



Annex to NCN Council Resolution No 106/2021 of 4 November 2021 amending the terms and conditions of the SONATINA call for proposals

Terms and conditions of the SONATINA call for research projects launched by the National Science Centre

I. Addressees of the call

The call is addressed at individuals who have been awarded their PhD in the proposal submission year or within 3 years prior to the proposal submission year. The objective of the call is to support the career development of early-stage researchers by creating opportunities for employment and research in Poland and enabling them to gain knowledge and experience during fellowships in first-rate foreign research institutions.

II. Eligible applicants

- §1. Proposals for funding of a research project (hereinafter “proposals”) may be submitted by any entity laid down in Article 27 (1) (1) – (8) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1384, hereinafter: the “NCN Act”), hereinafter “applicants”, for which project funding will not constitute state aid.
- §2. Where the applicant is a group of entities described in Article 27 (1) (2) of the NCN Act, the proposal shall be submitted by the leader. The principal investigator’s employer shall act as the leader of the group of entities.
- §3. Where the applicant is a natural person, the research project must not be carried out by a group of entities.
- §4. An entity that is under receivership, in liquidation or subject to bankruptcy proceedings must not be an applicant or host institution for the project.

III. Terms of entry

- §5. The following proposals may be submitted under the call:
- 1) to carry out research that neither is nor was funded by the NCN nor from any other sources;
 - 2) which comprise basic research¹ for the purposes of Article 4 (2) of the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2021, item 478) in any of the academic disciplines defined in the NCN panels adopted by the NCN Council;
 - 3) which comply with the “Regulations on awarding funding for research tasks funded by the National Science Centre as regards research projects”, adopted by the NCN Council (hereinafter: the “Regulations”);
 - 4) which cover research projects planned for a period of either 24 or 36 months;
 - 5) in which employment under a full-time employment contract is planned for the principal investigator pursuant to the Regulations, for the research project performance period in another institution than the one from which the principal investigator has earned a PhD degree;
 - 6) in which the principal investigator has been awarded a PhD degree in the proposal submission year or within 3 years² prior to the proposal submission year³, or will be

¹ Research means any activity comprising (a) basic research understood as experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any particular application or use in view; b) applied research understood as an investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge and skills, directed primarily towards developing new products, processes or services or introducing significant improvements thereto.

² This period may be extended by the time of long-term (over 90 days) evidenced sickness benefits or physiotherapy benefits on account of unfitness for work. In addition, this period may be extended by the number of months of child care leave granted pursuant to the Labour Code and in the case of women, by 18 months for every child born or adopted, whichever option is more advantageous.

³ The end date of the call for proposals shall be deemed the proposal submission date.



awarded a PhD degree by 30 June of the calendar year in which the call for proposals ends;

- 7) in which a foreign fellowship will be planned for a period of 3 to 6 months in a foreign research institution selected by the principal investigator, on terms and conditions laid down in the Regulations;
- 8) in which the purchase or manufacturing of research equipment, devices and/or software is not planned; and
- 9) which contains the information and documents specified in §6.

§6. Proposals must include:

- 1) research project title (*in Polish and in English*);
- 2) project's abstract (*up to 4500 characters in English*);
- 3) project's abstract for the general public (*1 standard page in Polish and 1 standard page in English*);
- 4) descriptions of the research project:
 - a) short description (*up to 5 standard pages in English*),
 - b) long description (*up to 15 standard pages in English*).

