

Regulations on awarding scholarships in NCN-funded research projects

§ 1. Terms defined

- 1) NCN – the National Science Centre.
- 2) Council – the Council of the NCN.
- 3) Research project – pursuant to art. 2 point 2) of the act of 30th April 2010 on the National Science Centre (Journal of Laws of 2015 pos. 839, as amended), an effort aimed to conduct, over a fixed timeframe, basic research on the subject defined by the applicant, carried out by the applicant pursuant to a funding agreement.
- 4) Entities – entities that may submit proposals under NCN calls, set out in art. 10 points 1-8 & 10 of the act of 30th April 2010 on the principles of funding science, i.e.:
 - a) academic or research organisations;
 - b) research consortia;
 - c) research networks and organisational units of universities that are not their basic organisational units;
 - d) research and technology facilities;
 - e) research centres of the Polish Academy of Sciences;
 - f) shared academic research centres;
 - g) research libraries;
 - h) enterprises having the status of research and development centres as defined in the Act of 30th May 2008 on some forms of support for innovation activities;
 - i) organisational units with legal personality and established on the territory of the Republic of Poland;
 - j) enterprises conducting research in a different form than those specified in points a) through i).
- 5) NCN research scholarships – research scholarships granted for the completion of tasks in NCN-funded research projects.
- 6) Scholarship grantee – a person who has been funded and is receiving an NCN research scholarship.

§ 2. Objective of granting NCN research scholarships

Scholarships granted within NCN-funded projects are awarded with a view to include students and doctoral candidates in work on research projects and to create an environment that facilitates their research development.

§ 3. Principles of granting NCN research scholarships

- 1) NCN research scholarships may be awarded under research projects funded by the NCN, conducted by entities referred to in art. 10 points 1-8 & 10 of the act of 30th April 2010 on the principles of funding science, with the exception of projects for which funding constitutes state aid provided via the NCN.
- 2) NCN research scholarships are awarded under selected calls for research projects, their terms set by the Council in separate resolutions.

- 3) NCN research scholarships for students and doctoral candidates involved in research projects are awarded for the period of performing specific tasks in the project, albeit this period may not exceed 60 months.
- 4) NCN research scholarships may be awarded to a person, who, at the time of beginning work on the tasks in the project, meets any of the following criteria:
 - a) is an MA (or equivalent) student of a full- or part-time programme in a university established on the territory of the Republic of Poland;
 - b) is a student of the fourth or successive year of a uniform master studies programme in universities established on the territory of the Republic of Poland;
 - c) is a doctoral candidate, participant of a doctoral programme carried out by a legally authorised unit of a university, institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, research institute or international research institute active on the territory of the Republic of Poland, established pursuant to separate regulations;
 - d) is a participant of a doctoral seminar and is working on a dissertation.
- 5) The amount of NCN research scholarships is set at PLN 1,000 to 4,500, paid monthly, the amount depending on the scope of tasks the principal investigator intends the scholarship grantee to perform in the research project. The budget for research scholarships awarded under one project may not exceed PLN 45,000 per month.
- 6) The number of awarded NCN research scholarships depends on the budget for research scholarships that are feasible to be covered from the project's funding, set by the Council for individual calls.
- 7) Modification of the monthly amount of the NCN research scholarships indicated in the research proposal submitted under an NCN call is permitted as long as the amount of an individual scholarship is within the limits set out in point 5) and the total amount of the budget for research scholarships planned in the research project is in compliance with the terms set by the Council for individual calls.
- 8) NCN research scholarships are awarded under open calls.
- 9) Calls for proposals for NCN research scholarships are announced by a project's principal investigator no sooner than once they have received information on receiving funding for the completion of a research project by the NCN.
- 10) Calls for proposals for NCN research scholarships are published on the website of the entity acting as the project's host institution, and on the website of the NCN. A call publication should include, in particular, information on the requirements, the terms of granting the scholarship, the deadline for proposals and the date of the call's conclusion.
- 11) Calls for proposals for NCN research scholarships are carried out by a three-person recruitment committee appointed by the head of the project's host institution, composed of the project's principal investigator as its chair and at least two other persons selected by them, who have the necessary research or professional qualifications. The head of an institution where a doctoral students' union has been established, may appoint as an observer a representative of this body.

