



RESOLUTION NO 108/2018

BY THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE

of 8 November 2018

on the terms of conducting the SONATINA 3 call

Pursuant to Article 18 (4) and in conjunction with Article 20 (1) (7) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 947, as amended), the Council of the National Science Centre lays down the terms of the **SONATINA 3 call for proposals for research projects carried out by persons who have been awarded a doctorate within 3 years before submitting the proposal**. The objective of the call is to support the careers of young researchers by providing them with employment opportunities, possibility to carry out research in Poland and gain knowledge and experience through fellowships at high-quality foreign research institutions.

a) Eligible applicants

- .1. The call is addressed to individuals who have been awarded a doctorate within 3 years¹ before submitting the proposal² or will be awarded a doctorate by 30 June 2019.
- .2. The call is addressed to persons who:
 - a) are not employed pursuant to a contract of employment as researchers, academics³, academic researchers or research technicians⁴ at entities referred to in Article 7 (1) (1), (2) and (4) – (6) of the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018 (Journal of 2018, item 1668) and wish to be employed in those entities pursuant to a full-time contract of employment and implement their research project in the capacity of principal investigator;
 - b) are employed pursuant to a contract of employment at entities referred to in Article 7 (1) (1), (2) and (4) – (6) of the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018 but wish to be employed pursuant to a full-time contract of employment by another employer than the current one and implement their research project in the capacity of principal investigator.
- 1.3 Proposals for funding of research projects may be submitted by:
 - 1) natural persons;
 - 2) entities referred to in Article 7 (1) (1), (2) and (4) – (6) of the Act on Higher Education and Science, hereinafter referred to as “applicants,” for whom the funding of the project will not constitute state aid, i.e.:
 - a) universities,
 - b) federations of science and HE institutions,
 - c) research institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences,

¹ The doctorate must be awarded between 1 January 2016 and 30 June 2019. The period may be extended by the period of maternity leave, adoption leave, paternity leave or parental leave granted in compliance with the Labour Code, period of collecting a maternity or parental allowance or sickness benefit or physiotherapy benefit granted on account of being unfit to work, including any caused by a health condition requiring physiotherapy. Women may extend the period after the award of doctorate by 18 months for every child born or adopted. A woman may choose whichever manner of accounting for her career breaks she finds preferable.

² The time of submitting the proposal is assumed as the final day of submitting proposals under the call, i.e. 15 March 2019.

³ Researcher, academic within the meaning of the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018.

⁴ Academic researcher, research technician within the meaning of the Act on Research Institutes of 30 April 2010 or Act on the Polish Academy of Sciences of 30 April 2010.



- d) research institutes, and
- e) international research institutes established pursuant to separate provisions and operating in the Republic of Poland.

2. Terms of entry

The following proposals may be submitted under the call:

- a) proposals in which the principal investigator shall present a document confirming the award of a doctorate or statement by the supervisor of his/her doctoral dissertation or certificate issued by an appropriate entity, stating the expected date of awarding the doctorate, in the case of intention to earn the degree by 30 June 2019;
- b) proposals in which the principal investigator shall list 1 to 10 scientific papers published with the most important one attached to the proposal;
- c) proposals which provide for the implementation of research projects involving research⁵ within the meaning of Article 4 (2) of the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018 in any of the research disciplines listed as NCN panels pursuant to NCN Council Resolution No 66/2018 of 5 July 2018;
- d) proposals in which the research projects shall be carried out over 24 or 36 months;
- e) proposals carried out by at least one investigator with a habilitation degree or higher academic rank (apart from the principal investigator), provided that he/she is not employed by the host entity for the project⁶;
- f) proposals in which the principal investigator shall plan a foreign fellowship with a duration of 3 to 6 months⁷ at a foreign research institution of his/her choice, located in one of the countries listed in **Annex No 1** hereto and shall present a document in English confirming his/her approval for the foreign fellowship;
- g) proposals which do not provide for the purchase or construction of research equipment, devices and software; and
- h) proposals which take into account the terms laid down in the Regulations of awarding funding for the implementation of research tasks funded by the National Science Centre as regards research projects, post-doctoral fellowships and doctoral scholarships, pursuant to the NCN Council Resolution No 107/2018 of 8 November 2018, hereinafter referred to as the "Regulations."

3. Terms of funding

The entity acting as the host institution shall receive funding for:

- a) employing a principal investigator pursuant to a full-time contract of employment for the duration of the research project carried out thereby, on terms and conditions laid down in the Regulations;
- b) implementation of the research project in accordance with the breakdown of costs laid down in the proposal;

⁵ Research means any activity comprising (a) basic research understood as experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to gain new knowledge of the foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without concern for direct commercial use; b) application research understood as work undertaken to gain new knowledge and skills, aimed at developing new products, processes or services or introducing significant changes thereto.

