GUIDE FOR APPLICANT – CALL 2026

Co-Funded Brain Circulation Scheme 3

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement № 101179377

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1. Information About CoCirculation3 Fellowship Program

1.1. TÜBİTAK

Turkish Scientific and Technological Research Council (TÜBİTAK) **introduces a new European Commission Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Cofund program "CO-FUNDED Brain Circulation 3 (CoCirculation3)".**

TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye) is the leading public agency responsible for the management, funding, and coordination of research and development in Türkiye. As an autonomous institution governed by a Scientific Board composed of distinguished scholars from academia, industry, and research organizations, TÜBİTAK plays a central role in shaping the national R&D agenda. It also advises the Government of Türkiye on science, technology, and innovation (STI) policies and serves as the secretariat of the Supreme Council for Science and Technology (SCST), the highest S&T policy-making body in the country. Within TÜBİTAK, the Department of Science Fellowships and Grant Programmes (BİDEB) is tasked with designing and implementing a wide range of funding schemes to support researchers, students, and educators at all levels, thereby fostering human capital development in science and technology. The execution of this programme will be overseen by TÜBİTAK-BİDEB.

1.2. Aim of CoCirculation3

The objective of CoCirculation3 is to enhance the career development of 100 Postdoctoral Researchers through advanced training and international mobility, while placing a strong emphasis on intersectoral collaboration with the non-academic sector, particularly industry. The programme encourages incoming mobility into Türkiye and is built upon the triple 'i' dimension—international, intersectoral, and interdisciplinary—to maximize the impact of the fellowship on researchers' careers. All fellowships must involve an international component, and the integration of industrial partners and cross-sectoral experiences is strongly encouraged to foster innovation, knowledge transfer, and employability beyond academia.

1.3. Scope of Fellowship

The program supports the international mobility and professional development of postdoctoral researchers through academic and non-academic placements in Türkiye, promoting interdisciplinary and intersectoral knowledge exchange.

1.4. Duration

The CoCirculation3 spans 5 years, during which 100 postdoctoral researchers will be recruited through two separate calls. Each fellowship will have a maximum duration of 24 months.

1.5. Financial Aspects

CoCirculation3 offers a very attractive salary and TÜBİTAK hopes to receive applications from excellent and well-placed researchers. The researchers will enjoy attractive conditions of funding and/or salaries with adequate and equitable social security provisions.

Living allowance: An amount of €3.980 per month will be paid to recruited researchers. This refers to the basic gross amount, for the benefit of the researcher, to be paid (via the host organizations) to the fellows. The living allowance is a gross contribution to the salary costs of the researcher and is taxable in Türkiye.

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Family allowance: Researchers who will come to Türkiye with their families will receive a family allowance of €600 per month. The family allowance is a fixed amount and is subject to taxation in Türkiye.

Research, training and networking budget: An amount of €1.000 per month will be provided. It will managed by the host organization of the researcher and used to contribute to the expenses related to research activities involved in the researcher's project such as participation in training activities, conference visits, work visits etc and expenses related to research costs. Fellows must report on the use of this budget in their 6-monthly reports.

Entrepreneurship Allowance: For a maximum duration of 12 months, participation in and procurement of training, consultancy, and similar services aimed at enhancing researchers' entrepreneurial activities will be supported, upon submission of invoices, up to a maximum of €250 per month.

Host institution budget: Host organizations will be provided with € 3.120 for projects with 24 months duration and € 1.560 for projects with 12 months duration as host institution contribution for handling salary payments, researh training and networking budget and the formalities of fellowship at the host institution level.

Top-Up Allowance: If the secondment will be realized abroad, TÜBİTAK will provide top-up allowance depending on the country where the secondment will be. There is already defined list of countries and allowance amounts being used by BİDEB[1].

