

RULES OF THE COMPETITION "FREEDOM OF RESEARCH" FOR FINANCING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES UNDER "RESEARCH EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE"

§ 1

General provisions

1. These regulations define the rules of the "Freedom of Research" competition concerning the financing of research activities conducted by employees of the University of Silesia in Katowice, hereinafter referred to as the University.
2. The competition is financed under the programme named "Research Excellence Initiative", hereinafter referred to as the Initiative, from the funds obtained in connection with the participation of the University in the "Excellence Initiative – Research University" programme and a 2% increase receipt in subsidies from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education for the period 2020-2025.
3. The unit coordinating the "Freedom of research" competition is the Department of Science.
4. The subject of financing are research activities related in particular to the topics consistent with the Priority Research Areas (POBs) of the University of Silesia in Katowice, listed in the IDUB project, and consistent with the UN Sustainable Development Agenda document (*Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development*) set up in order to achieve the purposes of the Initiative.
5. In justified cases, funding may be awarded to a research activity other than those listed above, provided that it contributes to the achievement of the Initiative's objectives, in particular increasing the importance and visibility of the University in the region, Europe and the world.
6. The deadlines for submitting applications for the next editions of the competition are announced on the Initiative's website: www.us.edu.pl/inicjatywadoskonalosci.
7. The maximum amount of financing for a single research activity is PLN 10,000, and in justified cases, specified in § 4, section 5, financing may amount to PLN 20,000.
8. Up to PLN 1,000,000 is allocated for financing the competition in each budget year of the programme duration.

§ 2

Purpose of the competition

The purpose of the competition is to improve the conditions for the scientific development of employees, build high-quality scientific achievements, explore new research topics, disseminate and commercialise research results, and consequently increase the impact of the University's scientific activity on the development of science in the country and abroad, intensify scientific activity in the field of Priority Research Areas at the University, as well as the development of research cooperation with partners from the T4E alliance.

§3

Participants of the competition

Financing may be granted to employees of the University of Silesia in Katowice with an ORCID number who submitted a declaration of being classified in the N number of employees conducting scientific activity at the University of Silesia in Katowice and authorized the University to demonstrate their achievements for evaluation purposes. Moreover, their publishing or artistic achievements are affiliated with the University of Silesia in Katowice in the current evaluation period. This condition does not apply to newly hired employees up to 6 months from the date of employment.

§4

Competition Rules and Guidelines

1. The condition for granting the financing of a research activity is the submission of a completed Competition Application available as a form on the website of the Programme, i.e. www.us.edu.pl/inicjatywadoskonalosci.
2. The period of implementation of the research activity is a maximum of 12 months from the moment of providing the Applicant with information about the grant.
3. The applicant declares that the research activity which is the subject of the application is not financed from external sources.
4. The application should list the most important publication from the current evaluation period by the Applicant, describe the conducted research, justify the need for financing for the planned research activity and provide its estimated costs.

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5. The applicant is obliged to declare at least one publication or artistic achievement that they intend to obtain thanks to the granted support. If the applicant intends to apply for a grant in the amount of PLN 20,000, they should additionally declare that they have achieved another scientifically significant result, e.g. applying for an international grant, establishing international cooperation, commercialisation activity, etc.
6. Financing does not include remuneration for Applicants.
7. The applications are assessed by the Team established at the Scientific Council of the Initiative, hereinafter referred to as the Team.
8. Competition applications are subject to formal and content-related assessment. The substantive assessment is based on the analysis of the scientific level and the compliance of the research subject with the Priority Research Areas, as well as the analysis of the impact of the declared results on the evaluation of the scientific activity of the University of Silesia (in accordance with the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 22 February 2019 on the evaluation of the quality of scientific activity), Journal of Laws 2019, item 392. Based on the assessment, the Team prepares a protocol with a ranking list and recommendations for financing.
9. Decisions on granting financing are made by the Rector on the basis of the Team's recommendation.
10. The Rector's decision on granting the financing is final.
11. The applicant is informed about the Rector's decision regarding the grant by e-mail within 30 days from the date of submission of the Application.
12. The beneficiary of this competition is required to submit a report confirming the completion of the proposed research activity within 30 days of its completion. The report is available as a form on the Initiative's website.
13. The beneficiary is obliged to immediately inform about the achievement of the result referred to in point 5, using the form available on the Initiative's website.
14. The report referred to in paragraph 12 shall be subject to substantive evaluation by the Scientific Council of the Initiative.
15. One may enter this competition at most once per its edition. Another application for financing for another research activity may be submitted after the settlement of the result declared in the Application (e.g. declaration of acceptance for publication).
16. Beneficiaries are required to inform about the source of financing their research (by including the following formula in the publication: "Publication 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 the publication) and to cooperate in the dissemination of

