

Annex to NCN Council Resolution No 17/2026 of 12 February 2026 amending the terms of the PRELUDIUM call

**The terms of the PRELUDIUM call for research projects
carried out by the National Science Centre**

I. Eligible applicants

- §1. Funding proposals for a research project (hereinafter: “proposals” or “proposal”) may be submitted by entities specified in Article 27 (1) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2026, item 101; hereinafter: the “NCN Act”), hereinafter referred to as the “applicants”¹.
- §2. The call is also open to applicants, for which project funding constitutes state aid granted pursuant to the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education passed under Article 37 (2) of the NCN Act.
- §3. If the applicant is a group of entities defined in Article 27 (1) (2) of the NCN Act, the proposal is submitted by the leader. The principal investigator’s employer acts as the leader of the group of entities.
- §4. If a natural person applies, the research project must not be carried out by a group of entities or entity for which project funding constitutes state aid.
- §5. Entities under receivership, in liquidation or subject to bankruptcy proceedings are not eligible to apply or act as a host institution for the project.

II. Terms of entry

- §6. The following proposals may be submitted to the call:
- 1) in which the principal investigator is not a PhD holder²,
 - 2) to carry out research that neither is nor was funded by the NCN or from any other sources,
 - 3) which comprise basic research for the purposes of Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act in any of the academic disciplines specified in the NCN panels adopted by the NCN Council,
 - 4) which cover a research project planned for a period of 12, 24 or 36 months and in which funding does not exceed:
 - a) PLN 70,000 for projects carried out over a period of 12 months,

¹ Applicants outside the public finance sector or unable to provide a sufficient warranty of proper project performance, who have been in operation for less than 5 years, are subject to an additional analysis of their legal, organisational and financial situation. If natural persons apply, the participating entity is analysed, and if a group of entities applies, each group member is analysed.

² This condition must be met on the last day of the call for proposals.

- b) PLN 140,000 for projects carried out over a period of 24 months, and
 - c) PLN 210,000 for projects carried out over a period of 36 months,
- 5) in which the cost of research equipment, devices and software to be purchased or constructed does not exceed 30% of the funding requested for the completion of the research project,
 - 6) in which the research team to carry out a research project comprises up to three members and a person with an academic title, title of professor, habilitation degree or equivalent degree or title² acts as a mentor who is not a beneficiary of project funding,
 - 7) 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: "Regulations"), and
 - 8) which includes the documents and information specified in §7.
- §7. Proposals must include information from the proposal form available in the OSF submission system, the template of which is provided in the call text, such as:
- 1) research project title (in Polish and in English);
 - 2) project's abstract (in English);
 - 3) project's abstract for the general public (1 page in Polish and 1 page in English);
 - 4) research project description:
 - a) short description (up to 5 pages in English);
 - b) full description (up to 15 pages in English);

Descriptions must include the scientific goal of the project, significance of the project, general concept and work plan, research methodology, composition and qualifications of the research team, including (if applicable) achievements of the co-investigators specified in the proposal, as well as project literature applicable to the subject of the project.

Project literature does not count towards the page limit.
 - 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:
 - their academic and research career;
 - 1-10 most important papers published or accepted for publication (letter of acceptance required) in the proposal submission year and over a period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year³;

³ This period may be extended by long-term (over 90 days) evidenced sickness benefits or physiotherapy benefits on account of unfitness for work. This period may be additionally 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.

For research in art, 1-10 most important papers published or accepted for publication (letter of acceptance required) or artistic achievements and achievements in research in art in the proposal submission year or over a period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year³;

- a list of papers retracted in the proposal submission year (as of the proposal submission date) and during the period covering papers published or accepted for publication (including career breaks, as noted in footnote 3), which must not be less than 10 years prior to the proposal submission year, and the reasons for retraction (if applicable);
- information on research project management or other research funding awarded under NCN calls in the proposal submission or over a period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year³;
- information on research project management under other national or international calls⁴ in the proposal submission year or over a period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year³ (up to 5 projects);
- description of the most important research achievement;
- research experience gained in Poland or abroad;
- the most important national or international distinctions for research and/or other activity in research in art;

b) information on the mentor, including:

- their academic and research track record;
- up to 10 most important papers published or accepted for publication (letter of acceptance required) in the proposal submission year or over a period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year³;

For research in art, up to 10 most important papers published or accepted for publication (letter of acceptance required) or artistic achievements and achievements in research in art in the proposal submission year or over a period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year³;

- a list of papers retracted in the proposal submission year (as of the proposal submission date) and during the period covering papers published or accepted for publication (including career breaks, as noted in footnote 3), which must not be less than 10 years prior to the proposal submission year, and the reasons for retraction (if applicable);

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

- information on research project management or other funding awarded under NCN calls in the proposal submission year or over a period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year³;
 - information on research project management under other national or international calls⁴ in the proposal submission year or over a period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year³ (up to 5 projects);
 - description of the most important research achievement;
 - research experience gained in Poland or abroad;
 - the most important national or international distinctions resulting from research and other activity in research in art;
- c) information on the required qualifications and scope of work of each investigator in the research project;
- 7) research project budget (in English) drafted pursuant to the Regulations;
 - 8) in the case of research projects carried out in collaboration with partners from foreign research institutions, information on international cooperation as well as description of benefits that may result from such cooperation (in English);
 - 9) 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);
 - 10) information on the ethical aspects of the project, including any consents, opinions, permits and/or approvals necessary to carry out the project pursuant to generally applicable laws and best practices adopted for a specific academic discipline, as required by the proposal (in English);
 - 11) 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);
 - 12) in the case of research projects covering research 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, description of similar research tasks with reasons justifying the need to have them funded under the project (in English);
 - 13) in the case of research projects carried out by a group of entities, a research project cooperation agreement, as required by the proposal (in Polish);
 - 14) administrative declarations by the principal investigator and the host institution for the project, as required by the proposal;
 - 15) declaration by the mentor providing that they have read the description of a research project and will supervise it; and

16) in the case of entities for which project funding constitutes state aid, a detailed budget as well as other documents and declarations related to the application for state aid via the NCN, as required by the proposal (in Polish).

III. Evaluation of proposals

§8. Proposals are evaluated pursuant to the Regulations.

§9. In the evaluation of proposals, the following criteria are reviewed in particular:

- 1) compliance with the basic research criterion, as laid down in Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act,
- 2) quality of research and innovative nature of research or tasks to be carried out,
- 3) project's impact on the advancement of the scientific discipline,
- 4) evaluation of feasibility of research,
- 5) research achievements of the principal investigator and mentor, including publications in renowned academic press/journals,
- 6) evaluation of other projects carried out by the principal investigator and funded by the NCN or from other sources,
- 7) relevance of the costs as regards the subject and scope of research, and
- 8) development of the proposal and compliance with other requirements of the call text.

IV. Funding decision

§10. The call is concluded within 6 months of the proposal submission date.

§11. The call results are announced by way of a decision by the NCN Director.

Prof. Dr hab. Tomasz Dietl
President of the Council of the
National Science Centre

Disclaimer: This is not a certified translation and has been drafted for your convenience only. In the event of any discrepancies between the Polish and English language versions, the Polish language version will prevail