Table 1. Funding categories

Funding Breakdown	Amount (per month)
Living allowance	€3.980
Family allowance	€600
Research, Training and Networking costs	€1.000
Entrepreneurship Allowance:	€250
Host institution budget	€130

The tax system in Türkiye is progressive. In other words, the higher your income, the higher the rate at which you will pay tax. 2018 Individual tax rates vary from 15% - 40%.

Table 2. Income tax rates

Income Tax (Cumulative) (Wage Income)(2026)	Rates
Up to 158.000 TL	%15
Between 158.000 TL and 330.000 TL (For the 158.000 TL of the total amount, income tax is 23.700 TL) In excess	%20
Between 330.000 TL and 800.000 TL (For the 330.000 TL of the total amount, income tax is 58.100 TL) In excess	%27

[1] Publicly announced list of countries and amounts that will be paid during the secondment phase: https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2022/01/20220111-4.pdf - please check "VI. Sütun" on the last page of the document where for those going to USA will get $110 and France, €96.

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Between 800.000 TL and 4.300.000 TL (For the 800.000 TL of the total amount, income tax is 185.000 TL) In excess	%35
Over 4.300.000 TL (For the 4.300.000 TL of the total amount, income tax is 1.410.000 TL) In excess	%40

In general 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.

1.6. Call Calendar

3 Calls will be published within the duration of CoCirculation3 program. The dates for the first call is fixed, however following calls' publication date may change slightly.

Table 3. Call calendar

Call Terms	Call Opening Date	Call Closing Date	Evaluation Results
1st Call	01.09.2025	01.12.2025	In June, 2026
2nd Call (Dates may change)	02.11.2026	02.02.2027	In June, 2027

1.7. Structure

Researches submits the application in colloboration with a renowned host institution where supervisor also selected from. TÜBİTAK along with European Commission acts as funding organizations. An academic or non- academic organization acts as host organization where supervisor supervises the implementation of project.

Proposals with secondment component requires co-host organization and co-mentor on top of aforementioned host organization and supervisor.

The project proposal is submitted by postdoctoral researcher in liaison with the host institution which is represented by the supervisor. The supervisor acts as a "senior" supervisor for the postdoctora researcher, providing advice and support to him/her during the fellowship. The host institution is responsible for administering the researcher for the duration of his/her fellowship, particularly with respect to financial matters, social security and pension arrangements.

1.8. Area of Research

CoCirculation3 is open to applications from all scientific disciplines; however, all proposals must include a clear and demonstrable Green Deal dimension[2]. As an individual-driven mobility programme, CoCirculation3 ensures that researchers have the freedom to define their own research topics—provided they align with the goals of the European Green Deal—while also selecting a host institution and supervisor that best match their

[2] Please visit https://tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/2025-06/Green_Deal_2236_2025_Call.pdf to view the supporting document titled "Cocirculation3 Call: Priority R&D and Innovation Topics within the Scope of the European Green Deal."

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professional needs and aspirations. TÜBİTAK guarantees this flexibility to support personalized research pathways within the Green Deal framework.

Applicants must indicate the Scientific Area that best fits their proposal. There are eight scientific panels available:

- Chemistry (CHE)
- Social and Human Sciences (SOC)
- Economic Sciences (ECO)
- Information Science and Engineering (ENG)
- Mathematics (MAT)
- Physics (PHY)
- Environmental and Geo-Sciences and Energy (ENV-ENE)
- Life Sciences (LIF)

In addition, applicants will be required to:

- Select a minimum of 3 and up to 5 Descriptors that best characterize the content of their proposal, listed in descending order of relevance. The first two descriptors must be associated with the selected scientific area, while the remaining descriptors may be chosen freely.
- Provide optional free keywords to further specify the research topic. These will help the Call Secretariat to make the best possible match between the proposal and relevant evaluators.
- Indicate if their proposal is interdisciplinary by selecting the appropriate checkbox on the application form.

