

**RULES AND REGULATION OF THE COMPETITION “FREEDOM OF RESEARCH” –
2nd Edition
FOR FUNDING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE “RESEARCH EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE”**

§ 1

General provisions

1. The Rules and Regulations shall specify the conditions of the competition named “Freedom of Research”, concerning the financing of research activities increasing the University’s research potential, conducted by employees of the University of Silesia in Katowice, hereinafter referred to as the University.
2. The Competition shall be financed as part of the programme named “Research Excellence Initiative”, hereinafter referred to as the Initiative, from funds obtained in connection with the University’s participation in the “Excellence Initiative – Research University” programme and receiving a 2% increase in subsidies from the Ministry of Education and Science for the period of 2020–2025.
3. The unit coordinating the Competition shall be the Science Department.
4. The financing subject shall be 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. They should also be consistent with the UN Sustainable Development Agenda document (*Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development*) and help achieve the Initiative’s purposes.
5. In justified cases, funding may be awarded to a research activity other than those listed above, provided that it will contribute 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. It should also result in the establishment of international cooperation, particularly with the Transform4Europe (T4E) partners, the list of which can be found at <https://us.edu.pl/uczelnia/universytet-europejski-transform4europe/>.
6. The deadline for submitting applications in the Competition shall be announced on the Initiative website: <https://us.edu.pl/en/inicjatywadoskonalosci>

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7. The maximum amount of financing for a single research activity shall be PLN 10,000, although in justified cases specified in § 4(4), financing may amount to PLN 20,000.
8. Up to PLN 1,200,000 shall be allocated for financing the Competition.
9. The period of implementation of the research activity shall be a maximum of 12 months from the moment of providing the Applicant with the information about the grant.
10. It shall be possible to spend the funds allocated to the Competition by 30 November 2022.
11. The notification of demand for a particular purchase or implementation of a service in the SAP system under the grant may take place until 31 October 2022 at the latest, and it will not be possible to introduce new applications in the system after that date. The exception shall be the purchase of fixed assets. The requirements may be claimed in the SAP system by 30 June 2022, while the adoption of new fixed assets (OTs) purchased as part of the funding must take place by 31 October 2022.

§ 2

Purpose of the Competition

The purpose of the Competition shall be to improve the conditions for the scientific development of employees of the University of Silesia in Katowice, 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 and the development of research cooperation with partners from the Transform4Europe alliance.

§3

Participants in the Competition

1. 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 authorised the University to demonstrate their achievements for evaluation purposes. Moreover, their publishing or artistic achievements shall be affiliated with the University of Silesia in Katowice in the current evaluation period. This condition shall not apply to newly hired employees up to 6 months since the date of employment.

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§4

Competition Rules and Guidelines

1. The condition for granting the financing of a research activity shall require submitting a completed Competition Application form available on the Initiative's website in the Research tab, i.e., <https://us.edu.pl/en/inicjatywadoskonalosci/badania/>.
2. The Applicant shall declare that the research activity which is the subject of the Application is not financed from external sources.
3. The Application should include the most influential publication which was published not earlier than 1 January 2019, the author of which is the Applicant. It should also describe the scientific research, which is the subject of the funding request, justify the need to finance the planned research activities and provide a detailed cost estimate.
4. The Applicant shall be required 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 declare establishing feasible international cooperation.
5. The applications shall be assessed by the Team established at the Scientific Council of the Initiative, hereinafter referred to as the Team.
6. The competition proposals shall be formally and substantively evaluated. The formal assessment shall consist of an analysis of the fulfilment of the criteria for participation in the Competition and the timeliness of the Application submission. The substantive assessment shall be based on a scientific level analysis, interdisciplinarity and innovativeness of research activities and the compatibility of research topics with the Priority Research Areas. It should also include an analysis of the impact of the declared results on the evaluation of the scientific activities of the University of Silesia in Katowice (under the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 22 February 2019 on the evaluation of the quality of scientific activity). Based on the assessment, the Team shall prepare a protocol with a ranking list and recommendations for financing.
7. The Rector shall make decisions on granting funds based on the Team's recommendation.
8. The Rector's decision on granting funds shall be final.
9. The Applicant shall be informed of the Rector's decision on granting the funds via e-mail within six weeks on closing the call for Applications to the Competition.
10. The list of winners of the Competition named "Freedom of research", including the names of the Beneficiaries, their degrees or titles, scientific disciplines and titles of activities, will be

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published on the Initiative's website at <https://us.edu.pl/en/inicjatywadoskonalosci/> in the subsite dedicated to the Competition.

