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# IBS Young Scientist Fellowship FAQ (2020)

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By Research Evaluation Team on 2 April 2020

## Qualifications and Procedures

### **1. Who is eligible to apply for the Young Scientist Fellowship (YSF)?**

- A. Ph.D. holders with 7 years or less postdoctoral research experience (degrees obtained no earlier than 1 January 2014) or under the age of 40 (born no earlier than 1 January 1980) are eligible to apply. Full-time university faculty members are not eligible to apply as the YSF program is intended to serve as a stepping stone for young, promising scientists who could grow into professors or independent principal investigators (PIs) at major universities and research institutes. This year, current IBS researchers are allowed to apply.

### **2. Are current IBS researchers eligible to apply?**

- A. Yes. Current IBS researchers who meet the above qualifications can apply. If they apply for the YSF program of their Center, they need written permission from their director. Such applicants need to download the Acknowledgement of YSF Application Submission form from the IBS website and submit it along with the letter of intent. This is not the case with IBS researchers who apply to other Centers. When IBS researchers are selected, support will be provided during the remaining term of their employment (up to three years).

### **3. I am currently a Ph.D. candidate. Do I have to be conferred with a Ph.D. degree before submitting a letter of intent?**

- A. No. You can still submit a letter of intent if you will be conferred with a Ph.D. degree by 31 August 2020. In this case, you should clearly state the expected degree conferral date in the letter of intent.

### **4. Is the YSF program limited to basic science?**

- A. No. Researchers from any field relevant to the recruiting Centers can apply.

### **5. Can I contact the director concerned before applying for the YSF program?**

- A. Yes. In particular, when making a full proposal, those who passed the 1<sup>st</sup> phase (letter of intent evaluation) need to contact the director of the Center of their choice and have discussions on organization and operation of a research group, use of research facilities/equipment, and the like. Those who have applied for more than one Center in the letter of intent need to choose one when writing a full proposal.

**6. What factors are considered in the YSF selection?**

- A. Applicants will be comprehensively reviewed based on their capabilities as a researcher, excellence and appropriateness of their research proposal, collaboration potential with their Center, and the like.

**7. What is the YSF selection procedure?**

- B. The YSF selection procedure is divided into three phases: letter of intent evaluation, research proposal evaluation, and interview & comprehensive evaluation. Candidates will be invited to the next phase if they pass the previous phase. (In 2019, out of 82 letters of intent, 13 candidates were interviewed and six were finally selected as YSF researchers.)

**8. If I am invited to the interview phase, will I be provided with travel expenses?**

- A. If a candidate is coming from abroad for the interview, round-trip economy airfare and accommodation expenses of up to two nights will be provided.

**9. How many researchers will be selected for the YSF program in 2020?**

- A. From 2019, the number has been determined by surveys of Centers. In 2020, IBS will select 20 YSF researchers but the number may change depending on the circumstances of IBS.

**Selection and Appointment**

**1. Should researchers resign from their current posts or projects upon appointment as a YSF researcher?**

- A. Yes. Successful candidates are required to conduct research full-time at IBS in principle. Thus, they must take a leave of absence, work on secondment, or resign from their posts upon appointment as a YSF researcher. In addition, YSF researchers are not allowed to participate in other research projects (e.g. Sejong Science Fellowship, Young Researcher Program of National Research Foundation, etc.), since 100% participation in their YSF projects is required. However, YSF researchers are allowed to apply for other projects during their employment term as a YSF researcher only when their transfer to another affiliation is confirmed.

**2. What is the work level of YSF researchers and how long will they be supported?**

- A. If they are selected as YSF researchers at HQ or Campus Centers, they will be appointed as non-tenure-track IBS research fellows. As IBS is currently in the process of research job structure reform, successful candidates' work level may change upon their appointment. Although YSF researchers are affiliated with their Center, they operate a separate account for their research budget. If they are

selected as YSF researchers at Extramural Centers, it is a prerequisite to sign a separate employment contract with the host institution where their Center is located. Support will initially be provided for three years and may be extended for another two years depending on their performance review results.

### Centers' characteristics by type

Type	Internal /external	IBS affiliation	Location	Major research fields
HQ	Internal	All members	IBS HQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General fields of basic science (e.g., life sciences, chemistry)</li> <li>• Strategically important fields for the development of basic science               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fundamental sciences (e.g., mathematics, theoretical physics)</li> <li>- Fields that utilize large-scale research facilities (e.g., rare isotope accelerators)</li> <li>- Pioneering fields led by young researchers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Campus			Five S&T specialized universities* & government-funded research institutes in the Daedeok Innopolis (The construction of a separate IBS building on each campus will be completed in 2021.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fields in which their host institutions have strength</li> </ul>
Extramural	External	PIs	Universities & research institutes (at existing buildings of their host institutions)	

\* KAIST, GIST, DGIST, UNIST, and POSTECH

### 3. If an IBS researcher is selected as a YSF researcher, what would be the employment type and term?

A. IBS researchers will maintain their current work level and receive support for up to three years based on their current employment contract. At present, IBS is in the process of reforming its research job structure concerning research fellows at HQ and Campus Centers. When relevant regulations are finalized, researchers concerned will be informed (expected to be completed in the first half of 2020).