1.9. Panel Types

CoCirculation3 is a flagship programme for the recruitment of researchers to academic and non-academic hosting institutions in Turkish Research Area, which is an integral part of European Research Area. In order to increase the participation of host institutions from the non-academic sector, TÜBİTAK has added the Society and Enterprise Panel (S&E Panel) in addition to the Standard Panel within the scope of the CoCirculation3 call.

- Standard Panel
- Society and Enterprise Panel (S&E Panel).

The nature of this S&E Panel will have a particular focus to enhance the multi-sectoral expertise of the researchers who would like to either pursue their careers in non-academic sector or conduct their research at multi-sectorial level.

Since applicants to the CoCirc3 project may apply for fellowships both in academia and non-academia, TÜBİTAK will reflect this in the composition of each expert pool and in the composition of selection committees. TÜBİTAK will have at least 1 expert with non academic background in the selection committee of the proposal which is submitted to S&E Panel.

Applicants are required to indicate to which of the 2 evaluation panels - Standard and Society Enterprise - they submit their proposal. In Evaluation process, applications and evaluators (experts) are grouped into two core panels: Standard and S&E, based on the indication of scientific areas by the applicant. The evaluators will score the proposals and prepare one ranked list per panel.

TÜBİTAK will prepare two ranked lists based on evaluation results: one for the Standard, one for the S&E panel. Both ranked lists will contain the proposals in descending order of

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scores. To keep the balance and flexibility there will not be pre-defined budgets for the two panels. The distribution of respective available funds will be proportional to the number of eligible proposals received in each evaluation panel. Funding will be provided to applicants from both ranked lists pro rata to the number of eligible proposals evaluated in each panel.

1.10. Ethical Issues

CoCirculation3 will respect fundamental ethics principles, including those reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the relevant ethics rules of Horizon Europe ethical framework.

Applicants will be asked in the proposal summary form to declare whether their proposed research does deal with the research areas in the ethical issues table that will be included in the proposal template. Proposals that have not filled the ethical issues table will be rejected in the eligibility check phase. In this table, applicants must declare whether any of the activities specified will be conducted during the lifetime of the project. Even if the applicants think that ethical approval is not needed, experts may still decide that ethical committee approval is needed.

Applicants wishing to carry out research that requires ethical approval need to address these issues in their proposal, and describe how they propose to deal with these ethical issues. All supported and reserved proposals will be sent to the Ethical Committee (EC). The EC will evaluate which applicants /proposals need to provide an official approval letter form the ethical committee of the host organization. If the hosting institution of the researcher does not have its own ethics committee, the researcher is requested to obtain the approval of the geographically closest ethical committee. If any ethical approvals must be obtained, the fellow must obtain and present these to TÜBİTAK prior to the fellow starting the work for which the approval is required.

When no approval of the TÜBİTAK Ethics Committee is obtained and/or when no approval of the Local Ethics Committee is obtained, the proposal will not be funded in the CoCirculation3. To follow-up ethical issues, during the research project implementation, TÜBİTAK will ask the scientist in charge and the ER to provide information during the periodic reporting.

1.11. Intellectual Property Rights

The employment contract signed by the host organization and fellow must include the IP arrangements between the host organization and the fellow during the project and beyond. In case of secondments, the Partnership Agreement will outline the IP arrangements. TÜBİTAK shall ensure that researchers (supervisors and fellows) reap the benefits of the exploitation (if any) of their research results through legal protection and, in particular, through appropriate protection of Intellectual Property Rights, including copyrights. All fellows may avail of training in Exploitation issues as part of the TÜBİTAK training program.

Fellows and their supervisors are expected to jointly identify any innovative research outputs. They are encouraged to consult with Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs), which are increasingly being established across universities. Additional guidance may also be sought from the relevant Turkish intellectual property (IP) institutions. The adopted IP strategy will remain applicable throughout any secondment periods undertaken by the fellows.

