**Science Fellowships and Grant Programs Department (BIDEB)**

**2216B - TÜBİTAK-TWAS Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Fellowship Programmes**

**LETTER OF COMMITMENT**

This covenant concerning the assignment of fellowship is signed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/ hereinafter referred to as the Fellow and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/ hereinafter referred to as the academic advisor(s) in Turkey. The Fellow and the academic advisor(s) in Turkey agree to accept and commit the following conditions.

* 1. TUBITAK BIDEB generally uses electronic means to make a notification. Therefore, it is necessary to provide an electronic address in conformity with the notification and keep the information up-to-date.
	2. The fellow must not hold any visa for temporary or permanent residency in Turkey or any developed country.
	3. The fellow must not currently reside in the host country (Turkey).
	4. The fellow must be financially responsible for any accompanying family members.
	5. The fellow must return to the home country on completion of the fellowship.
	6. The fellow is obliged to initiate the research and fellowship within 12 months of the announcement of the support decision by coming to Turkey. The status of the fellows who cannot start their research due to health, natural disaster and similar *force majeure* and other reasons can be evaluated by Group Executive Committee **(**GYK) and the fellowship starting period can be deferred up to 6 months at the most. A fellow who does not begin his/her research within 12 months without the decision of the GYK cannot claim any rights on the fellowship.
	7. The fellow and the academic advisor(s) in Turkey must comply with universal scientific research and scientific publishing rules during the conduct of the research. Where necessary, it is obligatory to obtain the Ethics Committee Approval document and the legal permission from the relevant institutions for the research to be done. In case of a violation of the above-mentioned rules, legal actions shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of TÜBİTAK Directive ın Research and Publication Ethics Committee (AYEK) or Industrial Ethics Committee (ENDEK).
	8. The fellow is obliged to report all kinds of fellowship or financial support, which are received from another institution in Turkey during the fellowship period to BIDEB within 15 days from the starting date of the support. If the fellow has some financial support received from another institution, the amount of the support within the scope of this programme might be separately determined by the GYK.
	9. The fellows have to maintain their research studies full-time during the fellowship period. The fellow is obliged to inform TÜBİTAK about any short or long-term visits away from the host institution and the duration of such visits within 10 days of the occurrence causing the time away. Duration of time away for less than 15 days per year shall not interrupt the fellowship payment. For any durations longer than 15 days, GYK and the Presidency may consider temporary suspension, repeal or cancelation of the fellowship. In such a scenario, any stipend paid for this period will have to be returned to BIDEB by the fellow.
	10. Those who receive fellowship within the scope of this programme cannot receive project incentive bonus (PTI), fees, royalties, and similar financial support from other projects supported by TÜBİTAK at the same time.
	11. In the case of those who receive or are eligible to receive a fellowship from other programmes of TÜBİTAK, this situation should be reported to TÜBİTAK in writing by the fellow. If otherwise determined, the fellow is obliged to pay back the entire fellowship amount to BİDEB along with the legal interest.
	12. In relation to their research, the fellows should upload progress and final reports to the online monitoring system on the dates specified by TÜBİTAK. It is sufficient to upload the reports to the [online monitoring system](https://ebideb.tubitak.gov.tr/giris.htm?language=en) and it is not required to deliver them to BIDEB by post.
	13. A progress report is not requested from the fellows whose support periods are less than 10 months, and it is sufficient for them to upload their final reports to the online monitoring system on the dates specified by TÜBİTAK. Fellows whose support period is determined as 10 months, and more are required to upload progress report(s) every 6 months following the start date of their research and a final report within 2 months of the end date of their research.
	14. Progress reports can be uploaded to the online monitoring system no more than 10 days after the submission dates specified by TÜBİTAK. In case of any delay of the submission of progress reports, the fellowship payments will not be paid and the fellow will be given an additional period of 2 months. The fellowship payments of the fellows who submit their progress reports within the given time period will continue where they left off. The support given to the fellows who do not submit their progress reports to BİDEB within 2 months without relying on *force majeure* reasons may be repealed or canceled with the decision of the GYK and the approval of the Presidency.
	15. If the final report is not uploaded to the online monitoring system within 2 months following the research end date, the fellow can request additional time with a reasoned and signed petition. If the request is considered appropriate by the GYK, additional time may be given for the completion of the report. The fellowship support of the fellow who does not submit their final reports to BİDEB in the additional time given, can be repealed or canceled by the GYK decision and the approval of the Presidency.
	16. Progress and final reports are evaluated by academic experts to be assigned by BİDEB. Reports that are not sufficient as a result of the evaluation are requested to be revised within 2 months. The support of the fellow who does not send the necessary revisions within the given time period or whose revised reports are not accepted can be repealed or canceled by the decision of the GYK and with the approval of the Presidency.
	17. TÜBİTAK and TWAS-UNESCO support should be stated in the publications within the scope of the programme and, if available, the publication should be uploaded to the online monitoring system in addition to the progress and final reports.
	18. It is essential for the fellows to complete his/her research successfully within the fellowship period assigned by TÜBİTAK and TWAS-UNESCO. If fellows, who are supported for less than the maximum support period wish to extend their fellowship, they should deliver the following documents to BIDEB 2 months before the end date of the fellowship period.
	19. The Fellowship extension request form. The form must include the summary of the research carried out by the fellow during the period of support and justification for the fellowship extension. The form must be signed by both, the fellow and academic advisor(s) in Turkey.
	20. A detailed research report on the studies that will be carried out within the requested period. This report should be prepared in the “Progress Report” format in the “Application Forms” available on the official programme website. If the request for extension is deemed appropriate by GYK, it will be finalized with the approval of the Presidency. The extended period cannot exceed fifty percent of the initially awarded support period of the fellowship.
	21. In the event of a situation requiring the suspension of fellowship based on *force majeure*, the fellow and the academic advisor(s) in Turkey must apply to BİDEB with a justification within 20 days from the date of the incident. Fellowship support can be suspended if GYK deems appropriate. The suspension period may be up to 12 months during the support period and no payment will be made to the fellow during this period. Upon request of the fellow and the academic advisor(s) in Turkey regarding the resumption of the discontinued support, if deemed appropriate by the GYK, the fellowship support will recommence and the suspension period will be added to the fellowship period.
	22. In the event that no request is submitted by the fellow and the academic advisor(s) in Turkey for the resumption of support within the suspension time, the support of the fellow can be repealed or canceled by the decision of the GYK and with the approval of the Presidency.
	23. If the fellow wants to leave the programme earlier than the end date of the fellowship without completing the research, the fellow and academic advisor(s) in Turkey must apply to BİDEB with appropriate justification. In the case of abandonment of the fellowship without successful completion of the programme the following conditions will apply:
	24. The fellowship stipend will no longer be paid from the date of abandonment. If a payment was already made, the fellow must refund it.
	25. The final report that is prepared for research results and outputs obtained until the date the research was stopped must be uploaded to the online monitoring system within 2 months.
	26. The fellowship support will be repealed or canceled by the decision of the GYK and the approval of the Presidency.
	27. If the fellow completes the research earlier than the end date of the fellowship, the fellow and academic advisor(s) in Turkey must apply to BİDEB with a justification. In case of early completion of the research the following applies:
	28. The monthly fellowship payments will not be paid from the date of completion. If a payment was already made, the fellow must refund.
	29. The support of the fellow is terminated with GYK decision and with the approval of the Presidency, based on the approval of the final report as a result of the monitoring evaluation by scientific experts.
1. In case of a request to change the host institution or the academic advisor(s) in Turkey, the fellow should apply to BIDEB submitting the following documents:
	1. The request form for the change of the host institution or the academic advisor(s) in Turkey signed by the fellow, the current, and new academic advisor(s) in Turkey.
	2. The acceptance letter from the highest authority of the new host university in which the research will be conducted.

