

**Questions and answers regarding open call for proposals for the National Scientific Program
“Petar Beron. Science and innovation with Europe” (Petar Beron i NIE)**

19.09.2019

1. Question

This message is regarding my intention to participate in the recently advertised "Petar Beron and NIE" Program. During the last 4 years I have been completing my doctoral degree (PhD) in the UK, but during this period I had an active contract with BAS. For the purposes of my PhD I have been undertaking long unpaid leaves.

I would like to check with you, am I eligible to apply for "Petar Beron and NIE", if the total duration of my stay in Bulgaria for the last 3 years is less than 12 months, but I had an active contract?

Also, since I am still affiliated with The University of Nottingham (UK), but I am actively working at BAS, could BAS be my host institution, given they are my current employer?

I hope to hear from you soon, because at this very moment, it is vital for my career to undertake the next step. Since I have successfully defended my PhD last week in Nottingham, I am still not able to apply for the other advertised programs of MON, because my degree is not yet officially recognized in Bulgaria.

Answer

Yes, you are eligible if you confirm the circumstances that you explain in your question, and if you have a document that you obtain your PhD degree (independent on the country where this degree is obtained).

There is no problem an institute of BAS to be your host organization for Petar Beron fellowship.

17.09.2019

1. Question

Right now I do not work for any organization. The same stands for the time when I will submit the project.

1) Should I write in Part A for Current Organization name, Department, Street, Town, Country, ORCID ID, the name of the organization that I will start to work for one day after the deadline for project submission

2) In the Bulgarian version of Part A what should I write for Изследовател: академична длъжност ? Shall I fill in the position I will be appointed at one day after the deadline for project submission?

Answer

1. You may write in the corresponding field that you are not employed. ORCID ID is not related to the organization but is personal ID of a researcher in ORCID.

2. No, you have to write your current academic position, if there is no such position, you may write “none”.

15.09.2019

1. Question

I am eligible to apply for MSCA IF-CAR panel, but not for the MSCA-IF-ST panel, because of the mobility requirement (to reside ≤ 12 months in the last 3 years). Does the program 'P. Beron' allow consideration for the MSCA IF-CAR or other MSCA panels as well? If not, is there a possibility to do so in the future? Adopting only the MSCA-IF-ST panel probably simplifies the program, but also leads to exclusion of potential candidates solely on the basis of arbitrary rules.

Answer

The eligibility conditions of the program are defined in the text of the program approved by the Government and are described in the guidelines for the call. It is not known if the conditions will be modified in the future.

09.09.2019

1. Question

1) Right now I am residing in Germany and have worked for an University there, but not any longer. From the 1st October I will be appointed at an Institute of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria. Under these circumstances, can you please tell me what to write in Part A for Current Organisation name, Department, Street, Town, Country, ORCID ID.

2) In Part A what is meant by Researcher ID? and Other ID ?

3) In the Bulgarian version of Part A for Изследовател: Акад. степен, длъжност what shall I fill in if, before starting work in Germany I had a position of an Associate Professor in the Bulgarian institution, whereas in the German University I was appointed at a PostDoctoral position ?

3) One of the descriptors in Life Sciences completely answers the topic of my project and no other descriptors match it even close. However availability of two other descriptors Descriptor 2 and Descriptor 3, in Part A is marked as mandatory. Can I just write one descriptor and avoid giving irrelevant information by giving other descriptors that do not relate to my project ?

2) The way it is implied in the Instructions, Part A in English and Part A in Bulgarian should be uploaded electronically as a single document. Is this the case? My question is: should part A in English and Part A in Bulgarian be submitted as separate .pdf files or as a single one (A in English plus A in Bulgarian) ?

3) Which documents should be brought physically to NSF ...only Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 or also the printed out (electronically signed and electronically submitted) part A in English and Bulgarian, Part B1 and Part B2 and Appendix 3?

4) Am I allowed to serve as a Scientific Supervisor from the Beneficiary organization, if I serve at the moment as a member of the Commission on Biological Sciences of the NSF? If not – could I be a member of the research group that will host the applicant?

