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TÜBİTAK

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The CoCirculation3 program seeks to attract postdoctoral researchers of any nationality to undertake research at academic and non-academic institutions in Türkiye, providing funding for projects of up to 24 months to advance their professional and academic career trajectories.

CoCirculation

2012-2017

- ❖ **11,2 Million Euros**
- ❖ **103 Resarchers**
- ❖ **4 Calls**

CoCirculation2

2018-2023

- ❖ **13,9 Million Euros**
- ❖ **103 Researchers**
- ❖ **4 Calls**

CoCirculation3

2025-2030

- ❖ **15,7 Million Euros**
- ❖ **100 Researchers**
- ❖ **3 Calls**

Research and training program for researchers

- Incoming mobility
- Bottom up approach
- With secondment
- Non Academic Placement (NAP) option

Co-Funded by European Commission Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska Curie Cofund Program

Total budget: € 15.672.000

- 61 % € 9.552.000 from European Commission
- 39 % € 6.120.000 from Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey

Contibutions of the CoCirculation3

Transfer of Knowledge and Experience

Knowledge, skills, and experience acquired abroad will enhance and contribute to local research and development activities.

Innovation and Technology Development

Qualified researchers will assume a critical role in making scientific discoveries and technological breakthroughs.

Economic Contributions

Retaining and attracting skilled talents in the country will enhance innovation, strengthen competitiveness, and contribute to economic growth.

Scientific and Technological Advancement

It will strengthen researchers' international collaborations and contribute to Türkiye's integration into global research networks.

Enhancing the Research Ecosystem

It will strengthen Türkiye's research ecosystem and promote collaboration and innovation.

To Boost Research Careers

The CoCirculation3 program advances post-doctoral researchers' academic careers by funding and enabling their research endeavors in Türkiye.

Program Structure

Project Stakeholders

1 TÜBİTAK European Commission

2 Researcher

3 Host Institution Supervisor

4 Partner Organization (Secondment-NAP) Co-supervisor

CoCirculation3 project duration

5 Years
Started on June 1, 2025
Will end on June 1, 2030

Fellowship durations

24 months for 3 calls

Up to 6 months for Secondment

12 additional months for NAP

There calls will be published for proposals

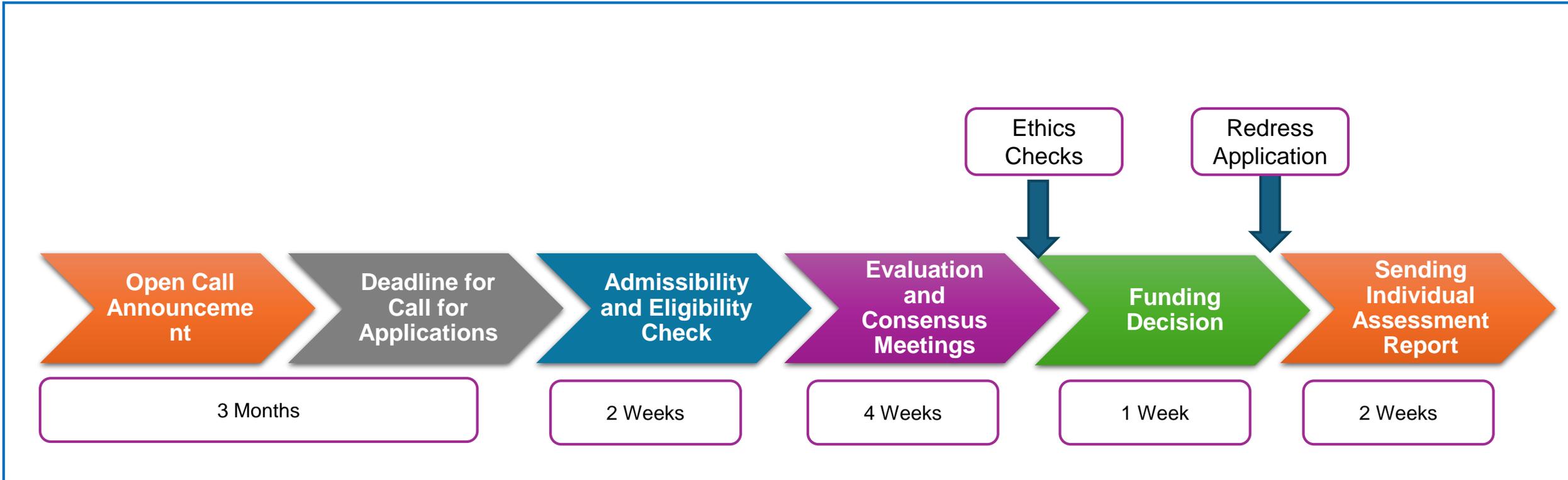First Call: **September 1, 2025 – December 1, 2025**