12) The recruitment committee reviews proposals for NCN research scholarships evaluating:

- a) candidates' competence as regards specific tasks in the research project,
- b) candidates' research achievements to date,
- c) candidates' prizes and awards received for their research.

13) The recruitment committee reviews the proposals of NCN research scholarships taking into account their completeness and compliance with the conditions set out in the call announcement. The recruitment committee carries out an assessment awarding points and compiles a ranking list of the candidates. NCN research scholarships are awarded to the candidates with the highest scores, their number equalling the number of scholarships offered in the call.

14) When evaluating a proposal of an NCN scholarship, the recruitment committee takes into account:

- the candidate's research achievements, including publications in academic press/ journals (weighting: 50%):

4 points – outstanding achievements of the candidate

3 points – very good achievements of the candidate

2 points – good achievements of the candidate

1 point – poor achievements of the candidate

0 points – the candidate has no achievements

- awards resulting from conducting research, scholarships, prizes and research experience gained outside the candidate's research unit at home or abroad, research workshops and training attended, participation in research projects (weighting: 20%):

4 points – outstanding achievements (among others: scholarships in leading research centres outside of Poland, prestigious international prizes and awards, workshops or training in leading research centres, participation in Polish or international research projects);

3 points – substantial achievements of the candidate (scholarships in good research centres outside of Poland, national prizes and awards, workshops or training attended in research centres at home or abroad, participation in Polish or international research projects);

2 points – moderate achievements of the candidate (local prizes and awards, attended workshops and training, participation in the candidate's university's research projects);

1 point – poor achievements of the candidate;

0 points – the candidate has no achievements.

- candidate's competence as regards specific tasks in the research project (weighting: 30%)

3 points – very good;

2 points – good;

1 point – poor competence;

0 points – no competence.

15) The results of the call are made public and published on the website of the entity acting as the project's host institution. There is no appealing of the recruitment committee's decision.

16) NCN research scholarships are funded from the funding earmarked for projects awarded within calls for proposals, granted by the NCN to the host institution.

17) NCN research scholarships are paid to the scholarship grantee pursuant to a scholarship agreement concluded between the host institution and the scholarship grantee. The agreement sets the scope of the work to be performed in the project, the amount of the scholarship, time period and terms of payment.

18) The head of the project's host institution, upon the principal investigator's motion, can suspend payment of the scholarship and/or terminate the scholarship agreement if the person receiving the scholarship does not perform the research tasks in the project or has committed an offence against professional ethics (conduct).

§ 4. Principles of collecting NCN research scholarships

1) An NCN research scholarship may be collected if the scholarship grantee over the entire period of performing the tasks under the project meets any of the following criteria set out in § 3 point 4.

2) If in the period referred to above, the scholarship grantee will additionally meet any other criteria set out in § 3 point 4 than the one on the basis of which they were awarded the NCN research scholarship, they may continue collecting the awarded NCN research scholarship.

3) If in the period of collecting the NCN research scholarship, the scholarship grantee ceases to meet the criterion on the basis of which they were awarded the NCN research scholarship and does not meet any other of the criteria set out in § 3 point 4, they may collect the awarded NCN research scholarship for no longer than 6 months.

4) In the period of collecting the NCN research scholarship, the scholarship grantee may not collect salaries from NCN funds under a contract of employment or civil-law contracts (full-time remuneration, additional remuneration).

5) NCN research scholarships may be collected for no more than one research project funded with NCN resources, with the stipulation that the total amount of all research scholarships received monthly does not exceed PLN 4,500.