if required.
- 3.3.2. The project coordinator may request a postponement of the project start date up to 6 months due to force majeure.

3.4. Method of Application

- 3.4.1. Applications will be made online via e-bideb.tubitak.gov.tr within the dates determined in the call announcement.
- 3.4.2. Documents uploaded to the application system must be in Turkish or English. Certified Turkish or English translations must be provided for any documents prepared in other languages.
- 3.4.3. Uploading the required documents to the system will be sufficient, additional submission of documents to BİDEB is not required.
- 3.4.4. Following the announcement of the call evaluation result, applicants must submit the required documents to BİDEB.
- 3.4.5. The application may be withdrawn at any stage. For withdrawal, a wet-signature petition must be sent to BİDEB stating the application year and period. BİDEB will update the application after receipt of the petition.

4. Provisions Concerning the Research Grant

4.1. Requirements and limitations for participation in the Research Project

- 4.1.1. The requirements and limitations for participation in the research projects within the framework of this program as project coordinator, researcher or consultant are determined by the TÜBİTAK Presidency.
- 4.1.2. In case the host institution is a private sector organization, the host institution must be an equity settled company based in Turkey for the application to be valid.
- 4.1.3. Managers and partners of small, medium and large enterprises (KOBİ) may participate in the project, however high-level managers of private organizations which are not recognized as SMEs (KOBİ) may not take part in the project team.
- 4.1.4. Participants with a contribution rate of less than 10% in the project may not become researchers. However, consultancy services may be procured from these persons, provided they meet the criteria for becoming a consultant.

4.2. Participation of International Researchers

- 4.2.1. Researchers residing abroad may also take part in the project in cooperation with the project team in Turkey . The international researcher must be able to conduct and manage tasks on which researchers in Turkey have limited capabilities.
- 4.2.2. International researchers may take part in more than one project supported by TÜBİTAK, however they may only receive payment from one project. Researchers residing abroad may participate in projects for as researchers for min 1 to max 6 months in total during the project. The legal liabilities arising from their participation belong to host institution.

- 4.2.3. Aforementioned researchers will be provided with 50% of the full – time monthly gross wages they receive from their institution abroad as service purchases from the project to compensate the time spent in the project and travel expenses. If the 50% of the wages gained abroad is less than the maximum amount of payment under the 2221 - Fellowships for Visiting Scientists and Scientists on Sabbatical Leave Program of BİDEB, then researchers would be provided with the maximum amount of payment of 2221 program.

4.3. Changes related to researchers or consultants in the projects

- 4.3.1. Any change related to Researchers and Consultants, including appointment and dismissal, will be made through inquiries of the project coordinator and the approval of the Group Executive Committee.
- 4.3.2. After the start date of the project, the status of the researchers who plan to go abroad temporarily is decided by TUBITAK upon the written notification of the project coordinator.

5. Provisions for Scholarship Students

5.1. Criteria for Awarding Scholarships to Students under the Program

- 5.1.1. Turkish and foreign PhD students (excluding special and preparatory foreign language students) in Turkish universities can take part as scholarship students in the project.
- 5.1.2. Scholarship students are required to provide the scholarship conditions in BİDEB programs.
- 5.1.3. Students who are awarded a scholarship under this program may not receive support under any other BİDEB program during the project.
- 5.1.4. The issues related to the appointment, separation of scholarship students shall be regulated within the framework of the sub-regulatory procedures to be prepared.
- 5.1.5. The duration of the scholarships is limited to the duration of the project. The scientific preparation period of the scholarship student is not included in the scholarship period.
- 5.1.6. The scholarship shall be terminated in case scholarship student receives salary, income, commercial earnings etc. from other sources.

6. Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated in two stages.

6.1. Eligibility Check

Applications which do not meet one of the terms of application, which are submitted after the application deadline and which are submitted via fax or electronic mail will be returned during the eligibility check, without evaluation. However, if there are any missing application documents, the applicant will be asked to complete the documents within 15 days. Otherwise the application will be considered ineligible.

6.2. Scientific Evaluation

Scientific Evaluation will be carried out by Turkish and/or foreign experts who have expertise in the relevant fields. Evaluations will be made in accordance with the following criteria:

- 6.2.1. Qualifications of the Project Coordinators

Scientific qualifications of the researcher will be evaluated based on his/her curriculum vitae and on various other criteria, including the number of publications in the top 25% of the highest impact journals in the last 5 years, the ratio of papers in the top 10% most cited articles in the field, international projects, number of patents, the relative citation index, etc.