Second Call: **August 3, 2026 – November 3, 2026**

Third Call: **July 1, 2027 – October 1, 2027**

Online Application

Registration in the Researcher Information System (ARBİS) (https://arbis.tubitak.gov.tr/)

TÜBİTAK MIS (tybs.tubitak.gov.tr)

Eligibility Criteria (CoCirculation3 2025 Call)

General Eligibility

No age or nationality restrictions: Open to postdoctoral researchers of any origin; no limits on origin or destination.
Postdoctoral status: Must hold a PhD by the call deadline (Dec 1, 2025). Successful thesis defenders (unconditional, pre-deadline) are eligible; documentation may be required.

Mobility Rule

Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Türkiye for more than 12 months within the 36 months immediately preceding the deadline of the relevant CoCirculation3 call.
Excludes short stays (20 days/year) and compulsory national service.

Additional Contitions

Green Deal priority: Projects are expected to be related to Türkiye's Green Growth Roadmap and EU Green Deal RDI topics.
Employment Status: Researchers who are already permanently employed by their proposed host institution are not eligible for funding under CoCirculation3. However, applicants may propose a different host, provided they terminate their existing contract upon funding and sign a new fixed-term one with the host.

Turkish nationals: Cannot apply if subject to mandatory service obligation from prior fellowships/support in Türkiye.

Host Organizations

- Applicants CAN CHOOSE as their main host organisation ANY academic or non-academic research institute in Turkey with a high international research reputation.
- ❑ Potential host organizations are encoureged to initiate their own recruitment process through;
  - ❑ Networking
  - ❑ Utilization of Euraxess at https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/search
  - ❑ EURAXESS Jobs portal: Guide to publishing vacancies
  - ❑ CoCirculation3 Website Partner Organizations at https://cocirculation3.tubitak.gov.tr/program-partner
- ❑ The quality of the host organization and supervisor will be reviewed during the evaluation process
- ❑ All researchers must have access to laboratory and/or office space that is needed for the proper implementation
- ❑ All reserachers must have access to all infrastructure and equipment needed to carry out the project.

EURAXESS
Researchers in motion

FUNDING TÜRKIYE

TUBITAK | Posted on: 14 August 2025

CO-FUNDED Brain Circulation 3 (CoCirculation3)

OutlineCoCirculation3 is a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship program co-funded by the European Commission under the Horizon Europe MSCA COFUND scheme and implemented by TÜBİTAK. With a total budget of €15 million—the highest level of funding awarded under the 2023 COFUND call—the program aims to...

Deadline: 1 December 2025

Funding Programme: Horizon Europe – COFUND

Research Field: Research Field
All

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Secondment and Non Academic Placement

Feature	Secondment	Non-Academic Placement (NAP)
Definition	Temporary assignment in an academic or non-academic institution, in Türkiye or abroad, aligned with the research project and offering added value.	Additional period (up to 12 months) in a non-academic institution located in the Turkish Research Area (TRA), taking place after the end of the fellowship.
Timing	During the fellowship duration, but not allowed during the last 6 months.	Only after the standard fellowship duration ends.
Duration	Maximum of 6 months (can be in one block or split into two phases).	Up to 12 months.
Location	Türkiye or abroad; academic or non-academic institutions.	Only within non-academic institutions in TRA (in Türkiye)
Purpose	Skill diversification, exposure to different research environments, interdisciplinary learning.	Practical experience, exposure to non-academic sector, enhancing employability.
Documentation at Proposal Stage	Must be clearly described in the proposal and supported with host institution and supervisor (co-mentor) details via TYBS.	No letter of commitment required at the proposal stage.
Gantt Chart	Must be included in the Gantt chart.	Should be included in the Gantt chart.
Evaluation	Not a sub-evaluation criteria.	Not a sub-evaluation criteria.
Mandatory	Not mandatory, but can be advantageous if well aligned with project objectives.	Optional, and must be justified in the proposal.
Financial Support	TÜBİTAK provides a top-up allowance for secondments abroad (amount depends on destination country).	Covered by BİDEB. €1500/month from TÜBİTAK + €1000/month from NAP host institution (indicated in Partnership Agreement).

