

Rules of the Call for proposals

Excellence Initiative - Debuts

Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

1. The call for proposals is organised under the "Excellence Initiative – Research University" programme (pl IDUB) in which the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń was awarded the status of a Research University by the decision of the Minister of Science and Higher Education.
2. The objective of the call for proposals – *Excellence Initiative – Debuts (EI – Debuts)* is to support the development of scientific activities that fall within the four most important objectives of the Nicolaus Copernicus University as a research university (4xI@NCU), which are: internationalisation, interdisciplinarity, innovation and integrity. They include all kinds of preliminary research, exploratory research, pilot studies, searches, scientific fellowships, research trips, active participation in scientific conferences, consultancy trips, or materials.
3. The call for proposals *Excellence Initiative - Debuts* is open to NCU researchers, especially young ones, who have not been managing their own research grant obtained from external funds within the last 5 years. Applicants may not be members of the Centers of Excellence or Emerging Fields established at the NCU under the IDUB programme. The maximum amount of grant per project is PLN 50 000 (fifty thousand zlotys).
4. At least one edition of the call for proposals is planned annually by 2025 until the funds allocated for this purpose in the IBUD programme are exhausted.
5. The call for proposals under *Excellence Initiative - Debuts* is open to the following three groups of applicants:
 - 1) young scientists holding the doctoral degree and employed by the NCU, who in particular fall within the definition of a young scientist as defined in Art. 360.2 of the Act of 20 July 2018 - The Law on Higher Education and Science (Dz. U. 2018, item 1668, 2024, 2245, Dz. U. 2019 item 276, 447, 534, 577, 730, 823, 1655),
 - 2) academic teachers who are under 50 years of age on the date of submitting the application,
 - 3) female academic teachers (women who are academic teachers) meeting the requirements of group 1) or 2) who in the last 3 years gave birth and raised a child (maternity and/or parental leave),

who within the last 5 years have not been managing their own research grant obtained from external funds from the National Science Centre (NCN), Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MNiSW), National Programme for the Development of the Humanities (NPRH), National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR),

Foundation for Polish Science (FNP) or National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA).

6. The applicant may receive a grant under the said call for proposals only once during the lifetime of the IDUB programme. In case of a very low evaluation of a submitted proposal (lower 10%), the organizer of the call for proposals may exclude an application submitted by the same applicant from the evaluation in the next call for proposals.
7. Applications for *EI – Debuts* call for proposals must be in accordance with the template in Annex 1 to these Rules and submitted by 24 January 2020 via a dedicated online form which will be made available at the beginning of January at www.umk.pl/idub. A complete submission in English must include:
 - a) full details of the applicant (name, surname, faculty, unit, discipline, date of birth, date of completion of a degree programme, date of obtaining the doctoral degree (*pl doctor*), date of obtaining the postdoctoral degree (*pl doktor habilitowany*), telephone number, e-mail address),
 - b) list of maximum 3 most important scientific publications of the applicant, affiliated with the NCU, in the last 5 years,
 - c) list of up to 10 key achievements and scientific activities of the applicant over the last 5 years, including awards, scholarships, involvement in the work of research groups, successes of students and doctoral students, participation in the organisation of conferences, workshops, scientific schools, presentations at prestigious conferences, participation in research projects, etc,
 - d) information on research areas from Web of Science that best describe the applicant's research area (maximum 3) indicating whether at least one of them is included in the areas according to which the Toruń Centers of Excellence are evaluated,
 - e) scientific description of the project (objectives, current state of knowledge, novelty),
 - f) proposed indication of research activities (see point 2 of the Rules) with their description, total amount, cost estimate and justification of the planned expenditure,
 - g) description of the planned direction of scientific self-development,
 - h) list of grant applications to the agencies specified in point 5 of the Rules, which the applicant has applied for within the last 5 years, including information about project title, programme and agency name as well as the annotation at which stage of the verification the application was rejected,
 - i) scan of the declaration signed by the applicant as provided in Annex 2 to these Rules.

By submitting the application, the Applicant accepts these Rules.

8. Call for proposals procedure

- a) Submitted applications shall be evaluated against the formal and merit-based criteria by a selection panel composed of experts from Scientific Councils (SCFS) for three field groups: (1) Humanities, Social sciences and Arts, (2) Exact sciences, Natural sciences and Technology, and (3) Life sciences.
- b) Where there is a formal requirement, the rule "meets / does not meet" shall apply; for the purpose of merit-based evaluation a scale from 0 to 100 points shall be adopted.
- c) Applications that do not meet formal requirements shall not be submitted for further merit-based evaluation. Where justified, the Applicant may be requested to complete the application within 24 hours.
- d) Each SCFS shall choose laureates (at least 7 persons in each edition) who have received the best results in the call for proposals procedure.
- e) The ranking list of laureates shall be announced at www.umk.pl/idub by 19 February 2020 at the latest and by e-mail to the address from which the Applicant's proposal was submitted.

9. The laureates of the call for proposals receive financial support in the form of a grant for its implementation. Funding is awarded through the opening of a financial limit about which fact the successful candidate is notified by the chairperson of working team no 4.

10. The laureates of the call for proposals are additionally given the opportunity to obtain merit-related support in the preparation of grant applications from internal experts selected under the IDUB programme at the NCU without the need to submit a separate application.

11. The list of laureates may be extended and funded from the budget of the Toruń Centers of Excellence with the consent of the Director of the relevant Center, if the research areas represented by the applicant fall within the scope of the Center's activities.

12. The project must be completed within 12 months from the date of obtaining funds for its implementation, subject to the provision that the funds allocated in the first edition of the call for proposals must be spent in full by 7 December 2020. The result of project implementation should be:

- a) submission of a grant application to one of the following institutions: NCN, NCBR, NPRH, FNP, NAWA;

- b) preparation of an article for publication,

within maximum 3 months from the completion date of the project, and

- c) participation in at least one training course on soft skills provided under the IDUB programme at the NCU,
- d) submission of a mobility application in case of groups (1) and (2) listed in point 5 of the Rules,
- e) submission of a project implementation report to the chairperson of working group no. 4,

within maximum 6 months from the completion date of the project.

13. Final remarks:

- a) the decision of the SCFS may be appealed against in writing to the following address: debiuty@umk.pl within a week of the announcement of the results;
- b) the decision of the SCFS on the appeal is final;
- c) the organizer has the right to amend the provisions of these Rules provided that the conditions of participation in the project are not affected; the NCU employees shall be notified of any amendments thereto;
- d) where all the funds allocated for the implementation of the Call for proposals in 2020 have not been used, the next edition of the Contest is planned for the first half of 2020;
- e) queries regarding the project can be addressed to the following address: debiuty@umk.pl.

Rules approved by

NCU Rector Magnificus

Prof. dr hab. Andrzej Tretyn