

Regulations of the calls "Research Tasks of Doctoral Students", "Domestic Internships of Doctoral Students" and "Foreign Specialist Courses of Doctoral Students" for financing scientific or artistic activities and development of doctoral students of doctoral schools at the University of Silesia in Katowice in 2026 as part of the Research Excellence Initiative

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§ 1.

General

1. These regulations define the rules of the competitions entitled:
 - 1) "Research tasks of doctoral students"; the competition concerns the financing of scientific or artistic activities and the development of doctoral students, including the dissemination of the results of these activities,
 - 2) "Domestic internships of doctoral students"; the call concerns medium- and long-term scientific internships of doctoral students of the Doctoral School of the University of Silesia in Katowice (hereinafter referred to as "DS") in national research centres,
 - 3) "Foreign specialist courses for doctoral students"; the competition concerns the participation of doctoral students of the International Environmental Doctoral School at the Centre for Polar Studies at the University of Silesia in Katowice (hereinafter referred to as "IEDS") in specialist courses in renowned foreign scientific and research centres.
- referred to in these Terms and Conditions collectively as "Competitions".
2. The calls are financed under the "Research Excellence Initiative" programme, hereinafter referred to as the Initiative, from the funds obtained in connection with the University's participation in the "Excellence Initiative – Research University" programme and the receipt of a 2% increase in subsidies for 2026 from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.
3. The unit coordinating the competitions is DS.
4. In activities related to the disbursement of co-financing, administrative support is provided by the relevant doctoral schools and the Office of Evaluation and Service of Institutes at the faculties.
5. Eligible to apply and obtain financing:
 - 1) in the "Research tasks of doctoral students" call – only persons with the status of a doctoral student of the DS or IEDS of the University of Silesia in Katowice, affiliated to the University of Silesia in Katowice;
 - 2) in the "Domestic Internships of Doctoral Students" competition – only persons with the status of a doctoral student at the DS of the University of Silesia in Katowice;
 - 3) in the "Foreign Specialist Doctoral Courses" competition – only persons with the

status of a doctoral student of the IEDS of the University of Silesia in Katowice, affiliated to the University of Silesia in Katowice.

6. In the event of losing the status of a doctoral student at any stage of applying or implementing the activity, the person applying/implementing the activity loses the right to further funding.
7. Within the framework of competitions, the activities listed in § 4 may be financed, provided that they contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives of the University.
8. A total of up to PLN 180,000 is allocated to finance the competitions. The distribution of funds between competitions is decided by the committee referred to in § 3, taking into account the results of all competitions.
9. The maximum amount of funding for a single research activity may amount to:
 - 1) up to PLN 7,500 in the "Research tasks of doctoral students" call,
 - 2) up to PLN 16,000 in the "Domestic Internships of Doctoral Students" competition and in the "Foreign Specialist Courses of Doctoral Students" competition.
10. One doctoral student may submit a larger number of applications for funding under the "Research tasks of doctoral students" call if he/she applies for funding for more than one research task, but the sum of funds applied for may not exceed PLN 7,500.
11. One doctoral student may submit only one application for funding in the "Domestic Doctoral Internships" call or in the "Foreign Specialized Doctoral Students" call.
12. The co-financing does not cover the costs related to the scientific activity of persons other than the beneficiary of the call, such as supervisors, university employees, students, other doctoral students.
13. All procedures related to expenditure and accounting of costs must be completed by November 30, 2026. Unused funds awarded in the competition do not carry over to 2027.

§ 2.

Organisation of competitions

1. The deadline for the call for proposals is announced on the website of the Research Excellence Initiative at: www.us.edu.pl/idb and on the websites of doctoral schools. The announcement contains competition forms.
2. Applications are considered by the committee on the following terms.