All projects supported by TÜBİTAK, including CoCirculation3 projects, must adhere to the regulations on IPR in the TÜBİTAK related law. In cases where the researcher is the IPR

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holder, he/she must provide TÜBİTAK with the free IPR license if TÜBİTAK requires so. The postdoctoral researcher is responsible to abide by the rules and regulations that are related to the protection of confidential information of project in the aspect of applicable security and financial interests concerns while carrying out research.

1.12. Data Protection

The personal data of applicants submitted as part of the CoCirculation3 Fellowship Program application will be processed solely for the purposes of evaluating this call and, if applicable, for concluding an employment contract with the host institution.

1.13. Secondment and Non-Academic Placements

Proposals may optionally include a secondment during the fellowship and/or a non-academic placement period, provided that such activities align with the project objectives and demonstrably contribute significant added value and/or impact to the fellowship. Institutions hosting secondments and/or placements are expected to provide appropriate supervision to the fellow throughout the respective period.

The relevance and added value of these components will be evaluated by the reviewers. However, proposals will not be disadvantaged for omitting a secondment or non-academic placement.

It should be noted that secondments and non-academic placements differ in nature and are subject to distinct rules, as outlined in the table below.

Table 4. Secondment and Non-Academic Placement (NAP)

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 e-BİDEB.	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.

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Financial Support	TÜBİTAK provides a top-up allowance for secondments abroad (amount depends on destination country).If the secondment takes place abroad, researchers may use the project budget to cover their daily allowances	Covered by BİDEB. €1500/month from TÜBİTAK + €1000/month from NAP host institution (indicated in Partnership Agreement).

1.14. Eligibility Criteria

Applicant researchers must fulfill all eligibility criteria (as outlined in the relevant sections below) by the call deadline. The proposed host institution and applicant researchers are responsible for ensuring that the proposal complies with all admissibility and eligibility requirements prior to submission and must retain all relevant supporting documentation.

TÜBİTAK is not in a position to respond to inquiries regarding the admissibility or eligibility of individual proposals prior to the completion of the formal admissibility and eligibility checks.

Resubmissions: For the CoCirculation3 calls to be launched in 2026, proposals involving the same host institution and the same individual researcher that were submitted to the CoCirculation3 2025 call but were not funded may be resubmitted.

Kindly note that all eligible resubmitted proposals will be evaluated independently of any prior evaluations.

Eligibility criteria apply to the applicant, to the host organisation and the research proposal to be submitted by postdoctoral researchers presented below:

Table 5. Eligibility criteria

CoCirculation3 Postdoctoral Fellowships	
Standard Duration	From 12 to 24 months
Eligibility criteria for the applicants[3]	
Doctoral Degree	Applicants must be postdoctoral researchers at the date of the CoCirculation3 call deadline they apply to, i.e. in a possession of a doctoral degree[4]. *Applicants who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but have not yet formally been received their doctoral degree will also be considered postdoctoral researchers and eligible to apply. The successful defence must be unconditional (i.e, no further requirements or corrections must be addressed) and must take place before the call deadline. Supporting documentation may be requested.
Nationality	Any
Age	Any
Mobility	Applicants must comply with the following mobility rule: They must not have resided or carried out thair 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. Short stays that do not exceed a total of 20 days per year and compulsory national service are not counted.

[3] Definitions as provided in the MSCA IF Guide for Applicants 2017 apply

[4] A medical doctor degree will be accepted only when it corresponds to a doctoral degree or if the researcher can demonstrate his/her appointment in a position that requires doctoral equivalency (e.g. professorship appointment).