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scientific research and popularisation of research results obtained thanks to participation in the competition.

§ 5

Examples of financed research activities

1. Translation or proofreading of text

- 1) The financing covers the translation or proofreading of texts presenting a high scientific level which are planned to be published in scientific journals with the following minimum number of points according to the current list of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education:
 - in the field of humanities: 70 points;
 - in the field of social sciences: 70 points;
 - in the field of engineering and technical sciences: 100 points;
 - in the field of exact and natural sciences: 140 points;
 - in the field of theology: 70 points;
 - in the field of arts: 200 points.
- 2) Financing covers the correction of monograph texts to be published in the publishing house from the level II on the list of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

2. Participation in an international scientific conference

- 1) Applying for financing of participation in a highly reputed international conference is possible if post-conference publication of the article in a journal with a minimum number of points as in point 1 or 140 pts. in the case of a chapter (according to the current list of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education) is foreseen.
- 2) Financing may be used to cover the following costs: conference fee (also in the case of online conferences), travel costs, accommodation and meals.
- 3) The application should specify the type of activity (presentation, participation in the panel).
- 4) The application should be accompanied by a confirmation of acceptance of the application for participation in the conference.





3. Research

- 1) The application should describe in detail the purpose and methodology of research on the selected issue, the impact of the results on the development of the discipline, and the justification of costs in relation to the research tasks.
- 2) As part of research, the following costs may be financed in particular: research materials, reagents, protective clothing and personal protective equipment, access to source data, specialised software licences, external services, other materials appropriate for a given discipline, as well as other reasonable costs necessary to achieve the objectives of the research.
- 3) As part of research, costs may be financed that will ensure the applicant completing key scientific and research tasks, resulting in the publication or preparation of a grant project.

4. Queries

- 1) Financing may be provided to cover the costs of research in foreign scientific or science-supporting institutions, including archives, libraries, databases, etc.
- 2) The application should describe in detail the purpose and plan of the trip and the justification for the costs indicated.

5. Consultation and study trip

- 1) Financing may be provided to cover the costs of visits and consultations with foreign research institutions, including travel costs, accommodation and meals.
- 2) The application should describe in detail the purpose and plan of the trip, justify the choice of institution, list the people with whom the Applicant intends to cooperate and justify the costs.
- 3) The consent of the representative of the host institution to admit the Applicant should be attached to the application.

6. Other relevant research activities

- 1) The competition may finance research activities other than those listed in points 1-5, provided that they contribute to the achievement of the Initiative's objectives and are important from the point of view of evaluating the quality of scientific activities, in





particular increasing the importance and visibility of the University in the Region, Europe and in the world.

- 2) The application should then describe in detail the selected research activity, justify the costs related to the research activity and describe how the results will contribute to the achievement of the Initiative's objectives, as set out in the Rector's Ordinance launching the Initiative and specified on the Initiative's website: www.us.edu.pl/inicjatywadoskonalosci.

§ 6

Final provisions

1. The rules of the competition may change, which is announced on the website dedicated to the Initiative.
2. In matters not covered by these regulations, the final decision is made by the Rector.