Financial Aspects

€3,980/month gross living allowance paid to recruited researchers via host organizations; taxable in Türkiye as a contribution to salary costs.

Living Allowance

€600/month family allowance for researchers with families; fixed and taxable in Türkiye.
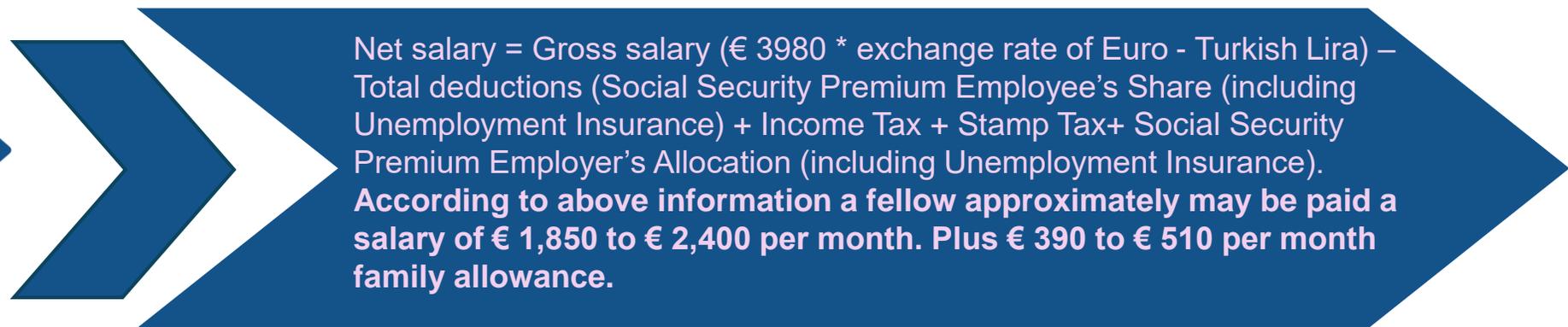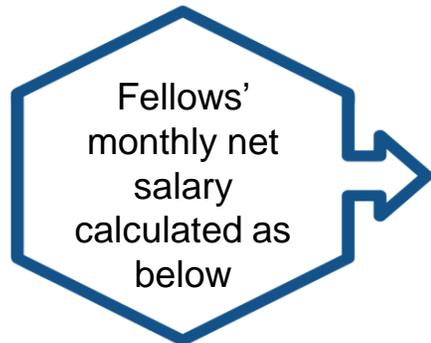
Family Allowance

€1,000/month research allowance managed by the host organization to cover project-related expenses (e.g., training, conferences, research costs); fellows must report usage in 6-monthly reports.

Research, Training and Networking Costs

€130/month for handling salary payments, research training, networking budget, and fellowship formalities at the host level.

Host Institution Budget

Up to €250/month for max 12 months to support training, consultancy, and services enhancing researchers' entrepreneurial activities (upon invoice submission).

Entrepreneurship Allowance

Fellows' monthly net salary calculated as below

Net salary = Gross salary (€ 3980 * exchange rate of Euro - Turkish Lira) – Total deductions (Social Security Premium Employee's Share (including Unemployment Insurance) + Income Tax + Stamp Tax+ Social Security Premium Employer's Allocation (including Unemployment Insurance).
According to above information a fellow approximately may be paid a salary of € 1,850 to € 2,400 per month. Plus € 390 to € 510 per month family allowance.

Training Program

The training program encompasses courses and workshops focused on non-scientific competencies, designed to broaden fellows' skill sets, expedite their professional advancement, and facilitate networking opportunities among CoCirculation3 participants, including interactions with TÜBİTAK staff.