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Employment Status	Researchers who are already permanently employed by their proposed host institution are not eligible for funding under CoCirculation3. However, they may submit an application with a different host institution. If deemed eligible for support, they must terminate their current employment contract (whether fixed-term or indefinite) with their existing institution and sign a fixed-term employment contract with the new host institution where they will conduct their project. Otherwise, they will not be able to receive support.
Research Area	Proposals having a Green Deal aspect will be eligible in accordance to national priorities under Green Growth Technology Roadmap and Priority Research, Develeopment and Innovaiton (RDI) Topics for the Compliance to "EU Green Deal and Adaptation to Climate Change" of Turkiye[5].
Non-Eligibles	• Researchers who have previously been funded under Co-Circulation or CoCirculation2 or 2236-B MSCA CO-FUND Contribution Fund to Fellowship Programs are not eligible to apply for this scheme. • Any Turkish national who has a mandatory service obligation in Türkiye due to a previous fellowship and/or support cannot apply to CoCirculation3. • CoCirculation3 fellows cannot receive financial support from other TÜBİTAK funding programs, as this would constitute double funding. However, they may participate in other TÜBİTAK-funded projects in various roles, provided that no additional financial support is granted under those programs.
Eligibility criteria for the host organisations	
1. Applications must be submitted by the prospective fellow to be hosted in a single independent legal entity (academic or non-academic) established in TRA. 2. Secondment host organizations must be an academic or non-academic institute active in research and of high quality in TRA or abroad. The quality will be evaluated during the evaluation process. 3. Supervisors are expected to be team leaders (or equivalent) in which the fellow will be integrated and should have an outstanding scientific profile. However, it's clear that applicants will be free to choose their supervisors, and those supervisors will not be involved in the preparation or validation of the proposal. *4.* Having Gender Equality Plans will be an asset for the host institutions but not an eligibility criterion.	
Eligibility criteria for the research proposal	
1. The proposal must be submitted before the Call deadline, through the online system TYBS. All proposals must be in English. 2. Proposals focusing on the Green Deal are deemed to be eligible. Proposals may focus on one or more areas. 3. All the sections of the proposal must be complete. *4.* All proposals must adhere to the ethical issues policy of CoCirculation3, and must contain a completed Ethical Issues table.	

[5] CoCirculation3 is open to applications from all scientific areas but they need to have a Green Deal aspect. CoCirc3 is "individually driven mobility" programme and TÜBİTAK assures that the applicants will be able to freely choose a research topic which will have a Green Deal aspect, host and supervisor fitting their individual needs. Please check the document for detail information about Green Deal and RDI topics: cocirculation3.tubitak.gov.tr

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5. Where secondments are applicable, the commitment letters from the secondment host institutions should be added as Annex.

1.15. Evaluation Criteria

Experts will be asked to evaluate all proposals following the evaluation criteria and sub criteria mentioned below.

Table 6. Evaluation criteria, weights and thresholds

1. Excellence (Weight 40%)	2. Impact (Weight 30%)	3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation (Weight 30%)
Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious and go beyond the state of the art and their relationship with the Green Deal/sub-topics).	Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to WPs
Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements
Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host, or two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher, the main host and secondment host.	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts	**Others:** mobility, supervision and mentoring, public awareness, suitability of the profile to the programme, non-academic experience
Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills		
Priority in case of ex aequo. **An overall threshold of 70% will be applied to the total weighted score and for each individual criterion.**		

1.16. Scoring and thresholds

Weights will be applied to all evaluation criteria, to indicate the importance of these criteria. An overall threshold of 70% will apply to the total weighted score. When the total scores are equal, priority will be based on the scores received for individual evaluation criteria as indicated in above.

Proposals with the same score (Ex-aequo Proposals): In the event of proposals receiving the same overall score, the following priority order will be applied:

- Proposals will be prioritized based on their score for the 'Excellence' criterion. If these scores are also equal, priority will be determined by the 'Impact' criterion.
- If a tie persists, gender balance among successful applicants will be considered as

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a tiebreaker.

- If further distinction is still required, TÜBİTAK will evaluate the Green Deal Focus of the proposals, and preference will be given to those with a stronger alignment with Green Deal priorities.

