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# **IBS Young Scientist Fellowship (YSF) FAQ**

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## **1. Is there an age limit to apply for the YSF?**

- A. Young scientists within 5 years of obtaining a Ph.D. or under the age of 40 with a Ph.D. (born no earlier than January 1, 1976) are eligible to apply. Ph. D. holders under the age of 40 can still apply even if more than 5 years have passed since they had obtained a Ph.D.

## **2. What are the qualifications to apply for the YSF?**

- A. The qualifications for applying for the YSF are as outlined in FAQ 1. The YSF program is intended to function as a stepping stone for young, promising scientists who could grow into professors or independent principal investigators at major universities and research institutes. However, current IBS employees are not eligible to apply.

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

- A. You can still submit a letter of intent if you will be conferred with a Ph.D. degree before appointment as a final YSF fellow. In this case, you should clearly state in the letter of intent the expected degree conferral date.

## **4. Can full-time university faculty members or professors apply for the YSF?**

- A. Yes, they can if they fulfill the eligibility as outlined in FAQ 1. However, the purpose of the YSF program is to support young scientists with potential to grow into professors or independent principal investigators at major universities and research institutes after completing the YSF. Therefore, preference will be given to applicants with such potential rather than those who are already professors or established researchers in the major institutions.

**5. Should current university professors resign their posts if they are appointed as the YSF fellows?**

- A. If they are selected as the final YSF fellows at HQ or Campus Centers, they must, in principle, conduct research as the full-time employees of IBS. Thus, they must take a leave of absence, work on secondment or resign from their posts upon appointment as YSF fellows. If they are selected as the final YSF fellows at Extramural Centers, they may maintain their professorship in the relevant universities. However, they are not allowed to participate in other research projects for the first three years from commencement date as they will be expected for 100% participation in their YSF project. Research commencement date is negotiable.

**6. Should researchers currently working in an IBS Center resign their posts in order to apply for the YSF?**

- A. Only the researchers who are not working in the IBS Center by the time they submit a letter of intent are permitted to apply for the YSF. However, re-employment is not guaranteed if they are not appointed as the final YSF fellows.

**7. Can researchers choose to work with an IBS Center that already has a young scientist (YS)?**

- A. Yes, they can. The YSF is a separate program from the IBS YS/ SS programs.

**8. Is the YSF only for pursuing research in the basic sciences? Can researchers in the applied sciences also apply for the YSF?**

- A. The YSF does not limit the scope of research to the basic sciences only. Regardless of their research areas, researchers can apply for YSF as long as their proposed research is related to the IBS Centers they apply for.

**9. How many researchers will be selected for the YSF this year?**

- A. It depends on the capabilities of the applicants and the circumstances of the IBS.

**10. How long will the appointed YSF fellows be supported for?**

- A. The appointed YSF fellows will be supported for up to three years with the possibility of a two-year extension based on the interim review results.

**11. What is the size of the research budget allocated to an appointed YSF fellow?**

A. The size of the budget allocated to each YSF fellow will be between KRW 150 million to KRW 300 million\*, depending on the candidate's research area. This includes the labor costs for the YSF fellow and all members of the YSF research group (if the YSF fellow hires research personnel and technicians to form an independent research group). The size of the budget will be determined annually by the IBS president based on a review by the Research Review Committee of IBS.

\* The average annual budget supported is up to KRW 300 million for experimental areas while for theoretical areas, it is adjusted in the range of KRW 150 million and KRW 200 million.

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

A. In principle, each applicant should propose his or her own research topic. Preferences will be given to highly original and creative research topics that create synergistic effects with the research of the affiliated IBS Center, and to those that make the best use of the research facilities and (large-scale) equipment that are available in the Center.

**13. Where will the research groups of the YSF be located?**

A. Research groups of the YSF are, in principle, located in the affiliated IBS Centers.

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

A. The appointed YSF fellows are guaranteed independence to organize a small-scale research group by hiring necessary personnel within the allocated research budget. The hired personnel will also be affiliated with the IBS Center where the YSF fellow works and can be composed of research fellows, researchers, graduate students and, if necessary, administrative staff and technicians. When hired, research fellows and researchers are appointed as non-tenured-track researchers and administrative staff and technicians are hired as fixed-term employees of the relevant IBS Center.

**15. What is the concept of becoming a research fellow of an IBS Center? How much independence will the YSF fellow get?**

A. The research fellows of the IBS refer to all researchers with Ph. D. degrees who are working in the IBS Centers. The YSF fellows can conduct independent research and hire their own research personnel in the IBS Centers they are affiliated with. The YSF fellows are appointed as non-tenured-track researchers and hired on a fixed-term employment contract.

**16. What is the selection procedure for the YSF?**

A. The selection procedure for the YSF is divided into two phases. In phase one, candidates for an in-depth evaluation are selected through an evaluation of the submitted letters of intent who are further asked to submit full proposals. In phase two, successful candidates are invited for an on-site interview and presentation.

**17. What factors are considered in the selection of YSF fellows?**

A. Most importantly, the YSF fellows will be selected based on originality and creativity of their proposed research. Other factors include whether the proposed research will produce synergistic effect in regards to the research of the IBS Center, how capable the applicant would be in conducting a research independent from the IBS Center while actively utilizing the research infrastructure available in the Center, and if the applicant has the potential to grow into professors and principal investigators at major universities and research institutes around the world.

**18. What is the employment status of an appointed YSF fellow?**

A. The selected YSF fellows are appointed as non-tenured-track researchers by a fixed-term employment contract.

Affiliation	• IBS Center
Work Type	• Researcher
Work Level & Job Title	• Research Fellow • Non-tenured-track researcher

\* The employment contract ends when the contracted employment term (max. 5 years) expires.