Training and Career Development	Scheduled Training Date	Training and Career Development	Scheduled Training Date
Communication, Visibility and Public Outreach	(M24-M36-M48)	Research Data Management Training	(M22-M34-M46)
Horizon Europe Funding Opportunities and Grant Writing	(M25-M37-M49)	Industry-Academia Coop. and Collaboration	(M22-M34-M46)
Green Deal	(M16-M28-M40)	Citizen Science	(M22-M34-M46)
Project Technical and Financial Management	(M16-M28-M40)	Individual portfolio preparation including the CVs and personalized websites/blogs	(M16-M28-M40)
Research governance skills	(M18-M30-M42)	Open Science Handbook	(M17-M27-M39)
Entrepreneurship Skills trainings	(M18-M30-M42)	Open Access	(M17-M27-M39)
Leadership in Science	(M18-M30-M42)	Responsible Research and Innovation	(M17-M27-M39)
Mentorship	(M20-M32-M44)	Open Peer Review	(M17-M27-M39)
IPR and Commercialization of the Research Results	M16-M28-M40)	Open Citations	(M17-M27-M39)
Science Diplomacy	(M20-M32-M44)	Open and Reproducible Research	(M17-M27-M39)
EU Human Resources Strategy for Researchers and Charter and Code	(M16-M28-M40)	Text and Data Mining	(M18-M30-M42)
Green Charter and Gender Equality Plan	(M16-M28-M40)	Ethics and Research Policy	(M16-M28-M40)
Workshop on "Leadership in diverse research environments for aspiring researchers"	(M16-M28-M40)		

Ethical Issues

Core Principles

- Fundamental ethics principles
- CoCirculation3 adheres to EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and Horizon Europe ethics rules.

Proposal Requirements

- All applicants must fill ethical ıssues table – attached to the proposal, incomplete declarations lead to rejection.
- Specify any project activities involving ethics; expert review may require approval even if deemed unnecessary.

Approval Process

- All proposals reviewed by Ethical Committee (EC); may require host institution's ethics approval letter.
- If no host ethics committee, use nearest local one.
- Approvals must be obtained and submitted to TÜBİTAK before project start.

TÜBİTAK Research and Publication Ethics Board

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

IPR Protection

- Host institutions must establish rules to protect and manage intellectual property from research.

TÜBİTAK IPR Regulations

- All projects, including CoCirculation3, comply with TÜBİTAK IPR laws. IPR holders must grant TÜBİTAK a free license if requested.
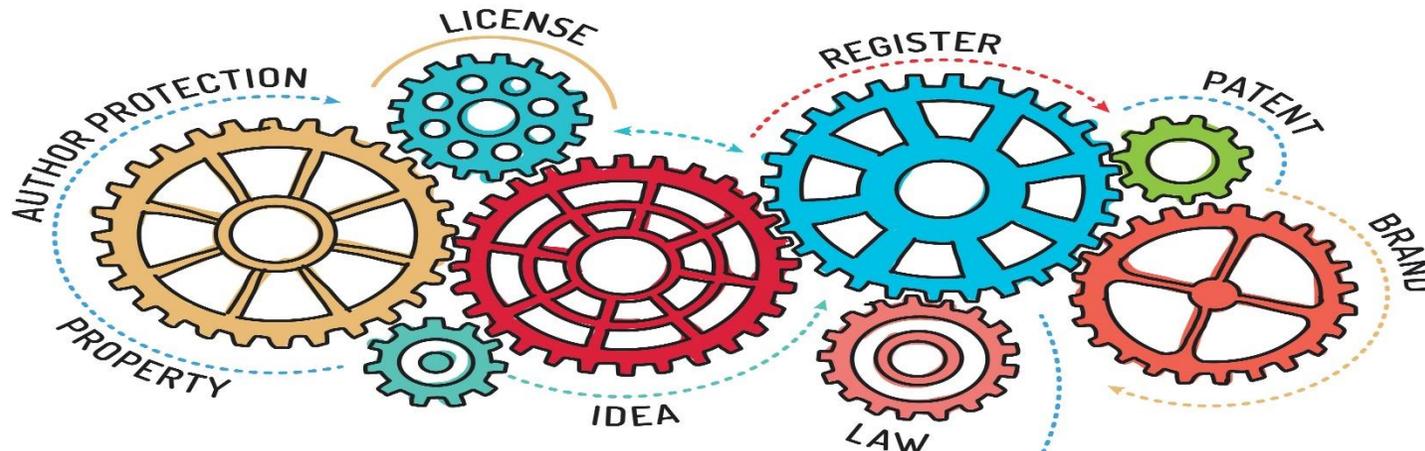
Scientific Publications

- Fellows must acknowledge TÜBİTAK and REA support via CoCirculation3 in all project-related publications.

Public Announcements

- Host institutions and fellows must credit TÜBİTAK in press releases and announcements; use TÜBİTAK logo per official website standards (except where restricted, e.g., theses/articles).