Experts will award a score of a minimum of 0 (proposal fails to address the criterion or is incomplete), through 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent) points.

Table 7. Explanation of scoring range

Score	Explanation of the score
0	Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Fair. Proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3	Good. Proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
4	Very Good. Proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5	Excellent. Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

1.17. Employment Conditions

In line with the Charter and Code, TÜBİTAK ensures that working conditions meet respective national, regional or sectoral legislation requirements.

All CoCirculation3 fellows will be appointed on a fixed employment contract under Turkish Employment Act (EA) No. 4857 of 2003[6]. This law applies for all employees in Türkiye. All fellows will be covered for social security and be entitled to social benefits under the SSK scheme, under the same conditions as Turkish citizens. The legal arrangements with regards to labor and social security in Türkiye are in line with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and other generally accepted standards. Statutory working practices for CoCirculation3 postdoctoral researchers will be the same as for other staff from the host organisations working in similar positions. All postdoctoral researchers must have access to laboratory and/or office space that is needed for the proper implementation, and must have access to all infrastructure and equipment needed to carry out the project. All posdoctoral reserachers have the right to attend conferences relevant for the advancement of their career. CoCirculation3 fellows will receive a salary that is on average higher than other researchers in similar positions would earn. By providing a very attractive salary, TÜBİTAK hopes to receive applications from excellent and well-placed researchers.

1.18. Equal Opportunities

TÜBİTAK is committed to promoting equal opportunities and inclusiveness across all stages of the CoCirculation3 Programme. In line with its Strategic Plan and Article 10 of the Constitution of Türkiye, gender balance, non-discrimination, and support for underrepresented groups are key priorities.

[6] https://wwwex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/64083/TUR64083.PDF

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Gender Equality: TÜBİTAK aims to ensure balanced representation of women and men in decision-making bodies, evaluation panels, and among supported researchers. Gender distribution will be monitored throughout the programme, with corrective outreach actions taken if necessary.

Inclusive Participation: All applicants, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, or career background, are welcomed. Researchers with career breaks, refugees, and those returning from abroad are encouraged to apply. Such career gaps will not be penalized during evaluation.

Support for Special Needs: Researchers with disabilities will receive support, including access to the MSCA Special Needs Allowance. Host institutions are prepared to provide necessary accommodations to ensure full accessibility.

Refugee and At-Risk Researchers:Türkiye hosts a large refugee population and TÜBİTAK actively supports their inclusion in research. Eligible applicants will be assisted in administrative matters such as obtaining work and residence permits.

By ensuring fair and inclusive conditions, CoCirculation3 aims to attract diverse talent and strengthen international cooperation in research and innovation.

Additionaly all experts must sign a declaration against discrimination of researchers based on gender, age, ethnicity, nationality or social origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, language, disability, political opinion, social or economic condition.

TÜBİTAK wishes to encourage applications of specific groups of researchers. For all groups of researchers, when calculating the time already spent in Türkiye, short stays, compulsory national service and time spent on procedures for obtaining refugee status are not counted.

All applicants are strongly encouraged to indicate and explain unconventional career paths and any career gaps in their CV and proposal. These should allow the experts to see their CV considering the actual research experience and not in time passed since obtaining the PhD. All universities and TÜBİTAK institutes are adapted to researchers with disabilities.

2. Application Procedure

2.1. Online Application

Applicants must fill in an on-line form in the TÜBİTAK Management Information System (TÜBİTAK MIS) (tybs.tubitak.gov.tr) providing administrative information about themselves, the host(s) and supervisor(s) and the proposal. Applicants must also indicate their scientific panel.

Applications must be made in conjunction with a host organisation in Türkiye. Applicants may choose **ANY research organisation** in Türkiye of high quality, including but not limited to those in the List of Partner Organisations. In addition, the applicants have a free choice of supervisor. Applicants finding their own host organisation should also find their own supervisor. The quality of the host organisation and supervisor will be reviewed during the evaluation process.

