



Regulations for the selection of doctoral projects and the rules for awarding doctoral students with scholarships from the project implemented by the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń: "Internationalization of PhD Schools at NCU: a platform for joint and double degree" [PhD @ NCU] financed by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange under the STER programme Internationalization of Doctoral Schools

§1. General provisions

1. The Regulations define the rules, procedure for submitting and considering Applications and recommending candidates for the Doctoral Schools of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń:
 - 1) Doctoral School Academia Copernicana (AC),
 - 2) Doctoral School of Humanities, Theology and Arts (Academia Artium Humaniorum, AAH),
 - 3) Doctoral School of Medical and Health Sciences (Academia Medica Bydgosciensis, AMB)
 - 4) Doctoral School of Social Sciences (Academia Rerum Socialium, ARS),
 - 5) Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences, (Academia Scientiarum Thoruniensis, AST)

as part of the project implemented by the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń: "Internationalization of PhD Schools at NCU: a platform for joint and double degree" [PhD @ NCU] financed by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange under the STER program Internationalization of Doctoral Schools and funds from the University of Nicolaus Copernicus in Toruń.

1a *Joint degree* should be understood as execution of education at doctoral level leading to obtaining a single doctoral diploma awarded by two universities. *Double degree* should be understood as execution of education at doctoral level leading to obtaining two doctoral diplomas at two different universities on the basis of the same doctoral project.

2. Within the scope of this project, up to 5 scholarships may be awarded to the best doctoral students who will conduct their doctoral theses at a selected Doctoral School at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń.
3. The scholarship may be awarded to a candidate to a doctoral school run at the Nicolaus Copernicus University, who obtained high results in the competition, provided that the candidate undertakes education at the doctoral school. Therefore, the condition for granting the scholarship is to have the status of a doctoral school participant () and to submit a declaration of the implementation of a Ph.D. dissertation in international cooperation in the *joint or double degree* system.
4. The funds granted for this purpose guarantee the payment of scholarships with derivative costs for 4 years of education (33 months of payment will be rendered from the STER project budget and 15 months of payment from the funds co-financed by the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń) on the basis of the Rector's decision and the appropriate contract.



5. The STER project aims to establish conditions for the implementation of education, research, preparation of a Ph.D. dissertation in *joint* or *double degree* systems. The doctorate procedure itself is conducted in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective Scientific Discipline Councils of the Nicolaus Copernicus University and does not constitute part of the STER project.
6. Activities related to the procedure for conferring the doctoral degree at the Nicolaus Copernicus University will be financed from the funds of the Department where the doctoral student shall conduct his research project.
7. Activities related to obtaining doctorate at a foreign university shall be specified individually for each doctoral project and a doctoral student selected in a competition.

§2. The selection procedure of joint and double degree doctoral projects

1. Doctoral projects under the STER competition may be submitted by senior academic staff members at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń.
2. The Application shall be accompanied by a letter of intent from the foreign research unit for cooperation in the field of doctorates in the *joint* or *double degree* system. The author of the doctoral project is responsible for issuing such a letter. A foreign partner to perform the function of a foreign doctoral supervisor must possess experience and academic achievements that will allow for the issuing of a certificate by the respective Discipline Council that is, at a minimum, equivalent to the academic degree of a doctor with habilitation degree.
3. *Joint* or *double degree* doctoral projects financed by the STER project must be completed under bilateral agreements between the Nicolaus Copernicus University and the foreign university. Such agreements must be in force at the moment of commencement of education at the Doctoral School at NCU, i.e., until July 1, 2021.
4. The procedure is of a competitive nature and takes place in accordance with the following schedule:
 - 08.03.2021 - 08.04.2021 – call for *joint* and *double degree* doctoral projects
 - 09.04.2021 – 15.04.2021 – evaluation of doctoral projects
 - 16.04.2021 – announcement of the results of the call for doctoral projects
 - 14.05.2021 – submission of declarations of partnership agreements for projects.
5. Applications - doctoral projects are submitted in electronic form (to the address: ster@umk.pl) and in traditional form (original copies) to the office of the Academia Copernicana Doctoral School.
6. *Joint* or *double degree* doctoral projects are assessed by the Competition Committee composed of the Heads of Doctoral Schools.
7. The application shall be prepared in English and must contain the following elements:
 - 1) project - description of activities that the Applicant plans to undertake during the project implementation (research, didactic classes planned for the doctoral

student: planned practicals, seminars and lectures with an indication of the didactic activities included in the program that the doctoral student will conduct in the foreign unit) (max. 3 A4 pages).