§ 5

Examples of financed research activities

1. Translation or proofreading of text

- 1) the financing shall cover the translation or proofreading of texts presenting a high scientific level which are planned to be published in scientific journals indexed in Scopus or Web of Science with the following minimum number of points according to the current list of the Ministry of Education and Science:
 - 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 shall cover the proofreading of monograph texts to be published by a publisher from level II on the list of the Ministry of Education and Science.

2. Participation in an international scientific conference

- 1) it shall be possible to request the funding of a highly reputable international conference if a post-conference publication of an article in a journal with a minimum number of points as in points 1 or 140 pts. is envisaged for articles published in international conferences proceedings (according to the current list of the from the Ministry of Education and Science);
- 2) financing may be used to cover the following costs: conference fee (also in the case of online conferences), travel expenses, accommodation and meals;
- 3) the Application should specify the type of activity (presentation, participation in the section);
- 4) an acknowledgement of acceptance of the conference application must be attached to the Application.

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3. Own research

- 1) the proposal should describe in detail the purpose and methodology of the research on the selected subject, the impact of the results on the development of the discipline and the justification of costs concerning the research tasks;
- 2) as part of own 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 relevant to a given discipline, as well as other reasonable costs necessary to achieve the objectives of the research;
- 3) funding for own research may include funded costs which enable the Applicant to complete critical scientific tasks, which result in a publication or the preparation of a grant proposal.

4. Queries

- 1) funding may be used to cover the costs of querying in foreign scientific or science-supporting institutions, including archives, libraries, databases, etc.;
- 2) the proposal should describe in detail the purpose and plan of the trip, and the justification for the costs indicated.

5. Consultation and study tour

- 1) a grant may be used to cover the costs of visits and consultations in foreign scientific institutions, including travel, accommodation and meals costs;
- 2) the proposal should describe in detail the purpose and the plan of trip, justify the choice of the institution, list the persons with whom the Applicant intends to cooperate, and justify the costs;
- 3) the proposal should be accompanied by the agreement of the representative of the host institution to accept the Applicant.

6. Other relevant research activities

- 1) in the framework of the Competition, activities other than those listed in points 1 to 5 may be financed as well, provided that they contribute to the achievement of the Initiative's objectives and are essential from the point of view of evaluating the quality of scientific activities, in particular increasing the University's visibility in the Region, Europe and in the world;

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- 2) the proposal 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 specified in the Regulation of the Rector on Launching the Initiative and specified on the Initiative's website: <https://us.edu.pl/en/inicjatywadoskonalosci/>.

7. Non-eligible costs

- 1) the grant shall not include remuneration for Applicants;
- 2) the grant shall not cover the cost of publishing monographs, open access in hybrid journals, promotion and advertising, including vouchers and gifts.

§ 6

Beneficiaries of the Competition

1. The beneficiaries shall be required to spend the funds allocated to them by the University of Silesia in Katowice for subsidies for research activities rationally and according to the law.
2. The beneficiaries shall be required to submit a substantive and financial report confirming the implementation of the requested research activity within no more than 30 days of its completion via the form available on the Initiative's website. The report shall be subject to substantive evaluation by the Scientific Council of the Initiative.
3. The Beneficiary shall be required to immediately inform about the achievement of the result referred to in §4(4), using the form available on the Initiative's website.
4. The reports in the format of online form can be found on the Initiative's website at: <https://formularze.us.edu.pl/site/index/477>.
5. In case of termination of the employment with the University of Silesia in Katowice during participation in the Competition, the Beneficiary shall be required to inform the Science Department immediately of this fact and report on the content and financial aspects of the research activities undertaken.
6. This Competition can be entered a maximum of once per edition. Applying for support of other research activities in the next edition of the Competition shall be possible after the settlement of the result declared in the Application (e.g. declaration of accepting the publication for publication).

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7. The beneficiaries are obliged to inform about the source of funding of their research by including these words in the publication: “The research activities co-financed by the funds granted under the Research Excellence Initiative of the University of Silesia in Katowice” (in Polish: „Działania badawcze wsparte ze środków przyznanych w ramach programu Inicjatywa Doskonałości Badawczej Uniwersytetu Śląskiego w Katowicach”) or their equivalent in the language of publication.
8. The Beneficiaries shall be required to cooperate in promoting scientific activities and disseminating research results obtained through participation in the Competition.
9. The Competition’s condition shall be reading the GDPR information clause for the Competition participant, together with statements on consent to the personal data processing and the image publishing. The GDPR information clause content, together with the statements, can be found in the application form for the Competition at: <https://formularze.us.edu.pl/form/index/2745>

§ 7

Final provisions

1. The Competition’s Rules and Regulations may change, which shall be announced on the website dedicated to the Initiative.
2. In matters not covered by these Rules and Regulations, the Rector shall make the final decision.

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