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

- Excellence
- Impact
- Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation
- CV of the experienced researcher

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- 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 using the template available at the cocirculation3.tubitak.gov.tr (maximum 5 pages are recommended).

Any research career gaps and/or unconventional paths should be clearly explained so that it may be fairly assessed by the independent experts.

There is no page limit for Ethical issues section including the Ethical issues table. When ethical issues apply, applicants must describe these and how they will deal with them before, during and after their research project.

Applicants are asked to clearly explain the added value of them implementing their research project in a non-academic host organisation so that the experts will have a better understanding of the postdoctoral researchers career tracks in the industrial environment, relevance to the dynamics of the industry and capacity of the host organization within the industry.

2.2. Account Creation

All of the applicants have to create an account and enter required Identity and contact information to Researchers Information System (ARBİS) of TÜBİTAK. Any applicant who has already created an account and registered to the ARBİS can directly access to the application system.

Please follow below steps to start your application.

1. Follow the link at https://tybs.tubitak.gov.tr
2. Click on the “Register” button at the bottom of the login page
3. Click on the “Create ARBİS Account” button to create an account on the central authenticaiton service
4. Enter required (Identity and contact) information into Researchers Information System (ARBİS) of TÜBİTAK at https://arbis.tubitak.gov.tr/ (make sure you select English interface)
5. Once you complete filling informatin to the ARBİS, follow the link at https://tybs.tubitak.gov.tr to login TÜBİTAK Management Information System
6. Enter your passport number (or user ID) and password which you have created at beginning
7. Click on the “Application Management” tab located on the right side of the screen.
8. From the dropdown menu, click on “Open Calls.”
9. In the list of open calls, find “2236 Co-Funded Brain Circulation Scheme 3.”
10. Click on “Start Process” next to the relevant call to begin your application.

For the technical problem, the applicants should contact with IT department at cocirculation3@tubitak.gov.tr .

2.3. Uploading Document

After the login, the applicant will access to his/her own account where he/she will have to complete the following sections and upload the required documents. All the documents have to be in pdf format. (Certified PhD diploma or certified copy of the degree certificate and transcript of the most recently completed university degree might be in jpeg).

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2.4. Required Documents

The documents to be uploaded to the application system at the application stage are listed below.

- A detailed research proposal, prepared using the designated template available on the program website (cocirculation3.tubitak.gov.tr). The ethical issues table attached to the research proposal template must also be completed.
- A curriculum vitae (CV) for both the applicant and the supervisor(s), using the required template provided on the program website (cocirculation3.tubitak.gov.tr).
- 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.
- 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. For secondment placements, it is not mandatory to obtain the signature of the highest authority of the institution. A Letter of Support signed by a researcher from the host institution where the secondment will take place is considered sufficient..

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.

- Proof of Residence (only for non-Turkish Citizens). Applicants must upload the certified copy of documents such as tax certificate, rent contracts and utility bills that proofs application is consistent with corresponding mobility rule.
- Entry and Exit Report (only for Turkish Citizens). Applicants must upload the certified copy of record. The report can be obtained from e-devlet application,

2.5. Editing Options

An applicant may continue on the TÜBİTAK Management Information System (TÜBİTAK MIS) (tybs.tubitak.gov.tr) to modify his/her application and submit revised versions overwriting the previous one until the deadline.

2.6. Completing the Application

Once the applicant has completed all the required information and approved the declaration box, the application process will be finalized and the application form will be automatically generated. Incomplete applications will not moved to eligibility check phase.

The application process is entirely online and **hard copies of the application forms and other documents are not required.** It is highly recommended to submit your proposal as early as possible and at least 48 hours prior to the deadline of this call. This will avoid being confronted with incompatible local IT configuration settings shortly before the call deadline, when insufficient time would be left to handle it.