6.2.2. Evaluation of the Research Project

6.2.2.1. Research project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

6.2.2.1.1. Excellence

- Within the scope of the call the quality of the research project in terms of scientific and technologic, its level of novelty (innovation and invention potential) if applicable its interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary characteristics,

6.2.2.1.2. Impact

- Within the scope of the call the potential of the project's expected output and results for solving social problems, commercialization, reducing country's international trade, dependency and/or increasing her competitiveness in the relevant field
- The plan to disseminate the project activities and outputs to various target groups

6.2.2.1.3. Implementation

- The consistency and efficiency of the work plan,
- The feasibility of the work packages and the budget
- The feasibility of the management structure of the project and the monitoring processes, including risk management,
- The suitability of the infrastructure of host institutions.

6.2.2.2. Panel evaluation results will be finalized upon the consent of the Group Executive Committee and the approval of the Presidency.

6.2.2.3. The grant decision is announced to the project coordinator and the host institutions/organizations on the relevant web page.

6.2.2.4. The coordinator will inform BİDEB concerning the researchers participating in the research project within a maximum of 3 months from the start of the project.

7. Monitoring and Finalization

7.1. Financial Aspects

7.1.1. After the start of the project the monthly fellowships for living expenses as well as the family living expenses of spouses and children will be transferred by TÜBİTAK before the tenth of each month to the account of the project coordinator, depending on the payment status.

7.1.2. Initial Research Grant payment will be transferred as a lump-sum by way of an advance payment to the project's private account opened by the host institution after the signing of the agreement. In case the host institution is a private sector organization, it will provide a guarantee for the amount of the research initial grant payment, based on the values specified in Law no. 4734. Research initial grant payment will be spent under the rules and procedures set out in article 2.2.9.

- 7.1.3. The first term allocation of the budget for the research grant will be transferred to the project's bank account after the signing of the grant agreement by the parties, and the payments for the remaining terms will be transferred depending on the approval of the progress reports. If the host institution is a private sector, it will provide a guarantee for the amount of the highest term allocation of the grant, based on the values specified in the Act no. 4734.
- 7.1.4. Within the scope of the research grant, researchers involved in the services related to the project (excluding the coordinator) will receive Project Incentive Bonuses (PIB) at the amount determined by the Executive Council of TÜBİTAK. Of the total PIB, 50% will be paid after the approval of the progress reports, and 50% after the approval of the final report. If the host institution is a private sector organization, researchers working in that organization will receive payments at an amount equal to the Project Incentive Bonus.
- 7.1.5. Scholarship costs for the PhD students will be transferred to the project's bank account opened by the host institution, according to the periods specified under the grant agreement. Scholarships for the PhD students will be paid by the host organization within the first week of the month following the month they worked under the project.
- 7.1.6. Expenditures will be carried out within the framework of the principles applicable to the host institution in accordance with the TÜBİTAK legislation. The host institution is responsible for ensuring that the expenditures are in compliance with the provisions of the grant agreement and the legislation.
- 7.1.7. The institutional costs for the host institution will be transferred by TÜBİTAK to the project's private account, under the rules and procedures listed in article 2.2.9. In case the host institution is a private sector organization, general expenditures payment for the term will be transferred after the approval of the term's progress report. The host institution/organization is responsible for ensuring that the institutional budget is spent within the framework of the R&D.
- 7.1.8. The travel allowance for project coordinator, spouse and children is covered by TÜBİTAK for the arrival in Turkey after submission the flight tickets for once only within the duration of the project.
- 7.1.9. Health insurance contribution for project coordinator, spouse and children is covered after submission of the insurance documents within the duration of project. In case of commencement of Law No. 5510, insurance support shall be terminated.

7.2. Progress and Final Report

- 7.2.1. Project coordinator is responsible for submitting progress reports to TÜBİTAK on the dates specified in the grant agreement as well as a final report at the end of the fellowship covering all scientific, technical, administrative and financial developments and outcomes of the project. The reports must be prepared in line with the detailed work plan proposed in the application.
- 7.2.2. Progress reports must be submitted within one month after the dates specified in the grant agreement at the latest, while the final report must be submitted within two months after the finalization date of the research. Progress and final reports must have reasoned expenditure breakdowns for the relevant term in their attachment. In case the host institution is a private sector organization or a foundation university, a Certified Public Accountant report must be included as well.
- 7.2.3. Progress reports and final report will be assessed by expert consultants appointed by TÜBİTAK.

- 7.2.4. Where it is necessary, TÜBİTAK may invite the project coordinator for a briefing concerning the development of the project or may appoint a person and/or persons to conduct a scientific, technical, administrative and financial inspection and audit of the research.
- 7.2.5. Final reports will be approved or rejected by the Group Executive Committee, following an evaluation by TÜBİTAK-appointed experts. Upon approval of final report, the project is considered as completed. For the rejected project, the revocation or abolition are applied depending on the reason for rejection. Following the completion of the project, any remaining balance in the project's bank account will be returned to the TÜBİTAK account.

7.3. Suspension, Abolition And Revocation

- 7.3.1. Suspension, abolition and revocation of the project will be carried out in accordance with the Rules and Procedures on the Implementation of Scholarship and Department of Science Fellowships and Grant Programs of the TÜBİTAK.

