

Regulations

Nicolas Copernicus Polish-German Research Award

The Nicolas Copernicus Polish-German Research Award (Copernicus Award) is donated by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Foundation for Polish Science (FNP). It awards outstanding achievements in German-Polish cooperation, preferably concerning the promotion of young researchers.

General Provisions

1. As a rule, the award is conferred every two years jointly to two researchers, one in Germany and one in Poland. The researchers are expected to have rendered outstanding services to German-Polish cooperation. In particular, achievements in the bilateral promotion of young researchers are acknowledged.
2. Researchers may receive the award only once.
3. The selection criteria for the award winners are scientific excellence and success in German-Polish cooperation and joint activities to promote young researchers respectively.

Contest Procedure

§ 1

1. All active members of Polish scientific community holding a doctoral degree, employed by institutions, the statutory purposes of which include conducting research, and all active members of Germany scientific community with a doctoral degree working at universities or other research institutions are authorized to nominate candidates for the Copernicus Award.
2. They shall be made aware of the award as well as contest procedures including the deadline for nominations by public announcements.
3. Nominations shall be submitted in English to the DFG or the FNP in eight paper copies and one electronic version by the closing date. In case of mailed nominations, the mailing date is decisive. Nominations submitted after the closing date shall not be considered.
4. Each nomination shall refer to a team of two researchers, one from Poland, one from Germany.
5. Self-nominations shall not be considered.
6. The candidates:
 - should hold a doctoral degree and be under 65 years old at the time the application is submitted
 - should be leaders of research teams
 - should be engaged in research projects
 - should not hold management positions that conflict with their research activities
7. Nominations shall be submitted by the nominator to the FNP or the DFG head offices or mailed to one of these institutions.
8. Nominations may be withdrawn on the basis of a written request.

§ 2

1. Nominations should contain the following:
 - Acknowledgement of the special achievements of the two candidates in the sense of the award
 - Curricula vitae and lists of publications
 - Two letters of reference for each candidate (all together four letters of reference)
2. The head offices of the DFG and the FNP shall conduct a formal examination of nominations and send valid nominations to the members of the jury.
3. If a nominee refuses to participate in the contest, the nomination of his/her partner shall not be considered either.
4. The jury evaluates the merit of nominations in two-stage procedure.
5. In the first stage the jury shall conduct the initial evaluation (limited to the general evaluation of all applications, e.g. consistency with the objectives and idea of the Copernicus Award, the significance and uniqueness of the work done by the candidates).
6. The applicants who successfully pass the initial evaluation shall receive the status of nominees.
7. In the second stage the jury shall ask the head offices of the DFG and the FNP to appoint external reviewers to evaluate the nominees.

§ 3

1. The jury will decide on who shall be the laureates.
2. The decisions of the jury are final and unappealable.
3. Upon request of the jury, the head offices of the DFG and the FNP may decide not to grant the award.

§ 4

1. The FNP shall notify the laureate from Poland and the DFG shall notify the laureate from Germany of the contest results. The FNP and the DFG shall publish a list of laureates on their websites and disseminate this information by means of other media.
2. The award ceremony shall take place alternately in Poland and in Germany. It shall be held in a ceremonial setting, appropriate to the occasion.
3. The list of participants is to be determined by the organizing side, which also pays for the costs of the ceremony.

Provisions governing Work of the Jury

§ 5

1. The contest jury shall consist of three representatives of the Polish scientific community, appointed by the Management Board of the FNP, and three representatives of the German scientific community, appointed by the Joint committee of the DFG. The jury elects a chairman among its members.
2. The position of the chairman shall rotate between a Polish and a German representative.
3. The term of office for the jury is four years. Members are limited to serving two terms.
4. Each side pays the travel costs for its members of the jury.

Provisions governing financing the Award

§ 6

1. The award sum is jointly raised by the DFG and the FNP in equal shares.
2. The award-money for each of the two researchers is 50 000 EUR.
3. The laureate from Poland shall receive the award-money in Polish Zloty, calculated in accordance with the National Bank of Poland average exchange rate in effect on the date the bank transfer is effected.

§ 7

1. The Copernicus Award is conferred on the basis of a preliminary financial plan submitted by the laureates and approved by the FNP and the DFG. These funds should be used for the purpose of further advancing Polish-German cooperation, including bilateral conferences, travel costs, exchange of young researchers, purchases of books, periodicals, equipment or consumables used within common research projects.
2. The laureates shall be responsible for balancing accounts with the DFG and the FNP respectively. The use of the award money follows the regulations for project funding of the DFG and the FNP respectively.
3. The subsidy part of the award shall be utilized within three years after it has been received. If it has not been used up after three years, the laureates may apply to the FNP and the DFG for an extension of grant duration, without increasing the amount of funds.
4. Laureates are required to conduct research and teaching activities, as well as activities aimed at increasing the public understanding of research, until the subsidy portion of the award has been used up and accounted for.
5. Funds utilized in contravention of the agreement shall be returned with statutory interest.
6. Upon occurrence of circumstances that may impact proper implementation of the subsidy, the FNP or the DFG shall be notified by the laureates or by entities employing the laureates.
7. The subsidy may be cancelled or suspended, if the laureates violate obligations undertaken, good scientific practice, or tarnish the good name of the FNP or the DFG.

Final Provisions

§ 8

1. The FNP and the DFG shall not assert any rights to the results of work funded by the award and shall not be responsible for their consequences or interpretations.
2. The names of individuals submitting nominations and the recommendations to the FNP and the DFG shall be deemed confidential. However the DFG and the FNP reserve the right to publish an alphabetical list of advisers, experts, reviewers and individuals cooperating on the implementation of all of their programmes.
3. Detailed principles concerning the use, reporting, withdrawal or suspension of the award money shall be defined by the DFG and the FNP in separate documents, according to their autonomous internal regulations. Principles adopted by the DFG will concern the laureate from Germany and FNP regulations the laureate from Poland, respectively.