3. Evaluation & Selection Process

TÜBİTAK will ensure that the selection workflow is guided by the principles of excellence, transparency, fairness and impartiality, efficiency and speed, ethics and security. The entire evaluation process, from Call deadline to funding decision will normally take 5 months.

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3.1. Timeline

The selection workflow of CoCirculation3 will include four main steps:

- Admissibility and Eligibility check,
- Remote Peer Review Evaluation and Consensus Meetings,
- Selection committee meeting (including consensus) and ethics check,
- The funding decision.



Figure 1: Call process flowchart

3.2. Admissibility and Eligibility Check

Once applicants have submitted their proposals, CPCS will carry out admissibility checks (to ensure proposals are complete and properly prepared) and eligibility checks (to verify compliance with the eligibility criteria) within one month. Applicants will be informed about unreadable or inappropriate document; any missing signature; unconformity to the given template; missing page. This will be to repair deficiencies not to submit or completely updated proposals. The system will stay open for 1 more week for the completion of the required documents in terms of admissibility.

Additionaly those proposals will be checked by external evaluators in terms of eligibility (not by CPCS), including their relevance to the Green Deal. Applicants will be informed through an e-mail if they are deemed inadmissible or ineligible.

3.3. International Peer Review

Admissible and eligible proposals are evaluated through the TÜBİTAK Panel Management System (PMS) by an independent selection committee composed of external experts. Based on the applicants' selected scientific fields, proposals and experts are allocated into two core panels: Standard and Social & Environmental (S&E). Proposals are assigned to one of two core panels based on the applicant’s chosen scientific area. Each proposal is reviewed by at least three experts who provide scores and comments for each criterion in an **Individual Assessment Report (IAR)**. Evaluators must complete their assessments within two months and flag any proposals that are out of scope or raise security concerns.

Following the individual evaluations, all three experts will meet in a consensus group to agree on final scores and comments. A moderator will facilitate the discussion to ensure transparency, fairness, and consistency across evaluations. Proposals will be evaluated solely based on their submitted content. A rapporteur from the expert panel will compile the final **Individual Assessment Report (IAR)**, which will be shared with applicants within one week.

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3.4. Funding Decision

CPCS will prepare two separate ranked lists (Standard and S&E panels) based on evaluation scores. Funding decisions will be made according to these rankings and the number of available fellowships, with additional proposals placed on a reserve list for each call. The formal funding decision is taken by the President of TÜBİTAK. Applicants will be informed of their results via email, including their Individual Assessment Report (IAR). A list of successful proposals (by registration number) will also be published on the CoCirculation3 Platform and e-BİDEB. Applicants on the reserve list may be offered a fellowship when an applicant on the main list withdraws his/her proposal.

The ethics check will be conducted at the final stage of the evaluation process to ensure efficiency. All selected and reserve proposals will be reviewed by the Ethics Committee (EthC), which will decide whether ethical approval is required. If needed, the fellow must obtain approval from the host institution's EthC—or the nearest one if unavailable—and submit it to TÜBİTAK before starting any related work.

3.5. Feedback

The eBİDEB and PYS portal will be used for informing the applicants of the outcomes of the evaluation and selection process. Applicants will receive feedback at various points in the selection process. Supervisors and applicants can monitor the steps of the evaluation process through the eBİDEB portal. Applicants will be provided with an Individual Assessment Report (IAR),, which comprises full feedback of the selection committee and the (anonymous) comments via PYS portal.

3.6. Redress

Applicants who believe a procedural error occurred during the evaluation of their proposal may request a redress within one week of the results being announced. The redress process, managed by CPCS, is limited to procedural issues and does not cover expert judgments. If accepted, the proposal will be re-evaluated by a new selection committee. Re-evaluation will be based on the original submission, and revised scores may be higher or lower. All redress requests will be treated confidentially and must be submitted via the dedicated email: redressbraincirculation@tubitak.gov.tr**.**

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