3. Entry to the competition is considered to be the completion and effective submission of the electronic form within the specified deadline and in the manner specified below.
4. The electronic form is submitted according to the following procedure:
 - 1) the doctoral student fills in and sends the form in the university's IT system, and then confirms the submission of the application by clicking on the link sent by the system to his e-mail address in the @us.edu.pl domain,
 - 2) the doctoral student submits to the supervisor for approval a completed form in electronic or paper version, identical to the form submitted in the IT system, and provides a link to the acceptance of the form – it is the responsibility of the doctoral student submitting the proposal to inform the supervisor,
 - 3) the supervisor informs about the acceptance of the form by filling in the form for the supervisor, made available in the announcement (the supervisor may make minor changes to the doctoral student's application in the form),
 - 4) the introduction of significant changes to the proposal by the supervisor results in the obligation to repeat the procedure described above by the doctoral student,
 - 5) the deadline for submitting the proposal is the deadline for confirmation of the proposal by the supervisor in the electronic form,
 - 6) Submitting the form means accepting the rules of the competition.
5. The condition for taking part in the competition is to read the GDPR information clause for the participant of the competition. The content of the GDPR information clause can be found in the application form.

§ 3.

Selection Committee

1. The committee consists of:
 - 1) Vice-Rector of the University of Silesia for Science as Chairperson,
 - 2) Dean of the DS
 - 3) Dean of the IEDS,
 - 4) Vice-Dean of the DS
 - 5) three area coordinators in the DS,
 - 6) DS head of the office,
 - 7) three representatives of the doctoral student community (DS or IEDS), representing

the disciplines of three areas of education at the Doctoral School.

2. A member of the committee, who is the supervisor of a doctoral student who submits an application for funding, is excluded from the discussion and evaluation of the doctoral student's proposal.

§ 4.

General rules of the "Research tasks of doctoral students" call

1. The Committee allocates funds for research or artistic purposes related to the implementation of specific research tasks resulting from the Individual Research Plan of the doctoral student and for the dissemination of the results of the completed research task. The doctoral student must indicate a specific research task to be co-financed from the call, describe the purpose of the funding and present a cost estimate. If the proposal is submitted by a first-year doctoral student, the research task, description and cost estimate do not refer to the Individual Research Plan (hereinafter referred to as "IRP"), but must be linked to the doctoral dissertation. The funding may be m.in:
 - 1) purchase of materials and services necessary for conducting research or artistic activity,
 - 2) active participation in a scientific conference or participation in artistic competitions, exhibitions,
 - 3) internships and scientific or artistic queries,
 - 4) field research.
2. Co-financed projects must end with a specific, evaluatable result, m.in:
 - 1) submission of a publication or preparation of a work constituting an evaluated artistic activity; the publication or work is to be affiliated with the University of Silesia in Katowice and contain the formula "Działania badawcze wsparte ze środków przyznanych w ramach programu Inicjatywa Doskonałości Badawczej Uniwersytetu Śląskiego w Katowicach"; in English: "The research activities co-financed by the funds granted under the Research Excellence Initiative of the University of Silesia in Katowice", or its equivalent in the language of publication,
 - 2) by submitting a grant application.
3. The deadline for recognizing the results referred to in [paragraph 2](#) as having been obtained in accordance with the regulations is 31 December 2027. In the case of publication, obtaining a result means acceptance for printing, and in the case of grants – submission of an application.

§ 5.

General rules of the "Domestic Internships for PhD Students" call

1. The Commission grants funds for scientific or artistic internships of DS doctoral students related to the implementation of IRP (does not apply to first-year doctoral students), carried out in Polish academic and research centers, lasting no less than 3 weeks and no longer than 3 months.
2. The doctoral student must demonstrate the usefulness of the research or artistic internship to be co-financed by the call and its connection with the doctoral dissertation, present the internship program, the person or persons representing the host institution who will be the doctoral student's supervisors during the internship, and submit a cost estimate.
3. The funding may include:
 - 1) travel costs,
 - 2) accommodation costs,
 - 3) diets,
 - 4) other reasonable costs necessary for the traineeship, e.g. paid access to infrastructure.

§ 6.

General rules of the "Foreign Specialist Doctoral Courses" call

1. The Commission allocates funds for the participation of IEDS doctoral students in specialized courses carried out in foreign renowned scientific and research centers, related to the implementation of IPB (does not apply to first-year doctoral students).
2. The doctoral student must demonstrate the usefulness of the course to be co-financed by the competition and its relationship with the doctoral dissertation, present the course program, and submit a cost estimate.
3. The funding may include:
 - 1) travel costs,
 - 2) accommodation costs,
 - 3) diets,
 - 4) fees related to participation in the course.

