



Council
of the National Science Centre
KR.0003.128.2019

RESOLUTION NO 128/2019
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE
of 12 November 2019
amending the terms and regulations of the ETIUDA call

Pursuant to Article 18 (5) and Article 26 of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1384), the Council of the National Science Centre hereby amends the terms and regulations of the **ETIUDA call for proposals for doctoral scholarships** adopted pursuant to NCN Council Resolution No 118/2019 of 14 November 2019 as follows:

1) the fifth indent of §2 shall be amended as follows:

“- list of all papers published and/or accepted for publication (letter of acceptance required); for research in art, list of all papers published and/or accepted for publication (letter of acceptance required) and/or artistic achievements and achievements in research in art.”;

2) §10 shall be amended to read as follows:

“The NCN Council shall set forth the detailed criteria and procedure for selecting the expert teams in the document: “Expert teams of the National Science Centre – Establishing and Appointing.”;

3) the number of §25 shall be deleted; and

4) §26 shall be deleted.

§2

The terms and regulations of the ETIUDA call for proposals, including amendments set forth in §1, shall be attached hereto.

Prof. Dr hab. Małgorzata Kossowska
Chairwoman of the Council of the
National Science Centre

The English version of this Resolution does not constitute a sworn translation and has been prepared as an auxiliary document for your convenience. In the event of any doubts as to the interpretation of its provisions, the Polish version shall prevail.

Annex to NCN Council Resolution No 128/2019 of 12 December 2019 on the terms and regulations of the ETIUDA call for proposals

Terms and regulations of the ETIUDA call for proposals for doctoral scholarships to be launched by the National Science Centre

Pursuant to Article 18 (5) and Article 26 of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1384), the Council of the National Science Centre hereby lays down the terms and regulations of the **ETIUDA call for proposals for doctoral scholarships**.

I. Addressees of the call

The call is addressed at individuals without a PhD degree who are successful in research and are doctoral school students or have initiated PhD dissertation proceedings at a Polish institution authorised to award PhD degrees.

II. Eligible applicants

Proposals for funding of a doctoral scholarship, hereinafter “proposals”, may be submitted by natural persons described in Article 27 (1) (8) of the NCN Act, hereinafter “applicants”.

III. Terms of entry

- §1. The following proposals for funding of a doctoral scholarship may be submitted under the call:
- 1) where basic research is performed to support the PhD dissertation within the meaning of Article 4 (2) (1) of the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018 (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 1668) in any of the research disciplines listed as NCN panels by the NCN Council;
 - 2) where the applicant:
 - a) does not hold a PhD degree,
 - b) is a doctoral school student or has initiated PhD dissertation proceedings at a Polish institution authorised to award PhD degrees,
 - c) is not a former winner of an ETIUDA call,
 - d) shall have a scholarship of PLN 5,000 per month planned for the period of writing a PhD dissertation, which cannot be less than 6 months and more than 12 months,
 - e) shall have a foreign fellowship of 3 to 6 months planned at a selected research institution and shall complete it while collecting the scholarship or within 12 months thereafter, and
 - f) shall be awarded a PhD degree within 12 months after collection of the scholarship and no earlier than 6 months from the scholarship start date.
- §2. Proposals submitted under the call must include:
- 1) title of the PhD dissertation (*in Polish*);
 - 2) short description of research performed to support the PhD dissertation (*up to 1 standard page in Polish*);
 - 3) abstract for the general public concerning research performed to support the PhD dissertation (*up to 1 standard page in Polish*);
 - 4) description of research performed to support the PhD dissertation, including the scientific goal of the research and its significance, general concept, methodology and work plan, and literature applicable to the subject of the PhD dissertation (*up to 10 standard pages in Polish*);
 - 5) information on the academic and research track record (*in Polish*), including:



- academic and research career,
 - list of all papers published or accepted for publication (letter of acceptance required);
for research in art, list of all papers published or accepted for publication (letter of acceptance required) and/or artistic achievements and achievements in research in art,
 - information on participation in research projects funded under domestic and international calls and results thereof, as well as a list of the most important papers resulting from each project separately,
 - research experience gained in Poland and abroad,
 - scholarships and prizes awarded, and
 - the most important international and Polish awards for research and/or other activities in research and art;
- 6) document confirming that the applicant is a doctoral school student or has initiated PhD dissertation proceedings;
 - 7) information on the foreign research institution hosting the foreign fellowship as well as justification for the choice of the institution in terms of reputation, equipment or specific scientific achievements, description of research conducted and compliance of research with research performed to support the PhD dissertation, research/ tasks to be conducted during the fellowship, potential use of skills and knowledge acquired during the fellowship in the applicant's future career as a scientist (*up to 2 standard pages in Polish*);
 - 8) document confirming approval by the mentor from the research institution hosting the foreign fellowship, as required by the proposal (*in English*);
 - 9) doctoral scholarship budget drafted pursuant to the funding guidelines specified herein (*in Polish*);
 - 10) obligation to complete the foreign fellowship and earn a PhD degree within the time limits specified herein;
 - 11) administrative declarations by the applicant and administrative declarations by the institution where the applicant pursues doctoral studies or has initiated PhD dissertation proceedings, as required by the proposal.

IV. Forms of funding

- §3. Doctoral scholarships under the ETIUDA call shall include:
 - a) scholarship of PLN 5,000 per month,
 - b) flat-rate funds of PLN 12,000 per month, multiplied by the percentage correction rate set for a given country, according to **Annex 1** hereto, to cover the applicant's living expenses at a foreign research institution hosting the foreign fellowship, and
 - c) flat-rate funds of PLN 1,000 to PLN 10,000, according to **Annex 2** hereto, to cover the travel expenses to and from the foreign research institution hosting the foreign fellowship.
- §4. The start date for funding a doctoral scholarship is 1 October of the calendar year in which the call is concluded.
- §5. Where the obligations laid down in § 1 (2) (e) and § 1 (2) (f) are not met, the funding disbursed by the National Science Centre as the doctoral scholarship may have to be returned in its entirety.

V. Submission of proposals

- §6. Proposals shall be submitted electronically via ZSUN/OSF available at: <https://osf.opi.org.pl/>.
- §7. Proposals shall be completed with information identified in the proposal form in ZSUN/OSF, the template of which is included in the call announcement.



- §8. Only complete proposals that meet all the requirements set forth in the call announcement shall be eligible as call entries.

VI. Selection of experts

- §9. Pursuant to Article 18 (7) of the NCN Act, the Council shall select expert team members responsible for assessing proposals submitted in the call. In its selection process, the Council shall apply the following principles:
- 1) candidates shall be selected among outstanding Polish and foreign researchers holding at least a PhD degree, including former winners of NCN calls, considering their research achievements and experience in assessment of research projects in Poland and abroad and experience in performance of research projects funded under calls in Poland and abroad; and
 - 2) an important element of the assessment covers information available from bibliometric sources for tracking researchers' achievements, subject to the specific nature of respective research domains and information from available lists of recipients of funds granted in the calls for research projects conducted in Poland and abroad.
- §10. The NCN Council shall set forth the detailed criteria and procedure for selecting the expert teams in the document: "Expert teams of the National Science Centre – Establishing and Appointing".