Liability

- Researchers are liable for damages from non-compliance with these rules.
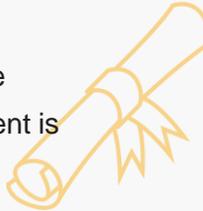
TÜBİTAK

Required Documents

Research Proposal and CV
- Research proposal with Ethical issues table filled in full
- Curriculum vitae for the applicant and supervisor

Diploma
The original PhD diploma or a certified doctoral degree graduation certificate must be submitted. If the document is not originally issued in Turkish or English, a translated version must also be provided.

Letter of Support
A Letter of Support from the host institution which must be approved by the rector, vice-rector or the head of a non-academic institution.

Applications that include a secondment proposal must also include a Letter of Support from the co-host institution.

Application

❑ Applicants are expected to present their proposal in 5 different sections:

❑ Excellence
❑ Impact
❑ Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation
❑ Ethical aspects (if any)
   ❑ The maximum total length for sections 1 to 3 is 10 pages, plus 1 page for the Start Page, 1 for the Table of Contents.
   ❑ The CV should include the standard academic and research record (maximum 5 pages are recommended).
   ❑ The template is available at the https://cocirculation3.tubitak.gov.tr/
   ❑ No page limit in Ethical aspects
❑ Scope of Project's Alignment with the European Green Deal

❑ Any research career gaps and/or unconventional paths should be clearly explained
❑ Applicants should clearly explain the added value of implementing their research project in a non-academic host organisation (if non-academy is chosen)
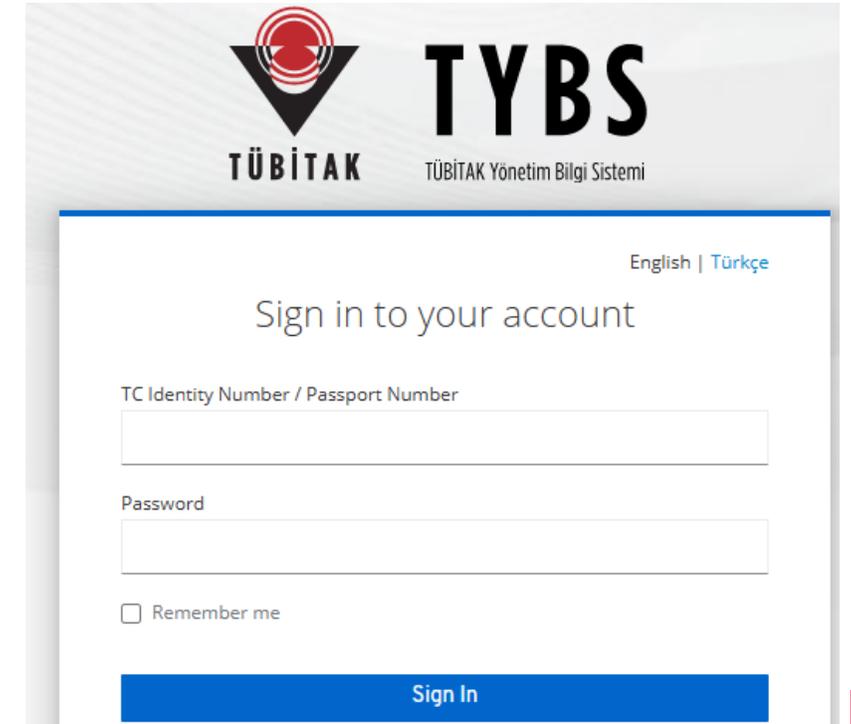
At the application stage, applicants are not required to submit any documents for the verification of the mobility rule. However, if candidates are awarded the support, **they must provide documents proving their compliance with the mobility rule along with the fellowship initiation documents.**
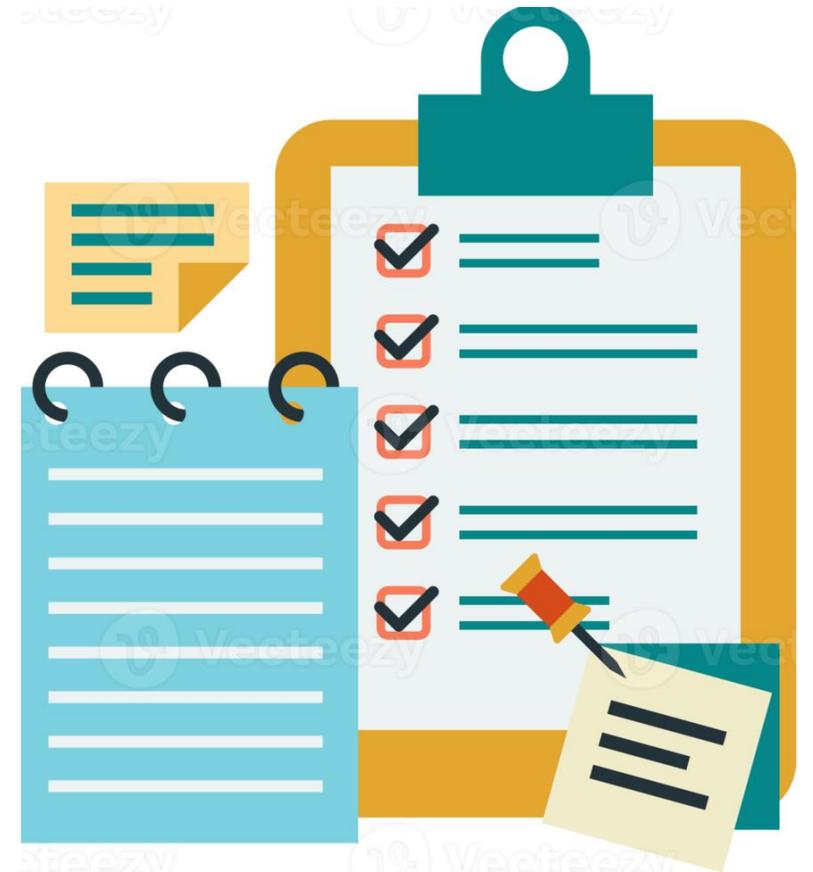
Account Creation

