

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

17.08.2020

1. Question

Дали конкурсът е отворен за докторанти (4-та, последна година) в университети извън България, които биха искали да разработят научно изследване в рамките на програмата?

Answer

In the guidelines for the call it is stated that

"The researcher must be an experienced researcher. Periods of inactivity in research (e.g. unemployment, periods of employment outside research, parental or sick leave) do not count towards the time of research experience."

"The Experienced Researcher must be, at the date of the call deadline, in possession of a doctoral degree or has at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience."

There is no restriction where the doctoral degree or the four years equivalent research experience has been obtained, in Bulgaria or abroad.

(please, sent your next questions in English since the call is not restricted to researchers who speak Bulgarian)

18.08.2020

2. Question

I would like to apply for "Petar Beron i NIE" (P. Beron) 2020, but by the deadline for the submission of the proposals (05.10.2020) I will have shortage of 5 days for having full 2 years of stayng/working abroad. So, I would like to ask you, do you plan an extension of the deadline for submission of proposals?

Answer

So far the Executive Board of the Fund has not discussed extension of the deadline of the call.

26.08.2020

3. Question

I am considering applying for the "Petar Beron i NIE" program. I am a Bulgarian citizen. I have never worked in Bulgaria, having left to pursue a Ph.D. in the USA in 1995. From 01.06.2014 to 31.05.2019 I was employed as a contract professor of chemistry in People Republic of China. After that time due to personal reasons I am on a voluntary career break, and am currently unemployed.

Over the last 3 years (counted from 01.10.2017), while being employed in China, I was back to Bulgaria for a few months every year, and after my contract ended I have been mostly staying in Bulgaria. I am certain I have spent more than 12 months total (I can provide the actual dates if needed) in Bulgaria, but none of those months were in a professional capacity or being employed here.

Please let me know if I meet the eligibility criteria for the fellowship.

Answer

According to the text of the National Science Program, approved by the decision of the Council of Ministers, the eligibility criterion is "кандидатстващият изследовател да не е пребивавал в България (чрез работа или обучение) повече от дванадесет месеца през последните

три години преди подаването на проектното предложение”, which translated in English reads as follows: “the applicant cannot have resided in Bulgaria (through work or study) for more than twelve months in the last three years before submitting the project proposal”. If this is the case, you are eligible for the call.

06.09.2020

4. Question

I am residing in the UK and working in an UK university as a Professor and Principal Investigator. If I am successful with my application for “Petar Beron and NIE” program in the field of Life Sciences, can I continue working for my UK University as a Consultant on a part-time basis in addition to working full time or part time for a Bulgarian University funded by “Petar Beron and NIE” program? . My UK University is OK with such an arrangement, but will the regulations of the “Petar Beron and NIE” program allow this to happen.

Answer

The Petar Beron and NIE fellowship requires researcher to be involved full time (100% of the working time) in the project with the Bulgarian host organization. If the university abroad agrees with this, you may continue to work outside this time for them.

10.09.2020

5. Question

We are considering to apply for the "Petar Beron i NIE" (P. Beron) 2020 . The researcher we want our institution to apply with is employed by a foreign EU university, which makes us raise the question – is it possible for him to conclude an employment contract with us given the terms of the "Petar Beron i NIE" program? Would his affiliation with the foreign university remain – would he be able to work simultaneously for both institutions throughout the program’s duration?

Answer

The Petar Beron and NIE fellowship requires researcher to be involved full time (100% of the working time) in the project with the Bulgarian host organization and to use this affiliation in the publications resulting from the project. You may continue to work outside the regular working time for foreign university.

11.09.2020

6. Question

I would like to apply for “Peter Beron National Science Program Competition, Science and Innovation with Europe- 2020”. I have doctoral degree (PhD in organic) and scientific working experience in the field of organic chemistry. Since March 2017 I have been working abroad in a different scientific area. Could you please clarified if I am eligible to apply for this call with a project proposal which is not related to my current job abroad?

Answer

The topic of the proposal can be decided by the applicant and scientific host without restrictions. The qualification of the applicant for accomplishment of the proposal is one of the components, which will be evaluated by external reviewers.

14.09.2020

7. Question

Does **the secondment organization** need to sign Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 ?

If the answer is Yes then does the software system allow two documents to be uploaded for Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 (one for the main and one for the secondment organization) and wouldnt uploading the second file just replace the first one?

Also do Appendix 1 and 2 , both for the main organization and the secondment (if necessary), need to be electronically signed ? The way the form is designed (both Appendix 1 and Appendix 2) it needs to be signed by the Director of the organization , stamped and further scanned as a .pdf. Does this .pdf further need to be electronically signed (unnecessary according to me as the original signature is enough).

Answer

Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 signed by the representative of the host organization and secondment organization should be sent to the BNSF office in original (via post or courier service). If those organizations have already submitted those declarations in connection with other calls of the Fund this year, it is not necessary the documents to be submitted again. Via the electronic submission only the scanned documents for the host organization should be uploaded.

16.09.2020

8. Question

I would like to apply for "Petar Beron i NIE" (P. Beron) 2020, but by the deadline for the submission of the proposals (05.10.2020) I will have a shortage of 5 days for a full 2 years of work abroad.

I would like to ask you, may I apply for the program in this case (with a shortage of 5 days)?

Answer

The restriction is clearly stated in the text of the programme and the proposal will not pass the eligibility check if it is not satisfied. Please, see the exact text of the restriction in the answer of question 3.