Answer

1. You should include the organization at the time of the submission of the proposal.

2. For the IDs see orcid.org and ResearcherID.com, other ID may be Scopus Author ID, but it is not obligatory.

3. You should include the actual position at the time of the submission of the proposal.

3a. If none of the other descriptors fits to your project, you may repeat again the same descriptor 1 to avoid problem during the eligibility and admissibility check.

2a. Each of the documents Part A in English and Part A in Bulgarian have to be submitted as a single pdf file. They should not be combined into one file.

3b. Only the documents from the host institution, including the documents Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, have to be delivered physically in the Fund. All parts of the proposal (A, B1, B2, Appendix 3) have to be submitted only via the electronic submission system.

2.Question

I write to you in regard of the potential submission of a project for NS Program PETAR BERON I NIE. My question is: Am I allowed to serve as a Scientific Supervisor from the Benefitarianry organization, if I serve at the moment as a member of the Commission on Biological Sciences of the NSF? If not – could I be a member of the research group that will host the applicant?

Answer

There is no restriction members of Scientific Expert Commissions of NSF to act as scientific supervisors for P. Beron projects. According to the Regulations of the Fund (version from May 2019) they may participate in projects.

3.Question

I've been residing in Bulgaria for more than 12 months in the last 3 years. However, during this time I was unemployed and was neither working nor studying. Am I eligible to apply?

Answer

According to the statement in the National science program, you are eligible to apply if you have not been living in Bulgaria (for work or study) more than twelve months in the last three years before the date of the application.

04.09.2019 г.

1. Question

I am currently preparing a Type 2 proposal submission for the "Petar Beron i NIE" call. Could you please tell me to what physical postal address should the signed paper copies of Appendices 1 and 2 be sent?

Answer

The originally signed documents have to be received in the Bulgarian Science Fund at the following address (it is available on the Fund's web site): "София 1309, бул. „Александър Стамболийски“ № 239 Б, ет. 3”.

02.09.2019 г.

1. Question

Could a retired scientist, who has previously worked in the host-applicant institution, be the supervisor of the applicant -researcher.

If references are too many and the footnote space is not enough for all of them, could the references be put at the end of the project and would they contribute to the count of 10 pages?

Answer

1. No.

2. References have to be put as footnotes. Their minimum font size is 8. They will count towards the page limit.

2. Question

I would like to ask the following questions:

1. Where should the files named Prilojenie_1.docx, Prilojenie_2.docx be deposited or uploaded? They are not listed in the online system.
2. Should part B of the application be signed electronically as well? Doesn't this compromise the anonymity and blind review of the application?
3. Section 2 of PBeron-2019 part A template EN.docx asks about the Bulgarian NSF registration number of the participating organisation "encoded at a previous step". The tables below this text do not have a field for such a number. I asked the organisation and they don't know this number.

Answer

1. Those files are related to the Bulgarian host institution but not to the researcher. By this reason, the documents originally signed by the official representative of the host institution have to be presented in the Bulgarian Science Fund before the call deadline. Invitation to sign those document for all running calls of the Fund have already been sent to the eligible host institutions. It is not necessary copies of the signed files to be submitted via the electronic system along with the proposal.
2. Yes. The review is not blind with respect to the applicant, the reviewers know the names of the applicant and supervisor as well as the host institution and this is part of the evaluation.
3. This field should be empty, it is for internal use.

3. Question

I have a question about the mobility requirements for the program 'Peter Beron'. I have been doing research in the US for 18 years and moved back to Bulgaria two and half years ago. Although, I have resided in Bulgaria in the last years, I haven't been involved in research. In these circumstances, am I eligible to apply?

I believe that the requirement of the MSCA program is involvement in research, and not the residence in the country. Is this any different for the program 'Peter Beron'?

Answer

According to the text of the program, approved by the Council of Ministers: the researcher - applicant should not have been living in Bulgaria (for work or study) more than twelve months in the last three years before the date of the application. This text does not specify if the work in this period should be related to research. Thus, if you have not worked or studied in Bulgaria more than 12 months in the last 3 years, you are eligible to apply.