



FUNDING

BASIC RESEARCH



NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE
POLAND

ABOUT THE NCN

The National Science Centre is a government executive agency set up to fund basic research. With a budget of over € 200 M a year, the NCN supports research in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering. The activities of the NCN are supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education.

Basic research is original, experimental or theoretical research work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct, practical application or use.

The NCN supports:

- basic research in the form of research projects,
- doctoral fellowships and post-doctoral internships,
- international research projects selected within international initiatives such as ERA-NETs and Joint Programming Initiatives.

WHO MAY APPLY?

All researchers, irrespective of their nationality, at all stages of their research career. The grantee must be employed at a Polish institution. The project abstract must be written in Polish, whereas the full project description must be prepared in English*.

* Except for ETIUDA and FUGA funding schemes where the project descriptions must be written in Polish only.

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBLE COSTS?

Researchers may apply for funding for all costs relevant, necessary and directly connected to the proposed research project, such as:

- personnel costs;
- equipment — applicants may seek funding for research equipment up to PLN 500,000 for a single item for projects in the fields of Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, and up to PLN 150,000 for a single item in the field of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences**;
- publication costs;
- subcontracting;
- travel and Subsistence Costs;
- consumables;
- overheads – up to 30% of the total eligible costs (excl. equipment).

** Except ETIUDA and HARMONIA funding schemes where researchers may not seek funding for research equipment.

NCN PANELS

The researchers submit their applications within the NCN Discipline Panels:

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences	
HS1	Fundamental Questions of Human Existence and the Nature of Reality
HS2	Cultures and Cultural Creativity
HS3	The Study of the Human Past
HS4	Individuals, Institutions and Markets
HS5	Social Norms and Governance
HS6	Human Nature and Human Society

NZ — Life Sciences	
NZ1	Molecular and Structural Biology and Biochemistry
NZ2	Genetics, Genomics
NZ3	Cellular and Developmental Biology
NZ4	Biology of Tissues, Organs and Organisms
NZ5	Human and Animal Noninfectious Diseases
NZ6	Human and Animal Immunology and Infecion
NZ7	Public Health
NZ8	Evolutionary and Enviornmental Biology
NZ9	Applied Life Sciences and Biotechnology

ST — Physical Sciences and Engineering	
ST1	Mathematics
ST2	Fundamental Constituents of Matter
ST3	Condensed Matter Physics
ST4	Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences
ST5	Materials and Synthesis
ST6	Computer Science and Informatics
ST7	Systems and Communication Engineering
ST8	Products and Processes Engineering
ST9	Astronomy and Space Research
ST10	Earth System Science

NCN FUNDING SCHEMES

OPUS: GENERAL GRANT

OPUS is a funding opportunity intended for a wide range of applicants. The research proposal submitted under this scheme may include the purchase or construction of research equipment.

Research team: Research project may be carried out by a single Principle Investigator (PI) or a research team led by the PI.

Duration: at least 12 months and up to 36 months.

Evaluation criteria: scientific excellence and the innovative nature of the research project, the research portfolio of the Principal Investigator and co-investigators, budget

Funding: The OPUS scheme does not have a cap on funding.

Under the OPUS scheme, applicants may seek funding for research equipment up to PLN 500,000 for a single item for projects in the fields of Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, and up to PLN 150,000 for a single item in the field of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Calls for proposals: twice a year.

HARMONIA: INTERNATIONAL GRANTS

HARMONIA is a funding opportunity designed for scientists wanting to carry out research in the following forms:

- in cooperation with foreign partners,
- within the framework of international programmes or initiatives announced under bi- or multilateral cooperation,
- utilising large-scale international research infrastructure.

Duration: at least 12 months and up to 36 months.

Evaluation criteria: scientific excellence and the innovative nature of the research project, the research portfolio of the Principal Investigator and his or her international partner, added value through international cooperation, budget

Funding: up to PLN 2 M.

Under this scheme, applicants cannot seek funding for research equipment.

Tasks undertaken by foreign project partners must be financed by organisations funding research in the country of their residence or from other sources.

Calls for proposals: once a year.

MAESTRO: ADVANCED GRANTS

MAESTRO is a funding opportunity designed for advanced researchers wanting to conduct pioneering research, including interdisciplinary research which is important for the development of science. Projects within this funding scheme should surpass the current state of knowledge, lead to the creation of a new paradigm, or forge pathways to new frontiers in that field.