- Applicants have to create an account entering required Identity and contact information into Researchers Information System (ARBİS) https://arbis.tubitak.gov.tr/
- Once account created at ARBİS, applicants can start online application at TÜBİTAK MIS (https://tybs.tubitak.gov.tr/)
- For the technical problem, the applicants can contact with IT department at cocirculation3@tubitak.gov.tr .

Document Uploading

- All the documents have to be in pdf format.
- Certified PhD diploma or certified copy most recently completed university degree might be in jpeg

- An applicant may continue on the TYBS System to modify his/her application and submit revised versions overwriting the previous one until the deadline.

- Once the researcher finalize application, the application process will be finalized and the application form will be automatically generated.

- Incomplete applications will not moved to eligibility check phase.

- No hard copies of the application documents required.

- Submission of proposals recommended at least 48 hours before the the deadline of the call.

Mobility Rule: As an international PhD program enrollee, I carried out my doctoral research in Türkiye, exceeding 12 months of residency there within the relevant 36-month period. Does this disqualify me from eligibility?
The call requires no residency or main activity in Türkiye in the last 36 months. Doctoral studies count as main activity. If enrolled in an overseas PhD program with supporting documents (e.g., student certificate, lease agreement), you meet the condition.

Is there any format for Letter of support?
There is no specific format for the Letter of Support. However, it should include:
• **Project title and researcher's full name**
• **Program name (CoCirculation3)**
• **A statement confirming that, if funded under CoCirculation3, the host institution agrees to host the researcher and employ them under a fixed-term contract for the project duration.**

Is there a remote working option under the program?
No. The researcher is expected to work full-time at the host institution within the scope of the project.

Is it possible to be a supervisor for more than one project?
Yes.

If I start working as a permanent staff member at the host institution during the application process, will my application still be valid?
No. The European Commission states that the employment contract held under the researcher's existing position cannot be used in place of the one for CoCirculation3, and that the researcher must work full-time for the CoCirculation3 project.

Will my support continue if I start working at the host institution after my support has begun?
In this case, the European Commission decides whether the support will continue. The decision is made by taking into account the status of the project, the researcher's situation, etc.

Which research fields are eligible for applications?
Applications are accepted from all fields. Project proposals are expected to be directly or indirectly aligned with the Green Deal.

When can I start the project?
within 5 months after the support decision. Msc pf bas

Can I apply to both 2232 and the CoCirculation3 program at the same time?
Yes, if you are accepted into both programs, you will need to choose one.

I have applied for an MSCA PF. Can I apply with the same project proposal?
Yes.

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Thank you.

TÜBİTAK | Directorate for Science Fellowships and Grant Programmes (TÜBİTAK BİDEB)