

Terms and regulations of the UWERTURA call

Pursuant to Article 20 (1) (2) and Article 21 of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 947, as amended), hereinafter the “NCN Act” and pursuant to the agreement on the Fellowship Schemes to Visit ERC Grantees concluded with the European Research Council (ERC), the Council of the National Science Centre hereby lays down the terms and regulations of the **UWERTURA call for fellowships in foreign research teams implementing ERC grants**.

I. Addressees of the call

The call is addressed at researchers intending to apply for funding of research projects with the ERC and interested in gaining knowledge and valuable experience under international grant schemes. The objective of the call is to support researchers in successful applications for the European research funding and to increase the number of Polish researchers among the ERC grantees.

II. Eligible applicants

- §1. Proposals for funding of the fellowship in foreign research teams implementing ERC grants, hereinafter “proposal”, may be submitted by entities referred to in Article 7 (1) (1), Article 7 (1) (2), and Article (7) (1) (4) - (6) (b) of the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018 (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 1668, as amended), hereinafter “applicants”, for whom funding of the fellowship will not constitute state aid.
- §2. An entity that is under receivership, in liquidation or subject to bankruptcy proceedings cannot be an applicant.

III. Terms of entry

- §3. The following proposals may be submitted under the call:
- 1) for fellowships that neither are nor were funded by the NCN or from any other sources,
 - 2) which comprise basic research laid down in Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act, in any of the academic disciplines defined in the NCN panels adopted by the NCN Council;
 - 3) in which the fellowship candidate¹:
 - a) has at least a PhD degree,
 - b) has been employed by an applicant pursuant to an employment contract,

¹ The condition must be met on the proposal submission date.



- c) has acted as the principal investigator² in research projects funded under domestic or international calls or has been a recipient of a prestigious scholarship and
 - d) has not been an ERC grantee,
- 4) for the fellowship planned for a period of 1 to 6 months at a selected research team implementing an ERC grant in a foreign research institution.

§4. Proposals submitted under the call must include:

- 1) fellowship title related to the research project to be carried out under an ERC call (*in Polish and in English*),
- 2) description of a research project to be carried out in a Polish institution, in which the fellowship candidate shall act as a principal investigator for the project submitted under an ERC call, specifying the type of the call and including the concept and plan of research: description of a research problem, general research plan, research implementation method as well as methods, techniques and research tools to be used (*up to 2 pages in English*),
- 3) information on the ERC grantee and foreign research institution planned as the host institution for the fellowship and written consent for the fellowship by the ERC grantee and representative of the research institution hosting the ERC grant is (*in English*),
- 4) reasons for choosing the ERC grantee hosting the fellowship, including information on research carried out by the grantee and potential use of knowledge and skills acquired during the fellowship in the proposal submitted under an ERC call (*1 page in English*),
- 5) information on the fellowship candidate (*in English*), including:
 - academic and research career,
 - 1-10 most important papers published or accepted for publication (letter of acceptance required) in the proposal submission year or over the period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year³. 1-3 most important papers presented above must be attached in pdf format,
 - information of research project management or other funding awarded under NCN calls in the proposal submission year or within 10 years prior to the proposal submission year³ and of research project management in that period funded under other domestic or international calls,
 - description of the most important research achievement,
 - research experience gained in Poland or abroad,
 - the most important national or international distinctions resulting from conducting scientific research and other scientific and artistic activity,
- 6) fellowship budget (*in English*) drafted according to the guidelines on fellowship funding specified herein,
- 7) fellowship candidate's obligation to complete the fellowship and apply for an ERC grant referred to in §4 (2) within 24 months of signing the funding agreement for the fellowship and

² Acting as a principal investigator is also to be understood as managing/ coordinating the work of a research group in international research projects or programs.

³ This period may be extended by the time of long-term (in excess of 90 days) evidenced sickness benefits or physiotherapy benefits on account of unfitness for work. In addition, this period may be extended by the number of months of a child care leave granted pursuant to the Labour Code and in the case of women, by 18 months for every child born or adopted, whichever option is more advantageous.



- 8) declaration of the fellowship candidate and applicant required by the proposal.

IV. Funding

§5. The applicant shall be allocated:

- a) flat-rate funds of PLN 15,000 per month, multiplied by the percentage correction rate set for a given country, according to the values set forth in **Annex 1** hereto, to cover the costs of staying at a foreign research institution hosting the fellowship and
- b) flat-rate funds of PLN 1,000 to PLN 10,000, depending on the distance between the place of residence and the foreign research institution, according to the rates set in **Annex 2** hereto, to cover the cost of return travel to and from the foreign research institution hosting the fellowship.