Research team: The Principal Investigator must be an advanced researcher. An advanced researcher is a person holding a doctoral degree, who, in the past 10 years prior to the submission of the proposal has:

1. published at least five publications in reputable Polish and/or foreign scientific journals,
2. supervised the implementation of research projects,
3. met at least three of the following criteria:

- published at least one monograph,
- given presentations at well-established international conferences,

- been awarded an international prize or award,
- is or was a member of recognised associations or international scientific organisations,
- was a member of a scientific committee of at least one recognised international conference,
- has other significant scientific achievements,
- and in the case of research activities in art — a person who:
 - has created works of art of international importance or significance to Polish culture,
 - has played an active part in international exhibi-

tions, festivals, as well as artistic, musical, theatrical or film events.

The research team must include at least one post-doc researcher working on a full-time basis and PhD candidate(s) participating in the project for at least 36 months.

Duration: at least 36 months and up to 60 months.

Evaluation criteria: the research portfolio of the Principal Investigator, scientific excellence and the innovative nature of the research project, budget.

Funding: between PLN 1 and 3 M (between PLN 500,000 and PLN 3 M for

projects in the field of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences).

Under the MAESTRO scheme, applicants may seek funding for research equipment up to PLN 500,000 for a single item for projects in the fields of Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, and up to PLN 150,000 for a single item in the field of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Call for proposals: once a year.

SYMFONIA: INTERDISCIPLINARY GRANTS

SYMFONIA is a funding opportunity intended for exceptional established researchers wanting to carry out interdisciplinary or cross-domain research in collaboration with teams representing different areas of research.

Research team: Principal Investigator: a researcher holding a doctoral degree, who, in the past 10 years prior to the submission of the proposal, has been a Principal Investigator of at least two research projects (or supervised the implementation of at least 2 research projects) selected within national or international competitions.

Project team must include at least 2 but no more than 4 research groups

or individual researchers. Full time research positions for at least 2 post-docs and 4 PhD candidates are also required to be provided.

Duration: at least 36 months and up to 60 months.

Funding: between PLN 2 and 7 M.

Under the SYMFONIA scheme, applicants may seek funding for research equipment up to PLN

500,000 for a single item for projects in the fields of Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, and up to PLN 150,000 for a single item in the field of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Evaluation criteria:

- interdisciplinary nature of the research project,
- scientific excellence and innovative nature of the research project,

- the research portfolio of the Principal Investigator, co-investigators and research team members,

- budget.

Calls for proposals: once a year.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES ADDRESSED TO EMERGING SCIENTISTS

PRELUDIUM: PRE-DOCTORAL GRANTS

PRELUDIUM is a funding opportunity intended for pre-doctoral researchers about to embark on their scientific career.

Research team: The Principal Investigator must be an individual who is beginning his/her career in research and does not have a doctoral degree. Apart from the supervisor, the team members must not hold a habilitation degree or the title of professor. The number of team members must not exceed 3 people.

Duration: at least 12 months and up to 36 months.

Evaluation criteria: scientific excellence and the innovative nature of the research project, the research portfolio of the Principal Investigator and his or her supervisor, budget.

Funding:

PLN 50,000 for projects lasting 12 months,

PLN 100,000 for projects lasting 24 months,

PLN 150,000 for projects lasting 36 months.

Cost of research equipment may not exceed 30% of the total budget of the project.

Call for proposals: twice a year.

SONATA: PHD HOLDER GRANTS

SONATA is a funding opportunity addressed to scientists holding a doctoral degree starting their career in research.

Research team: The Principal Investigator is a person about to embark on career in research with a doctoral degree obtained within the last five years prior to the submission of the proposal.

Projects carried out by research teams must consist of no more than one researcher holding a habilitation degree or the title of professor and on condition that they are collaborators from an institution other than the host institution of the Principal Investigator.

Duration: at least 12 months and up to 36 months.

Evaluation criteria: scientific excellence and the innovative nature of the research project, the research portfolio of the Principal Investigator, budget.

Funding: The SONATA funding scheme does not have a cap on funding.

Under the SONATA scheme, applicants may seek funding for research equipment

up to PLN 500,000 for a single item for projects in the fields of Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, and up to PLN 150,000 for a single item in the field of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Call for proposals: twice a year.

SONATA BIS: PHD HOLDER GRANTS

SONATA BIS is a funding opportunity addressed to researchers holding a doctoral degree, wanting to establish a new research team and become independent research leaders.

