

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

03.08.2021

1. Question

The eligibility criterion states that the applicant must have resided 12 months or less in Bulgaria in the last 36 months, as calculated based on the deadline of the call (30th September 2021). I have resided in Belgium from 1 October 2019 until 30 September 2021 (24 months). The rest of the time (12 months), I have resided in Bulgaria. Am I eligible for the call?

Answer

The eligibility check will be done after the deadline of the call based on the information that is provided by the applicant in the application documents. The specific eligibility condition, related to your question, according to the guidelines of the call is “The researcher cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Bulgaria for more than 12 months in the three years immediately before the call deadline. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status (under the 1951 Geneva Convention and the 1967 Protocol) are not taken into account.”

11.08.2021

2. Question

(1) I studied Ph.D. in China, with graduation scheduled for the end of 2020. At the beginning of 2020, I happened to be in Bulgaria on a short visit; however, due to the covid-19 pandemic, borders were closed, and international traveling wasn't possible, so I stayed in Bulgaria and defended my Ph.D. online. If there were no force majeure circumstances caused by the covid-2019, I would have returned to the other country to complete my doctorate and later satisfied the condition of the Peter Beron program that applicants should have spent no more than 12 months in Bulgaria in the last three years. Considering that I remained in Bulgaria for more than 12 months due to force majeure, am I eligible to apply to the Peter Beron” program?

(2) Since September 15th, 2020, I work in a research institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, where in the period from September 15th, 2020 to March 15th, 2021, I worked under a part-time (4-hour) contract. Am I eligible to apply to the program, given that: (a) on the closing date for applications of the program, I will exceed the full 12 months of working in Bulgaria by only 15 days, and; b) during the first six months I worked under a part-time contract?

(3) Is it allowed for an applicant to submit two different applications to the program (considering that only one will be implemented)?

Answer

1. Please, see the answer of the question of 3.08.2021. In the text of the programme, “Force majeure” conditions are not applied in relation to this requirement.

2. The time of the work contract (e.g. full time or part time) is not specified in the requirement, either type of contract is considered as “activity (work, study, etc.)”.

3. According to the Guidelines “Only one proposal per researcher may be submitted to this call”.

13.08.2021

3. Question

My name is ... and I hold a PhD from Havana University. I am interested to participate in the above call, but I would like to know if there are any list of potential supervisors or host institutions where we can find them.

I am sending below a draft of my project and my CV. I will take on board any advice or recommendations.

Answer

On the web site of BNSF we created a page for "Search for Collaborations" where one may find information about the web pages of Universities and other research organizations in the country. In the section of the same page entitled "Partner search" we included the information that you provided.

17.08.2021

4. Question

I would like to kindly make an inquiry about the entry requirements of the programme 'Petar Beron and NIE', and more specifically, the criteria concerning the applicant's country of residence and the terms 'work' and 'research' (used with respect to the purpose of residence). I have completed an undergraduate degree (BA International Politics) in King's College London, UK, a masters degree (MPhil in International Relations and Politics) at the University of Cambridge, UK, and a PhD in Politics and International Relations also at the University of Cambridge, UK. I have never attended a Bulgarian higher education institution and I have not done research or academic work for a Bulgarian research/academic/educational institution.

I would be delighted to return to Bulgaria and continue my academic career there and I believe that the 'Petar Beron and NIE' programme provides a unique opportunity to do this. Before I apply I would like to kindly request for your assistance in interpreting the entry requirements. Firstly, due to the COVID-19 situation, all international students at the University of Cambridge were requested to move back home and continue their education online, which is why I defended my PhD thesis online in December 2020. Even though I have resided in Bulgaria since March 2020, I continued to be a student at the University of Cambridge, UK until my graduation in May 2021. In that case, would my stay in Bulgaria classify as a 'visit', rather than 'residence', which as the supporting documents note, is not assessed in terms of the number of days but by view of the purpose of the stay (which in this case was staying at a safe place during the pandemic and not carrying out academic research for a Bulgarian institution)?