7.4. Other Provisions

- 7.4.1. In case the host institution is a university, the project coordinator must also give lecture at least one course in a term at the host institution.
- 7.4.2. It is under the responsibility of the project coordinator to notify any address, e-mail or phone number changes to BİDEB within two weeks at the latest.

8. Ethical Rules

- 8.1. All parties signing the grant agreement must abide by the universal scientific research and scientific publication rules during the implementation of the project. Where required by the study, Ethics Committee Approval and other necessary legal and special permissions must be obtained. In case of a violation of the rules listed above, proceedings will be started on those concerned as per the provisions of the TÜBİTAK Research and Publication Ethics Board Regulations or the Industrial Ethics Board.

9. Call Calendar

Application Period	Opening Date	Closing Date
2018	15/12/2018	15/02/2019

10. Relevant Regulations

- 10.1. The Rules and Procedures of The Department of Science Fellowships and Grant Programs under The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
- 10.2. The Guideline with regard to the Evaluation and Monitoring of Applications and Reports by Panel/Advisor/Advisory Board Method under BİDEB The Science Fellowships and Grant Programs
- 10.3. The Rules and Procedures with regard to the spending of the grant transferred for the project from TUBİTAK's resources to the General Budgeted Public Administrations and the Special Budgeted Administrations, and the Spending of the Projects with External Support run by TUBİTAK.

10.4. The Procedures with regard to the Transfer, Spending, Accounting and Controlling of the grant transferred for the project from TÜBİTAK's resources to Private Institutions and Foundation Universities Rules on the Expenditure of the Amounts to be Transferred to the Public Institutions and Administrations Without General and Special Budgets from TÜBİTAK Resources for Projects

10.5. The Procedures with regard to the grant transferred for the project from TÜBİTAK's resources to Public Institutions and Organizations except the General and Special Budgeted Institutions

Group Executive Committee decisions shall apply in the cases where no clear rule is mentioned in the related regulation and in the announcement of this call.

11. Definitions and Abbreviations

- **President:** The President of TÜBİTAK
- **Presidency:** The Presidency of TÜBİTAK
- **BİDEB:** The Science Fellowships and Grant Programs
- **Experienced Researcher:** Researchers who have **worked 4 years as at least an Assistant Professor** abroad or **at least 6 years full time research experience** abroad obtaining bachelor's degree.
- **Early Stage Researcher:** Researchers at the beginning of their careers **who have obtained a doctoral degree within the last 4 years, hold a position of at least Assistant Professor and/or carried out his/her research postdoctoral research** or **at least 4 years of full-time research experience** abroad after obtaining bachelor's degree
- **General Expense:** Expenses of support personnel, electricity, water, heating, maintenance and repair, communication, rent, stationery, consumable material, furnishing etc. for implementation of the project
- **Progress Report:** Reports prepared by the project coordinator on the dates specified in the grant agreement, in accordance with the format and procedure specified by TÜBİTAK
- **Group Executive Committee (GEC):** The Executive Committee that provides opinion, suggestion and decision related to the Group activities under BİDEB
- **Private Account:** The bank account that is opened by host institution in any bank for the transfer of grant and used only for the expenses of the project
- **Private Sector Organization:** Resident capital companies in Turkey
- **Panel:** Meeting organized by the expert scientists who take part in evaluating the scholarship and grant applications
- **Expert:** Experts appointed to present their opinions in the meeting to evaluate the applications for the scholarships and grants carried out by BİDEB
- **Grant Agreement:** The written agreement and any attachments thereof signed by TÜBİTAK, the project manager and the host institution/organization, setting out the scope and duration of the grant as well as legal, administrative and financial provisions, intellectual and industrial property rights, special terms and the liabilities of the parties
- **Project Duration:** The period of time between the start and end dates specified in the grant agreement
- **Project Incentive Bonus:** The payments made for the duration of the project to the personnel of public institutions or organizations who are assigned to the project and who provide services related to the project depending on their position, which are no

higher than 75% of their monthly salaries and which are specified in the grant agreement in accordance with the rules set out by the Executive Council

- **Coordinator:** The researcher who moves to Turkey within the framework of the program to conduct his/her research, who bears all scientific, technical, administrative, financial and legal responsibility for the project, and who submits his/her scientific, technical, administrative and financial reports to TÜBİTAK at the intervals defined in the grant agreement
- **Project:** All activities to be undertaken to have result through specified success criteria, targets within a specific duration and limited resources
- **Final Report:** The document presenting the added value and achievements obtained from the project results and outputs, prepared at the end of the grant period in accordance with the format specified by TÜBİTAK.
- **University:** Public and Foundation Universities (Minimum 60% of the quota earmarked for universities will be belong to Research Universities.)
- **TÜBİTAK:** The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
- **Executive Council:** Executive Council of TÜBİTAK

12. Contact Information

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[Click here](#) for application.