- 2) information from the candidate for the supervisor from NCU and from the candidate for the foreign supervisor:
 - i. curriculum vitae which describes research activity, obtained degrees and titles, internships and scholarships, membership in scientific societies and organizations (max. 3 pages);
 - ii. a list of research projects completed and conducted in the last 5 years, including information on the source of funding, budget, and the role of the Applicant in the project (manager or contractor);
 - iii. a list of the 5 most important publications that have appeared in the last 5 years, along with the Journal Impact Factor;
 - iv. the current *Field-Weighted Citation Impact* value (based on SciVal) and / or the *h-index* and total number of citations (based on Google Scholar);
 - v. information on foreign cooperation.
 - 3) declaration of participation in the project and the scope of tasks from the foreign supervisor,
 - 4) declaration of the foreign unit on the possibility of implementing a doctoral project in the *joint* or *double degree* system,
 - 5) declaration of the possibility of conducting the project within 4 years, together with an indication of the source of financing for the project and the possibility of at least 6-month internship at a foreign research unit.
 - 6) declaration of the selection of the Doctoral School where the project will be implemented.
8. Submission of the application constitutes acceptance of the competition regulations.
9. The Committee assesses the applications in terms of formal and content-related aspects. The Committee decides on the acceptance of the applications no later than 2 weeks after the end of the call for applications. In the event of an insufficient number of applications, an additional deadline for the call for applications shall be set. The competition results are open to the public.

§4 Criteria for the evaluation of Doctoral Projects:

- 1) Substantive evaluation made in a scale of 0-100 points includes:
 1. assessment of the scientific profile of the author of the doctoral project (the future supervisor) (20 points) and the foreign supervisor (20 points);
 2. assessment of the reputation of the research institution in which the project will be co-implemented and the possibility of obtaining a doctoral degree in the *double* or *joint degree* system (20 points);
 3. evaluation of the project submitted by the Applicant, with particular focus on the impact that the project will have on the development of the discipline (40 points).



- 2) The Committee shall establish a ranking list of applications - doctoral projects.
- 3) Competitions for the recruitment of candidates will be announced for up to 5 highest-ranked projects.
- 4) The Committee has the right to select a number of doctoral projects lower than 5 to the recruitment stage.
- 5) In the case of submitting a smaller number of projects, the committee may announce supplementary call for applications.

§5. Competition of candidates for selected doctoral projects

1. Selection of executors of the selected projects is of a competition nature and takes place according to the following schedule:
 - 17 May 2021 - 31 May 2021 recruitment of candidates for doctoral projects
 - 01 June 2021 – 03 June 2021 - evaluation of candidates' documentation for doctoral projects
 - 04 June 2021 - 09.06.2021 interviews of candidates for doctoral projects
 - 11 June 2021 - announcement of results
 - 14 June 2021 – submission of appeals
 - 23 June 2021 – processing of appeals.
2. The prerequisite for the commencement of the selection procedure by the committee is the submission of the required documents by the candidates, within the time limits specified in the competition schedule.
3. Applications are submitted in electronic form (to the address: ster@umk.pl) and in traditional form (original copies) to the office of the Academia Copernicana Doctoral School.
4. The evaluation of competition documents submitted by candidates for doctoral projects and the recruitment of candidates is conducted by competition committees appointed by the STER Project Coordinator, in consultation with the Heads of Doctoral Schools.
5. Composition of the Competition committees related to the recruitment of candidates for projects:
 - 1) Chairman of the committee – the Head of the Doctoral School indicated in the application
 - 2) Candidate for the supervisor
 - 3) Expert in a particular field of the project.
6. Candidates submit the following competition documents in English:
 - 1) scientific CV,
 - 2) cover letter,
 - 3) list of published research papers and documented participation in research projects,
 - 4) declaration of selection of one or two submitted projects (main and additional project),
 - 5) declaration of selection of the Doctoral School within which the project will be implemented,

- 6) information about previous doctoral studies or education at a doctoral school,
 - 7) a statement that the candidate does not possess a doctoral degree,
 - 8) a copy of the master's/doctor's diploma or completion of graduate studies (or equivalent) or a photocopy of such a copy certified by the Nicolaus Copernicus University, or a declaration of the candidate for the supervisor that such a copy will be delivered by the date of announcement of the list of admitted candidates,
 - 9) if English is not the mother tongue or higher education studies were not conducted in English, a document confirming the knowledge of English at B2 level.
 - 10) Statements of readiness to join the project and consent to the processing of personal data in connection with the implementation of the project.
6. The Committee assesses the applications in terms of formal and content-related aspects and determines the ranking list of candidates for selected projects, on the basis of which interviews between candidates and members of the committee are established.
 7. The elements assessed by the committee during the recruitment of a candidate in a scale of 0-100 points include:
 - 1) Interview in English (50 points),
 - 2) Scientific publications in journals indexed in scientific databases or a monograph (20 points),
 - 3) Participation in research projects; (20 points),
 - 4) Awards and distinctions obtained in scientific competitions or completed scientific internships (10 points).

The ranking list of candidates in the competition is created on the basis of the final results obtained by all candidates participating in a given qualification process and is open to the public. To be enrolled on the list of competition laureates, the candidate must achieve at least 50% of the points in the selection process. In the event of a competition winner's resignation, the Committee decides to select another candidate from the competition ranking list.

8. Persons who have received a promise scholarship from the STER program of the PhD@NCU project, are required to undergo the recruitment process in the doctoral schools under the grant mode to which they had declared admission, and to undertake the recruitment process at a foreign university, according to the respective governing regulations therein.
9. Education under the PhD@NCU project shall begin on 1 July 2021 or as soon as possible after that date.