Secondly, during my stay in Bulgaria (specifically, July 2020 - July 2021) I took a part time job (2 hours per day) as a salesperson. However, as mentioned, I have not done any research or academic work for a Bulgarian research/academic/educational institution. Therefore, I wanted to kindly ask whether the term 'work' is understood to refer specifically to research/academic work in the context of the programme 'Petar Beron and NIE' ? I have not done any work of that (research/academic) kind while in Bulgaria.

Answer

The eligibility check will be done after the deadline of the call based on the information that is provided by the applicant in the application documents. The specific eligibility condition, related to your question, according to the guidelines of the call is "The researcher cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Bulgaria for more than 12 months in the three years immediately before the call deadline. Compulsory national service,

short stays such as holidays and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status (under the 1951 Geneva Convention and the 1967 Protocol) are not taken into account.”

18.08.2021

5. Question

- (1) I studied Ph.D. in China, with graduation scheduled for the end of 2020. At the beginning of 2020, I happened to be in Bulgaria on a short visit; however, due to the covid-19 pandemic, borders were closed, and international traveling wasn't possible, so I stayed in Bulgaria and defended my Ph.D. online. If there were no force majeure circumstances caused by the covid-2019, I would have returned to the other country to complete my doctorate and later satisfied the condition of the Peter Beron program that applicants should have spent no more than 12 months in Bulgaria in the last three years. Considering that I remained in Bulgaria for more than 12 months due to force majeure, am I eligible to apply to the Peter Beron” program?
- (2) Since September 15th, 2020, I work in a research institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, where in the period from September 15th, 2020 to March 15th, 2021, I worked under a part-time (4-hour) contract. Am I eligible to apply to the program, given that: (a) on the closing date for applications of the program, I will exceed the full 12 months of working in Bulgaria by only 15 days, and; b) during the first six months I worked under a part-time contract?
- (3) Is it allowed for an applicant to submit two different applications to the program (considering that only one will be implemented)?

Answer

See the answers of the same questions of 11.08.2021.

23.08.2021

6. Question

I would like to propose my application for P. Beron scholarship (MSC evaluation from the last year was 82.2 percent) and I have a few technical questions.

1. on the page for proposals, I'm filling the identical data as should be in the "Part A" - does it generate itself a pdf or I have to fill it in separately?
2. the documents should be electronically signed by the applicant organization (in my case the National Archaeological Institute with Museum BAN) - do I understand correctly that should be all the documents, also the pdf of the original MSC proposal and the evaluation letter of the MSC proposal?
3. is there a requirement who can sign it (in my case can it be the Scientific Secretary or have to be the Director)?
4. the original MSC proposal, that is certified by the European Commission (downloadable after the evaluation) is one pdf for both the part B-1 and B2 (also their part A), should I split it into separate pdfs, or to use the original parts of the proposal (even without the "stamp" of the European commission)? - all of them digitally signed by the NAIM BAN?

Answer

1. The file should be filled separately using the provided template.
2. It is not necessary the documents that are signed electronically by the European Commission to be signed by the applicant organization. All other documents should be signed as described in the Guidelines for the call.
3. The documents have to be signed by the official representative of the applicant organization, who is the Director of the Institute.

4. You may submit the same file containing both parts certified by the European Commission in the field for part B1 and in the field for part B2.

27.08.2021

7. Question

1. I am a citizen of Russia. If the project is supported, I should relocate to Bulgaria. What documents will be required for such relocation - Visa D or living permission or blue-card? Who could help me in the preparation of such documents?
2. Could I have two employers - one from the Bulgarian side and the other from Russia? If so, should the Bulgarian place of work be the main one?
3. What report should I provide at the end of the period? What indicators are used to estimate project success? Articles? Patents? How much?
4. Is it possible to add two acknowledgments into the articles – one for the current Bulgarian project from me and one for a foreign one from co-authors?