§6. If the applicant fails to adhere to the obligation to apply for an ERC grant referred to in § 4 (7), he/she will have to reimburse the total amount of allocated funds.

V. Submission of proposals

§7. Proposals shall be filed electronically via ZSUN/OSF available at: <https://osf.opi.org.pl/>.

§8. Proposals shall be completed with information specified in the proposal form available in ZSUN/OSF, the specimen of which has been provided in the call announcement.

§9. Only complete proposals meeting all requirements set forth in the call announcement shall be accepted under the call.

VI. Selection of experts

§10. Pursuant to Article 18 (7) of the NCN Act, the Council shall select members of the expert team responsible for the evaluation of proposals submitted under the call. In the selection process, the Council shall apply the following terms:

- 1) experts shall be selected among eminent Polish and foreign researchers who are at least PhD holders, including former NCN grantees, considering their research achievements and experience in evaluating research projects under the ERC calls and experience in carrying out research projects funded on a competitive basis in Poland and abroad and
- 2) experts shall be evaluated on the basis of information included in available bibliometric sources for tracking researchers' achievements, specific for the nature of the respective research domains and on available lists of individuals who have been awarded funds under completed domestic and foreign calls for research projects.

§11. Selection of the expert teams and ethical rules applicable to the members of the expert team have been defined by the NCN Council in the following documents: "Expert teams of the National Science Centre – formation and appointing" and "Code of ethics for members of the Council and experts of the National Science Centre".

VII. Evaluation of proposals

§12. In the evaluation of proposals, the following criteria shall be reviewed in particular:

- 1) whether or not the criterion of basic research has been met, as laid down in Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act,



- 2) research achievements of the fellowship candidate,
- 3) evaluation of the quality of research to be performed under the research project as regards the likelihood of receiving funding under an ERC call and
- 4) appropriate choice of the ERC grantee and the foreign host institution hosting the fellowship.

§13. Proposals are subject to an eligibility check and merit-based evaluation.

§14. Eligibility check is carried out by the coordinators.

§15. A proposal may be rejected on formal grounds also at a later stage of evaluation.

§16. Eligibility check shall consist in verification of the proposal's completeness and verification whether the proposal meets all eligibility criteria set out in the call announcement.

§17. Only proposals approved as eligible by the coordinator shall be accepted for merit-based evaluation.

§18. Merit-based evaluation shall be conducted by expert teams.

§19. Merit-based evaluations shall be performed in two stages:

- a) Stage I: preliminary evaluation based on the data included in the proposal. The preliminary evaluation shall consist in individual reviews drafted by two members of the expert team and is subsequently endorsed by the entire expert team. Approved for the second stage are proposals with the highest positions on the ranking list, in the case of which the total amount of the expenditures planned cannot be higher than twice the value of the funds allocated by the NCN Council to the call.
- b) Stage II: members of the expert team interview the fellowship candidate in English and decide on the final grade of a proposal based on individual reviews, interview results and analysis of and discussion on the proposals.

§20. In the course of evaluation of proposals by the expert teams, the following terms shall apply:

- a) percentage contribution of individual criteria to the individual evaluation of proposals and nature of such evaluation are laid down in **Annex 3** hereto,
- b) the proposal is given a score whose function is advisory and constitutes a point of departure for a discussion on the final grade,
- c) the decision of an expert team on the final grade of a proposal is based on its analysis and discussion of the legitimacy of funding the proposal against other proposals reviewed under the call,
- d) the final grade of the proposal at a given stage of merit-based evaluation is its position on a long list after the first stage or a short list after the second stage, both lists compiled by the expert team,
- e) a proposal which has been given a score of zero or "no" by a consulted decision of the expert team in any criterion subject to evaluation cannot be recommended for funding, and
- f) a proposal which has been found to fail any of the requirements set out in the call announcement by a consulted decision of the expert team cannot be recommended for funding.

§21. 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.



- §22. 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.
- §23. A funding decision for the proposal referred to in §22 shall be made by the NCN Director, who takes into account the percentage rate of exceeding the budget available for the call.
- §24. In exceptional cases, the coordinator, having consulted the expert team, may modify the order of proposals for funding of the fellowships on a ranking list. The coordinator shall provide the NCN Director with the modified ranking list together with a written justification, for his approval.

VIII. Funding decision

- §25. The call shall be concluded within 6 months of the proposal submission date.
- §26. The results of the call shall be announced by way of a decision of the NCN Director.

IX. Final provisions

- §27. A person may be awarded funding of a fellowship under the UWERTURA call only once.

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 case of any doubts as to the interpretation of its provisions, the Polish version shall prevail.