Research team: The Principal Investigator is a person with a doctoral degree obtained within 2-12 years prior to the submission of the proposal. In addition to the Principal Investigator, the team cannot consist of researchers holding a habilitation degree or the title of professor.

Duration: at least 36 months and up to 60 months.

Evaluation criteria: scientific excellence and the innovative nature of the research project, the re-

search portfolio of the Principal Investigator, justification for appointing a new team, budget.

Funding: up to PLN 1.5 M (for the entire 60-month period).

Call for proposals: once a year.

ETIUDA: DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

ETIUDA is a funding opportunity intended for PhD candidates.

The Principal Investigator must be a PhD candidate with a commenced registration and conferment procedure for a doctoral degree. The awardee is obliged to obtain a PhD degree within 12 months of completing the scholarship.

Duration: maximum 12 months, and 3-6 months for completing an internship in a research institution outside of Poland which may be completed during the 12 month scholarship or up to 12 months thereafter.

Evaluation criteria: scientific excellence of the carried out research, work progress of the PhD thesis, the research portfolio of the Principal Investigator, e.g. participation in national and international internships, publications, compatibility of the applicant and the host institution.

The authors of the best applications will be invited for an interview which will be carried out in Polish. Based on these interviews, the Expert Team will decide who to award the grants to.

Funding: monthly scholarship of PLN 3000 (net) for the period of 12 months and PLN 9000 (brutto) per month for a 3-6 month internship abroad (including travel allowance).

Under ETIUDA funding scheme researchers may not seek funding for research equipment.

Call for proposals: once a year.

FUGA: POST-DOCTORAL INTERNSHIPS

A funding opportunity addressed to scientists holding a doctoral degree about to embark on a career in research. The programme intends to facilitate mobility of Polish researchers between different institutions in Poland and to support the exchange of scientific ideas.

The Principal Investigator is a person beginning a career in research with a doctoral degree obtained within the last 5 years prior to the submission of the proposal.

The applicant indicates an academic tutor within a higher education institution or research organisation where he/she intends to conduct the internship. The location of the planned internship cannot be the same as the one where the applicant has completed or is completing PhD studies. Neither can it be situated within the same województwo (province) in which the applicant obtained their academic degree or is employed.

Duration: at least 12 months and up to 36 months.

Evaluation criteria: the scientific excellence of the planned research, the research portfolio of the applicant and his or her supervisor, the academic ranking of the host institution, compatibility of the applicant and the host institution.

The authors of the best applications will be invited for an interview conducted in Polish. Based on the interviews, the Expert Team will decide who to award the grants to.

Funding: the successful researcher will be em-

ployed in the host institution on a fulltime basis, with a salary of ca. PLN 6000 per month (net) and may also receive funds to cover the cost of conference participation and the purchase of books and laboratory equipment.

Calls for proposals: once a year.

PROJECT EVALUATION



TIMEFRAME

Funding opportunity	2013		2014	
	opened	closed	opened	closed
OPUS	15th March	17th June	17th March	17th June
	16th September	16th December	15th September	15th December
PRELUDIUM	15th March	17th June	17th March	17th June
	16th September	16th December	15th September	15th December
SONATA	15th March	17th June	17th March	17th June
	16th September	16th December	15th September	15th December
SONATA BIS	15th June	16th September	16th June	16th September
HARMONIA	15th June	16th September	16th June	16th September
MAESTRO	15th June	16th September	16th June	16th September
FUGA	16th December	15th March 2014	15th December	16th March 2015
ETIUDA	16th December	15th March 2014	15th December	16th March 2015
SYMPONIA	16th December	15th March 2014	15th December	16th March 2015

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The NCN has been involved in international networking activities which inspire researchers to carry out research in the following disciplines:

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

- Humanities – HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area)
- Social Sciences – NORFACE (New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Cooperation in Europe)
- Cultural Heritage – Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage

Life Sciences

- Neurodegenerative Diseases – EU Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research
- Infectious Diseases – Infect-ERA

Physical Sciences and Engineering

- Astroparticle Physics – ASPERA (AStroParticle ERA-net)
 - Information and Communication Sciences & Technologies – CHIST-ERA
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More information available at:

WWW.NCN.GOV.PL

PERFORMING FOR POLISH RESEARCH

National Science Centre

ul. Królewska 57

30-081 Kraków, Poland

Tel. +48 12 341 90 00

Fax: +48 12 341 90 99

e-mail: biuro@ncn.gov.pl

WWW.NCN.GOV.PL

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