VII. Evaluation of proposals

- §11. In the evaluation of proposals, the following criteria shall be reviewed:
- 1) compliance with basic research criterion;
 - 2) research quality and level of research expertise;
 - 3) research achievements of the applicant, including:
 - a) publications in renowned academic press/ journals,
 - b) awards resulting from research, scholarships, prizes and research experience gained in Poland and abroad, scientific workshops and training courses, participation in research projects;
 - 4) justification of the choice of the host institution for the foreign fellowship, including:
 - a) academic rank of the research institution housing the fellowship,
 - b) appropriate choice of the research institution, and
 - c) impact on the development of the applicant's future research career, and
 - 5) development of the proposal.
- §12. Proposals shall be subject to an eligibility check and merit-based evaluation.
- §13. The eligibility check shall be performed by the scientific coordinators.
- §14. A proposal may be disqualified for formal reasons at a later stage of evaluation.
- §15. The eligibility check of proposals shall comprise verification of the proposal for completeness and compliance with all eligibility criteria set forth in the call announcement.
- §16. The merit-based evaluation shall be open only to proposals approved as eligible by the scientific coordinators.
- §17. The merit-based evaluation of proposals shall be performed by the expert teams.
- §18. The merit-based evaluation of proposals shall be performed in two stages:
- 1) **Stage I:** consists of individual reviews made by two members of the expert team and approval thereof by the expert team. Approved for the second stage are proposals from the highest places of the first stage ranking list whose aggregate cost equals up to twice the sum of financial resources allocated by the Council for the call in specific disciplines or groups of disciplines. The amount of the funds is determined by the Council on the basis of an analysis of costs for scholarships in the proposals submitted in specific disciplines or groups of disciplines and the priorities set by the Council;
 - 2) **Stage II:** members of the expert team interview the applicant in Polish or English and decide on the final grade for a proposal based on individual reviews, interview results and analysis of and discussion on the proposals.



- §19. The following principles shall apply to the evaluation of proposals by the expert teams:
- a) the percentage contribution of specific criteria in the individual assessment of proposals and the nature of such assessments are specified in **Annex 3** hereto;
 - b) each proposal is allotted a score which is of a supplementary nature and is a starting point for the discussion on the final score;
 - c) decisions of the expert team on the final score of a given proposal are based on an analysis thereof and a discussion on the legitimacy of funding the proposal against other proposals reviewed in the call;
 - d) the final score of the proposal at a given stage of the merit-based evaluation is reflected in its position on the ranking long list after the first stage or the ranking short list after the second stage, both lists being compiled by the expert team;
 - e) proposals with a zero score or “no” decision agreed by the expert team in any reviewed criterion may not be recommended for funding; and
 - f) proposals deemed incompliant with any requirements of the call announcement by the expert team may not be recommended for funding.
- §20. The expert team recommends for funding proposals in which the total amount of requested funding does not exceed the limit set by the NCN Council for the call.
- §21. The expert team may conditionally recommend one proposal for funding in a given call, which is partially within the limits of funding earmarked for the call.
- §22. A funding decision for the proposal laid down in §21 shall be made by the NCN Director, who takes into account the percentage rate of exceeding the budget available for the call.
- §23. If the NCN Director’s decision to reject funding is cancelled by the Committee of Appeals of the NCN Council and the proposal is forwarded for reassessment, the following principles shall apply:
- 1) provisions hereof shall apply to the reassessment which must be performed within 5 months of the date the decision by the Committee of Appeals of the NCN Council to cancel the NCN Director’s decision becomes final;
 - 2) the assessment of a proposal may not be made by the experts and scientific coordinators involved in the previous assessment that ended with a decision of the NCN Director which was subsequently cancelled by the Committee of Appeals of the NCN Council;
 - 3) following the reassessment, the expert team shall issue an opinion on the legitimacy of funding the proposal assessed, subject to the level of proposals reviewed earlier in the call;
 - 4) if the expert team issues a positive opinion, the Director shall approve it and issue a funding decision; and
 - 5) the decision referred to in item **Błąd! Nie można odnaleźć źródła odwołania.** shall have no legal or financial implications for the other applicants whose proposals have been approved for funding in the call even if the funds available in the call have already been used.
- §24. In order to ensure impartiality of assessment throughout the proceedings, Article 32 of the NCN Act shall apply.

VIII. Funding decision

- §25. The call shall be concluded within 6 months of the proposal submission date.

Prof. Dr hab. Małgorzata Kossowska
Chairwoman of the Council of the
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