### 4. What is the size of a research budget allocated to a YSF researcher?

A. Depending on the research field, a YSF researcher receives an annual budget ranging from KRW 150 to 300 million, which includes the labor costs for the YSF researcher and all members of his/her research group (e.g., researchers, technicians).

\* In general, up to KRW 150 million for theoretical fields and up to KRW 300 million for experimental fields are provided. The characteristics of the research field (theoretical or

experimental) will be examined during the interview and the size of research budget will be decided by the IBS Research Review Committee.

**5. How much salary will be paid to a YSF researcher?**

- A. An annual salary for a YSF researcher is determined in accordance with the YSF pay band based on both his/ her postdoctoral research experience and their year in the YSF program.

**YSF pay band**

(Unit: KRW 1 mil.)

Year of YSF Postdoctoral research experience	1 <sup>st</sup> term			2 <sup>nd</sup> term (if extended)	
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Less than 3 years	60	62	64	66	68
Less than 4 years	62	64	66	68	70
Less than 5 years	64	66	68	70	70
Less than 6 years	66	68	70	70	70
Less than 7 years	68	70	70	70	70
7 years or more	70	70	70	70	70

- ※ The figures above do not include legally required IBS contributions for employees. Research allowances are not paid to YSF researchers.
- ※ E.g., in the case of a YSF researcher who commences research in September, 1<sup>st</sup> year salary will be paid until August of the following year, and then 2<sup>nd</sup> year salary will be paid from September.

**6. Have the research topics already been determined for the YSF program?**

- A. No. Applicants can propose any research topic in principle.

**7. How will the research groups of YSF researchers be organized?**

- A. YSF researchers can organize a small research group within the given budget. Although YSF researchers can autonomously select their group members, final approval from their director is required for appointment and other personnel-related matters. However, YSF researchers of Extramural Centers should follow the regulations of their host institution in principle.

**8. How will the research space of YSF researchers be arranged?**

- A. In principle, YSF researchers and their Center arrange research space within their Center through mutual consultations.

**9. Where will YSF researchers work?**

- A. YSF researchers should work at the Center that they applied. Successful

candidates from abroad should physically relocate to Korea before their appointment as a YSF researcher.

**10. Will successful candidates be provided with relocation expenses?**

- A. No. However, one-way airfare will be provided to successful candidates who are residing overseas.

**11. When can YSF researchers commence their research?**

- A. YSF researchers selected in 2020 must commence their research between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021. YSF researchers are not allowed to commence their research before nor after that period.

**12. What is the procedure to commence research after being selected as a YSF researcher?**

- A. In accordance with the YSF Guidelines provided by IBS, successful candidates need to determine their appointment date with their director and submit their management plan to the IBS Research Management Team two months prior to their appointment to obtain approval from the IBS Research Review Committee.

**After Research Commencement**

**1. What are the criteria and procedure for the performance review?**

- A. The performance review aims to check and evaluate the excellence of research outcomes and development of research capabilities as a PI since the YSF research commencement. If a YSF researcher requests an extension of the Fellowship, the extension decision will be made during the performance review.
  - 1) When requesting an extension: The requested YSF researcher will submit a status report on the research outcomes generated over the past two and a half years since the YSF research commencement. Then, a performance review consisting of an on-site review and research presentation will take place. The results, including the decision on Fellowship extension, will be delivered by the 9<sup>th</sup> month of the 2<sup>nd</sup> YSF year at the latest. For the performance review, the YSF researcher's director will be asked to submit a written opinion about the YSF researcher, including synergy between the researcher and the Center, to the IBS Research Evaluation Team.
  - 2) When not requesting an extension: only evaluation of a research presentation will take place (without consideration of a project extension).

- 3) When an IBS researcher is selected as a YSF researcher: since support will be provided for up to three years, evaluation of a research presentation will take place without considering the possibility of a project extension.

※ Review criteria

- Scientific excellence in research: originality, potential, and impact of the research topic, excellence and significance of research outcomes produced during the YSF research project period, appropriateness of future research plans, etc.
- Capabilities as a PI: capabilities to independently conduct research, leadership, etc.
- Appropriateness of project management: appropriateness of research budget allocation and execution, appropriateness of research group composition (personnel and organization), necessity of purchased equipment and actual utilization of the equipment (if applicable), etc.
- Cooperation with and contribution to the Center: utilization of the Center's infrastructure, synergy (joint research, etc.), contribution to the Center's large-scale, long-term interdisciplinary research, etc.

**2. What is the procedure for early termination of YSF research projects?**

- A. The YSF researcher who intends to request early termination of his/her project and the Center concerned must notify the IBS Research Evaluation Team and Research Management Team of the intention two months prior to the expected termination date. Based on the notification, the Research Evaluation Team will request submission of a status report, while the Research Management Team will request a progress report and budget execution report (only for Extramural Centers). Then the research budget settlement will take place. After considering the YSF research period of the researcher, an IBS committee will determine a review method and schedule. The review will be carried out in line with the method and schedule, and the YSF researcher will be notified of the results.

**3. What happens to YSF researchers when their Center is closed down?**

- A. In case of Center discontinuation, YSF researchers can move to another Center in the relevant field or an HQ Center depending on their decision.