§ 7.

Proceedings of the selection board and further procedure

1. The Selection Committee examines the proposals on the basis of the criteria specified in this paragraph, and then determines the results of the competition, which consist of:
 - 1) a list of proposals qualified for funding,
 - 2) a list of proposals not qualified for funding due to insufficient funds,
 - 3) a list of applications rejected for formal and substantive reasons.
2. The ranking list shall be published to the extent indicated in paragraph 1 point 3. Other ranking lists remain known to the Selection Committee; Persons on these lists are notified of the results of the competition individually.
3. The Commission may award the funds in full or in part of the requested amount.
4. When spending doctoral students' funds, the substantive criteria, schedule and cost estimate provided in the form with any changes introduced by the selection committee at the stage of awarding funds (concerning the amount of funds) or by the dean at the request of the doctoral student after the funds have been awarded, apply.
5. A doctoral student is obliged to inform the Dean of the DS or the IEDS about the resignation from the funds allocated to him/her as soon as possible after the occurrence of circumstances preventing him/her from using them.
6. Upon completion of the research activities, the doctoral student is required to submit:
 - 1) **in each of the calls (i.e. in the calls "Research tasks of doctoral students", "Domestic internships of doctoral students" and "Specialist foreign courses of doctoral students") – a substantive and financial report** confirming the performance of the requested research activity or completed internship, within 10 days of its completion, via the form available on the websites of doctoral schools and on the IDB website,
 - 2) in the "Research Tasks of Doctoral Students" call – **a report settling the project**, immediately after achieving the result resulting from the scientific activities undertaken, referred to in [§ 4 section 2](#), via the form available on the websites of doctoral schools and on the IDB website,
 - 3) in the "Domestic Internships of PhD Students" call – **a report on the completed internship and the opinion of the internship supervisor**; both documents in paper form must be delivered to the DS office,

- 4) in the "Specialist Foreign Doctoral Courses" call – a **report on the completed internship and a certificate of participation in it**; both documents, in paper form, must be delivered to the IEDS office.
7. Failure to comply or improper fulfilment of the obligations described in [paragraph 6](#) will result in exclusion from the possibility of applying for research funding in subsequent competitions for funding research/artistic activity announced by doctoral schools in the financial year 2028.

§ 8.

Award criteria

1. Each proposal is evaluated by three members of the committee, including one doctoral student at a time, appointed for this evaluation by the chairperson of the committee.
2. The criteria for evaluating proposals are based on a score according to the following division:

1) "Research tasks of doctoral students" call

Substantive evaluation made by experts		
No.	Category name	number of points
1.	the scientific level of research or activities in the field of art, or an assessment of the substantive value of the planned activities related to the education or implementation	0-5
2.	Purposefulness of the project	0-2
3.	the impact of the assumed effects on the development of the discipline or the internationalization of research	0-2
4.	probability of achieving the planned goals	0-1
5.	justification of planned costs	0-2
Max. 12 points		

2) the "Domestic Internships of Doctoral Students" competition and the "Foreign

Specialist Doctoral Courses" competition

No Categorie s	Substantive evaluation made by experts	
	Category name	number of points
1.	the scientific or artistic significance of the host unit and the scientific/artistic status of the traineeship supervisor	0-3
2.	the usefulness of the internship/course in relation to the research/artistic task described	0-3
3.	internship program	0-3
4.	probability of achieving the planned goals	0-1
5.	justification of planned costs	0-2
	Max. 12 points	

3. The final score in a given category is the arithmetic average of the points awarded in that category by all evaluators.
4. The final score is the sum of the score scores from all categories.
5. The application is rejected on substantive grounds if:
 - 1) when evaluating a proposal in the "Research tasks of doctoral students" call, the score in category 1 is less than 2.00 or the score in category 2 is less than 1.00, or at least two out of three evaluators in category 4 will award 0 points,
 - 2) when evaluating a proposal in the "Domestic Internships of Doctoral Students" call and in the "Specialized Foreign Doctoral Courses" call, the score in category 2 or 3 is 1 or less, or at least two out of three evaluators in category 4 will award 0 points.