If GYK decision approves the request, the transfer can proceed. Following the approval, the Letter of Commitment of the fellow will be renewed.

1. In case the fellow requests to make changes on the research title without changing the research subject to which it is entitled to support, the fellow must apply to BİDEB along with a letter of justification signed by the fellow and the academic advisor(s) in Turkey. With the GYK approval, the research title can be changed.
2. The Fellowship requires that you observe and adhere to the conditions of TÜBITAK-TWAS Postdoctoral Fellowship, and the rules, regulations, policies and conditions of research at the host institution. The TÜBITAK-TWAS Postdoctoral Fellowship may be terminated on account of breach of standard regulations and procedures and of this agreement.
3. Any breach of these regulations could lead TÜBITAK and/or UNESCO-TWAS requesting reimbursement for all expenses incurred.
4. By accepting this Fellowship, you agree that any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of, or relating to this Agreement or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof shall be settled amicably between you, UNESCO-TWAS and TÜBITAK (together “the Parties”). Where the Parties wish to seek such an amicable settlement through conciliation, the conciliation shall take place in accordance with UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules then obtaining, or according to such other procedure as may be agreed between the Parties.
5. Unless any such dispute, controversy or claim between the Parties arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof is settled amicably under the preceding paragraph of this Article within sixty (60) days after receipt by one Party of the other Party’s request for such amicable settlement, such dispute, controversy or claim shall be referred by either Party to arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules then obtaining, including its provision on applicable law. The arbitral tribunal shall have no authority to award punitive damages. The Parties shall be bound by any arbitration award rendered as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of any such controversy, claim or dispute.
6. The fellow shall not be considered as an agent or member of the staff of UNESCO or TÜBİTAK. Nor shall you be entitled to any privileges, immunities, compensations of reimbursement, except as otherwise provided herein, nor are you authorized to commit UNESCO and TÜBİTAK any expenditure or other obligations.
7. Unless authorized in writing by UNESCO and TÜBİTAK, you shall not use the name, acronym or official logo of UNESCO AND TÜBİTAK, or any abbreviation of the name of UNESCO and TÜBİTAK, for advertising or any other purposes.
8. Nothing in or relating to this Agreement shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of UNESCO and TÜBİTAK.
9. The intellectual property rights on any works, which may result from the activities related to the cooperation foreseen under the TÜBİTAK‐TWAS Fellowship award, will be property of the scientist benefitting from the fellowship and the host institutions that execute this cooperation.
10. In any publications arising from the work carried out during this Fellowship, proper recognition of co-authorship should be given to the Host Institution, the Host Supervisor and any relevant collaborators.
11. Acknowledgement of the support provided by  TÜBITAK and UNESCO-TWAS should be given in any publication arising from the fellowship.

I have read the Rules and Regulations for Research Fellowship Programme for International Researchers of 34 articles, of which one copy is given to me. I confirm and commit that I fully comply with the regulations during my fellowship period.

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| **Starting Date of the Research\*** |  |
| **Bank Name and Branch\*\***  |  |
| **IBAN** |  |

*\*The starting date of the research must be the first day of the month in which the research will be started.*

*\*\*It must be a Turkish Lira bank account opened in the name of the researcher.*

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| **Name of Fellow**  | **Date** | **Signature** |
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| **Name of Academic Advisor in Türkiye** | **Date** | **Signature** |
|  |  |  |
| **Name of other Academic Advisor in Türkiye (if any)** | **Date** | **Signature** |
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