⁶ The condition must be met on the last day of submitting the proposals under the call, i.e. on 15 March 2019.

⁷ The fellowship at a foreign research institution may be implemented in stages, provided that it is concluded within the research project term.



- c) foreign fellowship by the principal investigator in a foreign research institution of his/her choice, including:
- flat-rate funds of PLN 12,000 per month, multiplied by the percentage correction rate set for a given country, according to the values set forth in the **Annex No 1** to this Resolution, to cover the costs of staying abroad;
 - flat-rate funds of PLN 1,000 to PLN 10,000, according to the rates set forth in **Annex No 2** to this Resolution, to cover the cost of return travel.

4. Submission of proposals

- 4.1 The data required in the proposal for funding of the research project under the SONATINA 3 call for proposals and annexes thereto are laid down in **Annex No 3** hereto.
- 4.2 An applicant who does not receive an operating support grant shall append the proposal with information concerning⁸:
- 1) research carried out over the period of 2 years before submitting the proposal, together with a list of publications affiliated with the entity;
 - 2) research equipment and other instrumentation/facilities crucial to scientific research
- 4.3 A complete proposal together with the required annexes and a confirmation of proposal submission bearing a qualified electronic signature or its scan with the signature in the signatory's own handwriting should be submitted electronically by 15 March 2019 via the ZSUN/OSF (Zintegrowany System Usług dla Nauki /Obsługa Strumieni Finansowania) electronic submission system available at www.osf.opi.org.pl.

5. Evaluation of proposals

- 5.1 Merit-based evaluation is open only to proposals approved as eligible.
- 5.2 The proposals shall be considered pursuant to the Regulations.
- 5.3 In the evaluation of proposals for funding of a research project, the following criteria shall be taken into account in particular:
- 1) whether or not the criterion of basic research referred to in point 2.4 hereof is fulfilled;
 - 2) research achievements of the principal investigator, including publications in renowned academic press/ journals;
 - 3) evaluation of other projects carried out by the principal investigator and funded by the NCN;
 - 4) scientific level of research or tasks to be carried out;
 - 5) innovative nature of the research project;
 - 6) impact of the research project on advancement of the scientific discipline;
 - 7) justification of the costs to be incurred with regard to the subject and scope of research;
 - 8) assessment of the research project's feasibility;
 - 9) appropriate choice of the foreign fellowship location, including academic rank of the institution, appropriate choice and impact on the development of principal investigator's research career; and
 - 10) preparation of the proposal.

6. Funding decision

⁸ If the applicant is a natural person, the data shall concern the host entity for the research project.



- 6.1 The call shall be concluded and its results announced on 13 September 2019.
- 6.2 The results of the call shall be published in the ZSUN/OSF system and dispatched electronically by way of a decision of the NCN Director.
- 6.3 Where an electronic document has not been collected, the decision of the NCN Director shall be deemed to have been delivered within 14 days of the date of being made available.
- 6.4 In the event of breach of the call procedure or other formal infringements, the applicant may appeal against the decision of the NCN Director with the Appeal Committee of the NCN Council within 14 days of the decision's delivery.
- 6.5 The Appeal Committee of the NCN Council shall decide on the appeal within 3 months of the date on which the appeal was lodged.

7 Funding procedure

- 7.1 The funds for the research project recommended for funding shall be awarded funding pursuant to a decision of the NCN Director Funding.
- 7.2 In the case of principal investigators who will be awarded a doctorate by 30 June 2019, the NCN funds for the research project shall be disbursed provided that the NCN is provided with a document confirming the award of a doctorate by 15 July 2019.
- 7.3 The funds shall be transferred to the entity acting as the host institution for the research project pursuant to a funding agreement between that entity, National Science Centre and principal investigator.
- 7.4 Should a research project submitted by a natural person be recommended for funding, the NCN Director shall pass a decision on awarding funding to the entity named in the proposal as the host institution bound to employ the applicant.
- 7.5 The applicant shall submit a draft funding decision with the NCN, including a research plan and breakdown of costs and shall perform other actions requested in the decision within the deadline specified in the decision. Failure to meet the deadline shall be tantamount to resigning from the execution of the funding agreement.

8 Amount of funding

The Council of the National Science Centre establishes the amount of financial resources allocated for the research projects under the SONATINA 3 call for proposals as **PLN 35 million**.

prof. dr hab. Janusz Janeczek

Chair of the Council
of the National Science Centre