

Instruction to Support Post Doctorate Projects

Development of science and technology in a country requires investment in research and its infrastructures, in particular humanistic infrastructures of research. The Research and Technology Fund has defined a plan to favor Post Doctorate programs in line with its responsibilities and attribution to development of the country's research infrastructures in order to use existing research potentials at universities to carry out demand-driven and prioritized researches and at the same time help to develop humanistic infrastructures of research via these programs. The way in which the fund functions is mentioned in the framework of this instruction and its executive stylebook.

Act 1

Definitions:

Fund: A fund to support researchers and technologists.

Expert committee: the Fund's specialized committee.

Expert working group: the Fund's research working groups.

Post Doctorate Program: A specified research program during which young talented researchers take part in Post Doctorate projects under the supervision of an experienced and elite professor after obtaining a PHD degree.

Post Doctorate research project: these are the research projects defined in the framework of prioritized research areas and approved by the Fund.

Head of Post Doctorate research project: a member of university or research center's faculty who is responsible for controlling, conducting and piloting the activities done by the Post Doctorate researcher.

Post Doctorate researcher: a person holding a professional PHD certificate who is an applicant to participate in specified research programs under the supervision of head of the Post Doctorate project.

Act 2

Goals:

- Help to encourage demand-driven research activities done in universities and research centers in the country.
- Help to improve human infrastructures of research.

- Help to increase research ability and skills among researchers holding a PHD certificate before they become a member of faculty in universities and research centers.
- Using the existing research capacity at universities and research centers in order to meet country's research needs.
- Help to develop knowledge and creativity in universities and research centers and reach new frontiers in science.

Act 3

Post Doctorate project admission requirements:

Post Doctorate projects should meet the conditions below:

- 1) To be in line with the Fund's priorities which come from the country's research priorities.
- 2) Implementing the project is prioritized in partnership with executive organizations, industries, researchers or internationally prestigious academic centers.
- 3) The head of the Post Doctorate project is required to have research experiences as well as coherent and defined plans
- 4) Both the head and the researcher should have work experiences and educational backgrounds relevant to the research project.
- 5) The goals defined in the project should be procurable.
- 6) The goals must be targeted and oriented to extend frontiers of knowledge.

Act 4

Conditions for the head of Post Doctorate project:

The head must have the following conditions:

- Being a full-time member of a university or a research center related to ministry of science, research and technology, university or research center related to ministry of health and medical education or other first rate universities or research centers.
- Holding the academic rank of 'professor'
- Having research experiences and coherent plans which are based on strategic orientation and in line with the fund's priorities.
- Having written at least five ISI articles during the last three years in specialized scientific journals in the related major (In humanities and art at least five ISC articles) or conducted two completed research plans in partnership with industries or administrative organizations. Each case of international patent registration is equal to three ISI articles.

Note 1

Top faculty members selected in prestigious research awards approved by ministry of science research and technology, ministry of health and medical education as well as first rate universities and research centers are the priority.

Note 2

Faculty members having completed functional research plans, technological achievements such as knowledge production, patent registration and sample production are the priority.

Note 3

The head of Post Doctorate plan should not preferably be the thesis advisor.

Act 5**Conditions for Post Doctorate researcher:**

Researchers with following conditions can request a Post Doctorate program:

- Holding a PHD certificate in the related major that is approved by ministry of science research and technology or ministry of health and medical education at least three years after graduation.
- Having at least three ISI articles with an impact factor of over one in the last three years (In humanities and art at least five ISC articles) and each case of international patent registration is equal to three ISI articles.
- Capability of full-time employment in research activities.
- Having basic qualifications and no legal prohibitions.
- Presenting an introduction for university admission from one of the universities or research centers related to ministry of science research and technology, ministry of health and medical education or first rate universities and research centers.
- Conformity between research experiences and the research plan presented by the head of Post Doctorate program.

Note 1:

Applicants having an admission from first rank universities and research centers are the priority.

Note 2:

Applicants who have applied in the framework of National Elite Foundation conditions to enjoy the benefits of the regulations of top talents (distinguished alumni), in case they have an introduction from National Elite Foundation are the priority.

Note 3:

Applicant with technological achievements such as knowledge production, patent registration and sample production are the priority.

Act 6: commitment to full-time employment

When his plan is approved, a Post Doctorate researcher must guarantee to be in possession of the university where the plan is being implemented and he has no right to be employed or have a contract with governmental or private organizations.

Act 7: Duration of the program

The duration of Post Doctorate program is at most one year and can be extended for another year with the approval of the Fund's working groups.

Act 8: Financial resources

In the framework of an approved project each researcher is considered to receive a monthly amount equal to 85% of the salary of an assistant professor which is accounted at the beginning of the same educational year and is paid as an aid to implement the Post Doctorate project.

Note 1:

The Post Doctorate researcher will be paid the amount of money considered to support him with the approval of the head of project.

Note 2:

In special cases when the cost of the research project is paid by the Fund the process of approval and supervision will be similar to that of other projects.

Note 3:

The university or research center where the program is held also the head of Post Doctorate project can help the monthly payment of the Post Doctorate researcher using their own financial resources or by raising fund from other governmental or private organizations in addition to resources allocated by the fund.

Act 9:

Review and approval of the Post Doctorate project is as follows:

- To inform of the plan to support Post Doctorate projects using the university or research center's fund.
- To present the head of project's application along with the proposal, Post Doctorate researcher's CV and the university or research center's letter of recommendation.
- Initial evaluation of the project and the applicants' CVs.
- Scientific review and approval of the project by the expert committee or the expert working group.
- To notify the head of project and Post Doctorate researcher of the fund's act.
- Signing an agreement of the project between the head of the project and Post Doctorate researcher and informing the university or research center where the project is being implemented.

Act 10: the project supervisor's duties

About projects asking for the fund's support with the recognition of expert working group a scientific supervisor is determined responsible for duties mentioned below:

- Providing the head of project and Post Doctorate researcher with consulting services in order to further the program's goals.
- Supervising the head of project and Post Doctorate researcher's performance, codifying a performance evaluation report and presenting it to the fund.
- Controlling the quality of project's implementation based on scientific standards (in form and content)
- Presenting necessary guidelines to the fund in order to improve Post Doctorate program's performance.

Act 11: Intellectual property rights:

The rights to achievements of Post Doctorate projects will be applied based on the Fund's intellectual property rights.

Act 12: executive stylebook

The executive stylebook of this instruction will be approved by the head of the Fund after codifying.

This instruction includes 12 acts and 9 notices and was approved by the head of the Fund on 29th Aban 1393. It is effective from the date of notification.