



THE BALIK SCIENTIST PROGRAM

Balik Puso, Balik Pilipinas

The Balik Scientist Program (BSP) is the brain gain initiative of the government which aims to tap into the ingenuity and expertise of Filipinos abroad to strengthen the S&T capabilities of local researchers in the academe, public and private sectors, and industry. The program was initiated to reverse the effects of brain drain, to provide researchers and scientists whose expertise are not available locally, and to accelerate the flow of new strategic technologies that are vital to national development.

BSP was established in 1975 and was later reinstated in DOST in 1993. Through the efforts of Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV and Congressman Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, their co-author, Congresswoman Divina Grace Yu, and all the legislators in the Senate and Congress, the Republic Act 11035 also known as an "Act Institutionalizing the Balik Scientist Program" was signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on June 15, 2018. The enacted law strengthened the implementation of BSP by giving better incentives and benefits to returning Filipino experts, scientists, inventors, and engineers who would return and share their expertise.

With the passing of the law, a science, technology, or innovation (STI) expert or professional who is a Filipino citizen or a foreigner of Filipino descent can apply and undertake STI activities on his/her field of expertise through a host institution under short term, medium term, or long term engagement.

R&D PRIORITY AREAS

Through its implementing arms, the DOST Sectoral Councils, namely: Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD), Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD) and Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), BSP addresses urgent concerns consistent with S&T priorities identified by DOST for the country's achievement of greater levels of competitiveness, economic value, and prosperity.

As the national coordinating council of health research in the country, PCHRD implements BSP to contribute to National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA) and National Harmonized Research and Development Agenda identified research priority areas by encouraging BSP applicants to focus their activities on the following research priorities:

- Drug discovery and development
- Diagnostics
- Functional foods
- Hospital equipment and biomedical devices
- Information and communication technology for health
- Dengue and other arboviruses
- Climate change adaptation
- Disaster risk reduction
- Artificial Intelligence
- Big Data Analytics
- Nuclear Medicine
- Omics Technologies for Health and Wellness
- Other priority areas such as mental health, geriatric care, nutrition, food safety

HOW TO APPLY

- An applicant to the Balik Scientist Program may either identify prospective host institution(s), or request the concerned Sectoral Council to identify prospective host institution(s) based on the expertise of the applicant. On the other hand, a host institution may either identify a prospective Balik Scientist based on the need of the host institution.
- An applicant to the Balik Scientist Program may have more than one (1) host institution subject to concurrence of the applicant, the prospective local host institution(s) and the concerned Sectoral Council.
- A qualified applicant to the Balik Scientist Program or host institution(s) shall submit his/her application and related documents, including the following:
 - BSP Form 1 - Application Form
 - BSP Form 2 - Terms of Reference
 - BSP Form 3 (R&D Program/Project Involvement)
 - Endorsement Letter from Host Institution addressed to PCHRD Executive Director, Dr. Jaime C. Montoya
 - Detailed Work plan and Gantt chart
 - Updated Curriculum Vitae of BSP Applicant (Educational background, Field of specialization, Areas of research interest, Professional work/employment history, Significant achievements, Relevant trainings, Fellowship or grants)
 - Copy of Certificate of employment (most recent, if applicable)
 - Scanned copy of passport
 - Copy of credentials/certificates of achievement/Diplomas/Transcript of Records
 - Medical Certificate



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Terms of Engagements, Incentives, Benefits and Privileges

Balik Scientists shall be eligible for the benefits, incentives, and privileges under the following terms of engagements:



SHORT-TERM

Minimum duration of 15 days to a maximum duration of 6 months

To be served within one (1) year from the date of the award

- One (1) international round trip airfare
- Daily Allowance (**USD 200/day**) or the UNDP rate whichever is higher
- Subsidized visa application
- Round trip domestic airfare and accommodation for **one (1)** local conference
- Health and medical (including dental) insurance (**Php 250,000/illness**)
- Accident/travel insurance (up to **Php 3 Million** coverage)
- Freight, Excess baggage allowance (up to 25 kg)
- GIA funding for research (proposal driven)
- Membership in the NRCP and one (1) professional organization
- One (1) round trip domestic airfare and accommodation for annual BSP Convention
- One-time incentive for outstanding completion
- Exemption from PRC requirements



MEDIUM-TERM

Duration of more than 6 months but not to exceed one (1) year

To be served within two (2) years from the date of the award

- One (1) international round trip airfare
- Daily Allowance (**USD 200/day**) or the UNDP rate whichever is higher
- Subsidized visa application
- Round trip domestic airfare and accommodation for **two (2)** local conferences
- Health and medical (including dental) insurance (**Php 250,000/illness**)
- Accident/travel insurance (up to **Php 3 Million** coverage)
- Freight, Excess baggage allowance (up to 25 kg)
- GIA funding for research (proposal driven)
- Membership in the NRCP and one (1) professional organization
- One (1) round trip domestic airfare and accommodation for annual BSP Convention
- One-time incentive for outstanding completion
- Exemption from PRC requirements



LONG-TERM

Duration of more than one (1) year to three (3) years, subject to renewal to be determined by DOST

To be served within five (5) years from the date of the award

- One (1) international round trip airfare for the Scientist, spouse and dependent/s
- Special non-immigrant visa for the Scientist, spouse and dependent/s
- Relocation allowance (**Php 250,000**)
- Housing allowance (up to **Php 40,000/month**)
- Transportation allowance (**Php 5,000/month**)
- Salary equivalent to at least **SG 24**
- Round trip domestic airfare and accommodation for **three (3)** local conferences
- Health and medical (Including dental) insurance (**Php 250,000/illness**)
- Accident/travel insurance (up to **Php 3 Million** coverage)
- Freight, Excess baggage allowance (up to 25 kg)
- GIA funding for research (proposal driven)
- Membership in the NRCP and one (1) professional organization
- One (1) round trip domestic airfare and accommodation for annual BSP Convention
- One-time incentive for outstanding completion
- Exemption from PRC requirements



Balik Puro, Balik Pilipinas!
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

