

Rules of the Call for proposals
for the selection of new emerging research fields - *Emerging fields*
under the 'Excellence Initiative - Research University' programme

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 is to identify and select 4 emerging research fields - Emerging Fields (EF) - 2 in the field of Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts and 2 in the field of Life Sciences, which are characterised by outstanding scientific activity, international cooperation and will present a plan for the development of scientific potential for the period of 3 years, i.e. from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022. Successful emerging research fields in the call for proposals shall be awarded *Emerging Fields* status at the Nicolaus Copernicus University.
3. Emerging fields are research areas characterized by a significant scientific potential visible through publications in recognized international journals and prestigious scholarly books, in particular written in collaboration with scientists from renowned foreign universities, which are noticed worldwide and adequately quoted by other scientists. In addition, emerging fields did not have enough publications in the best indexed journals in the Web of Science database at the time of submitting the IDUB application by the NCU to be able to create priority research areas. Emerging research fields should have scientific potential and a realistic development perspective to become new priority research areas within 6 years.
4. The *Emerging Fields* selected in the call for proposals shall receive the following support within 3 years of their functioning, i.e. from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022:
 - a) PLN 1 000 000 – at the disposal of the Head of the EF and intended for the EF functioning;
 - b) PLN 600 000 – at the disposal of all EF and intended for co-funding of publications, i.e. covering costs related to: publication of an article in prestigious journals after positive reviews, posting an article in the "Open Access" publication system, translation and proofreading, printing of a scholarly book;
 - c) the possibility of submitting a proposal for funding the cost of maintaining and/or developing scientific equipment for the EF (PLN 3 600 000 available to all EF);
 - d) the possibility of supporting other activities planned in the IDUB programme including:
 - mobility of doctoral students (fellowships, summer schools, international conferences),

- new scholarships for the best doctoral candidates,
 - increasing the amount of scholarship awarded to the best candidates,
 - training for doctoral students,
 - incoming and outgoing mobility of postdoctoral fellows,
 - exchange of visiting professors.
5. The functioning of the EF shall be subject to annual monitoring exercised by Scientific Councils for Fields of Science and overall assessment in the last year of its operation, i.e. in 2022.
 6. The call is open to NCU employees who, within the last 5 years, have demonstrated significant and proven activity in the area of science, in obtaining funds for research and for the development of human resources and in increasing the internationalisation of the NCU. Teams submitting proposals may be already existing teams (in one or more than one NCU units) or entirely new teams whose staff is planning close scientific collaboration (including interdisciplinary teams, regardless of the organisational structure of the university).
 7. The proposed composition of the EF entered in the application should include staff members, postdoctoral fellows, and doctoral and master's students who will be involved in the work of the team from 1 January 2020.
 8. The maximum number of members of the proposed team forming the EF shall be 30 researchers including postdoctoral fellows (the number of doctoral and master's students is unlimited; however, they must be involved in research during the period of the EF's operation) and the minimum number of members is 10 researchers.
 9. One NCU employee may be a member of only one team forming the EF and simultaneously may not be a member of any of the five Centres of Excellence established under the Research University programme.
 10. Each team submitting a proposal shall name a principal team leader who will become an EF manager if the team is successful in the call and forms the EF. The planned EF may include independent research groups, thematically and scientifically related to the EF's area of activity. Where the proposed EF is interdisciplinary and made up of several smaller groups, leaders of each group must be indicated.
 11. Call for proposals, in accordance with the template in Annex 1 to these Rules, must be submitted by 20 January 2020 via a specially dedicated online form. The form will be made available following the announcement of the call at the beginning of January 2020 at www.umk.pl/idub . A complete submission in English must include:
 - a) proposed name of the team, name of the team leader, list of team members and research groups that form the team, including position held (employee, postdoctoral fellow, doctoral student, master's student), bibliometric indicators (quotations, Hirsch

index according to WoS and optionally according to Scopus or Google Scholar, total ministerial score for publications from the last 5 years according to the current list of journals and scored publications) and role in the team, if specified;

- b) indication of the main research area to which the EF will be assigned (Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts or Life Sciences) and specific thematically narrowed research areas defining the specificity of research conducted in a team, selected from the list of the so-called research areas from Web of Science (min. 2 and max. 5); where at least one research area overlaps with those assigned to priority research areas (PRAs) or already identified by the EF, it must be clarified how the new EF will complement the research already supported at the NCU in this area and whether collaboration between the two EFs or the EF and the PRA is planned;
- c) list of maximum 10 most important scientific publications selected from among all the publications of the team members, affiliated for publication with the NCU, for the last 5 years (indicate the Web of Science IF impact factor and number of citations, if possible for the field; indicate scientific publications in the Scopus database as well as scholarly books of international or national publishers);
- d) list of maximum 10 most important scientific achievements of the team members from the last 5 years, including awards, grants, scholarships, etc;
- e) list of maximum 10 most important scientific activities implemented in the last 5 years, especially activities carried out in cooperation with national and international partners (specify the name of the institution and the country), including conferences organised, workshops, summer schools, joint research projects and grant applications;
- f) description of the planned development direction of the team: scientific, human resources, internationalisation of research and efforts to obtain external funding for research in the next 3 years and in the long term; the description should explain the importance of the proposed research in world science and its relevance;
- g) plans to use the support provided by the Research University programme and proposals for ways of support provided by the university administration to NCU researchers, members of the EF, including new recruits and foreigners;
- h) declarations of all members of the team, in accordance with the template in Annex 2 to these Rules (scans);
- i) optionally: letters of support from Polish and foreign collaborators (maximum 3) for the proposed team and its scientific plans, especially in the context of the planned cooperation.

By submitting the application, the Applicant accepts these Rules.

12. Where the number of applications exceeds 20 in a relevant field, the following criteria shall be decisive for the initial merit-based evaluation of submitted proposals: the scope of international cooperation of teams as specified in point 11.e) and the quality of international journals and publishers as specified in point 11.c).

13. Call for proposals procedure:

- a) submitted applications shall be evaluated against the formal and merit-based criteria by the competent Scientific Councils for Fields of Science (SCFS);
- 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) the SCFS shall choose the maximum of two laureates (per field) who have achieved the best results in the call procedure;
- e) the ranking list of selected Emerging Fields shall be announced at www.umk.pl/idub by 10 February 2020 at the latest and by e-mail to the address from which the team's proposal for the call was submitted.

14. Final remarks:

- a) the decision of the SCFS may be appealed against in writing to the following address: ef@umk.pl within 5 days of the announcement of the results; the appeal must be supported by concrete arguments that could convince the SCFS to amend the decision;
- 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) queries regarding the project can be addressed to the following address: ef@umk.pl.

Rules approved by

NCU Rector Magnificus

Prof. dr hab. Andrzej Tretyn