The descriptions must include the scientific goal, significance of the project, general concept and work plan, research methodology and project literature applicable to the subject of the project;

- 5) work plan (*in Polish and in English*) presenting research tasks;
- 6) information on the research team (*in English*), including:
 - a) information on the principal investigator, including:
 - academic and research career;
 - 1-10 most important papers published and/or accepted for publication (letter of acceptance required) in the proposal submission year³ and/or over the period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year². 1 to 3 most important papers presented above must be attached in PDF format;
For research in art, 1-10 most important papers published and/or accepted for publication (letter of acceptance required) or artistic achievements and achievements in research in art in the proposal submission year³ or over the period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year². Annex 1-3 most important publications (if any) in PDF format;
 - information on research project management and/or other funding awarded under NCN calls in the proposal submission year³ and/or within 10 years prior to proposal submission year² and on research project management in that period funded under other domestic calls or international calls⁴
 - description of the most important research achievement;
 - research experience gained in Poland and/or abroad; and
 - information on the most important national and/or international distinctions for research and/or other research activity and activity in research in art, and
 - b) information on the required qualifications and scope of work planned by each investigator in the research project;
- 7) document confirming that the principal investigator has earned a PhD degree and if the principal investigator is yet to earn a PhD degree, a declaration by the PhD supervisor or certificate of the forecasted date of PhD award from a competent institution;
- 8) information on the foreign research institution hosting the foreign fellowship as well as justification for the choice of the institution in terms of reputation, equipment or specific scientific achievements, description of research conducted, compliance of research with research performed under the project, research/tasks to be conducted during the fellowship, and potential use of knowledge and skills acquired during the fellowship in the principal investigator's future career as a scientist (*up to 2 standard pages in Polish*);

⁴ Acting as a principal investigator also means managing/coordinating the work of a research group in international research projects or programmes.



- 9) document confirming approval by the research institution to host the foreign fellowship of the principal investigator, as required by the proposal (*in English*);
- 10) research project budget (*in English*) drafted according to the Regulations;
- 11) in the case of a research project to be carried out in cooperation with a partner from a foreign research institution, information on international cooperation as well as description of benefits that may result from such international cooperation (*in English*);
- 12) information on the data management plan concerning data generated or used in the course of a research project, as required by the proposal (*in English*);
- 13) information on the ethical aspects of the project, including any consents, opinions, permits and/or approvals necessary to carry out the project in compliance with generally applicable laws and best practices adopted for a specific academic discipline, as required by the proposal (*in English*);
- 14) in the case of research projects which include clinical trials with a medicinal product or a medical device, a detailed justification of the non-commercial nature of the trials (*in English*);
- 15) in the case of research projects covering research being performed or completed by the principal investigator, or with respect to which the principal investigator applies for funding under other NCN calls or from other sources, a description of similar research tasks with reasons justifying the need to have them funded under the project (*in English*);
- 16) in the case of research projects to be carried out in a host institution that does not receive any operating support for research, information on research carried out over the last 2 years, together with a list of publications and information on research equipment and other instruments crucial to research (*in English*);
- 17) in the case of research projects to be carried out by a group of entities, a research project cooperation agreement in compliance with the proposal (*in Polish*); and
- 18) administrative declarations by the principal investigator and the host institution for the project, as required by the proposal.

IV. Evaluation of proposals

§7. Proposals shall be examined pursuant to the Regulations.

§8. In the evaluation of proposals, the following criteria shall be reviewed, in particular:

- 1) compliance with the research criteria described in §5 (2) hereof;
- 2) scientific quality and novelty of research or tasks to be performed;
- 3) the project's impact on the advancement of the scientific discipline;
- 4) feasibility of the research project;
- 5) scientific achievements of the principal investigator, including papers published in renowned academic press/ journals;
- 6) evaluation of other projects completed by the principal investigator and funded by the NCN and/or from other sources;
- 7) justification of the costs as regards the subject and scope of research;
- 8) justification of the choice of the host institution for the foreign fellowship, including academic rank of a foreign research institution, accuracy of the choice of the research institution and impact on the development of the principal investigator's scientific career; and
- 9) development of the proposal and compliance with other requirements laid down in the call announcement.

V. Funding decision

The call shall be concluded within 6 months of the proposal submission date.

Prof. Dr hab. Jacek Kuźnicki
President of the Council
of the National Science Centre