Answer

1. Bulgarian Science Fund organizes the call and provides funding for the fellowship, all formalities for accomplishment of the fellowship are responsibility of the host organization for the fellowship.
2. During the fellowship the researcher has to work 100% of its time on the P. Beron project.
3. At the end of the project the research has to submit scientific and financial report accompanied with copies of papers, including results of the project. Since only fundamental research is supported within the P. Beron projects, patents cannot be outcome of the project.
4. If the paper is done in collaboration with other authors, they may also acknowledge their source of funding in addition to the acknowledgement to the funding provided by BNSF for P. Beron fellowship.

30.08.2021

8. Question

Currently I have a PhD in Biology and I am in contact with ... from ... I would like to work in Bulgaria for at least one year, therefore Petar Beron i NIE National Scientific Program. seemed to be suitable for me. My topics of interest are: flora, vegetation, classification & ordination, development and leadership of phytocoenological databases, assessment of ecosystem services and conservation status of vascular plants. Unfortunately we couldn't manage to find any appropriate topic from the provided PBeron_keywords_panels.pdf and we would like to have your advice in regards of this case.

Please let us know if you consider that we may still apply to this project and which topic would be suitable for us.

If you consider that I cannot apply to this project taking into account my topic of interest, can you please suggest any fund or project that may be appropriate for me?

Answer

The list of keywords for Petar Beron call is the same as the list of the keywords for panels of MSC action. This list is used in selection of expert who will evaluate the proposals submitted

for the call. The last two keywords (of total 5 keywords) may be outside the keywords, included in the list.

03.09.2021

9. Question

My name is ... and I am applying for the National Scientific Program "Petar Beron i NIE" (P. Beron) 2021 postdoc scholarship and Prof. Dr. ..., accepted my proposal to supervise me and host me. I am filling out the form and I have a couple of questions if you can answer me.

- 1) In the budget, yearly salary will be BGN 5000 x 12 or 13 or 14? (Many countries give 13 or 14 salary a year)
- 2) During my research, I will have to go on short trips to Turkey, Iraq and Iran for archival research. Do I need to ask for these travel expenses now or on a later stage?
- 3) In one section the monthly scholarship rate is 5000 and in the other section 3800 unit cost, what does it mean?
- 4) I could not find anywhere in the proposal guidelines what is Type 1 or Type 2 of the proposal, could you explain it to me?

Answer

1. According to the Guidelines:

"The fellowship contribution and rates under this action are set out in Part IV of the National Research Program P. Beron and cover:

- Payment to the researcher (including social security and all other payments due by the beneficiary organization): 3 800 BGN/month
- Expenses related to research activities and research management: 650 BGN/month
- Administrative management and institutional costs: 550 BGN/month"

Since in Bulgaria we have 12 months, the total amount for salary per calendar year is 45600 BGN.

2. Trip related to the research work should be covered by the second component of the fellowship:

"Expenses related to research activities and research management: 650 BGN/month:

- costs for training and networking activities that contribute directly to the researcher's career development (e.g. participation in conferences, trips related to the work of the action, training, language courses, seminars, lab material, equipment, books, library records, publication costs)"

3. See the text cited on p. 1.

4. According to the Guidelines:

"Proposals Type 1 are those submitted for Horizon 2020 Maria- Sklodovska Curie Individual Fellowships -Standard European Fellowships Calls: MSCA-IF-EF-ST with a Bulgarian host organization (higher school, including military educational institutions, or scientific organization) or Maria- Sklodovska Curie - Individual funding - Reintegration grant MSCA-IF-EF-RI, submitted in the period of the last three procedures before the procedure under the

national program, which received an evaluation of 80% and above, but did not receive funding from the EC.”

All other proposals are Type 2.

07.09.2021

10. Question

Filling the proposal type 1, Part A in Bulgarian: form should be filled in cyrillic alphabet (for example my name should be transliterated)? The resume of the proposal should be in English or translated to Bulgarian? Both documents of part A - in English and Bulgarian should be electronically signed by the receiving institution?

Answer

Part A in Bulgarian form should be filled in Bulgarian language, the name of the applicant should be transliterated.

The resume of the proposal in Bulgarian form should be translated to Bulgarian.

Both documents of part A - in English and Bulgarian should be electronically signed by the host institution.