

Rules for awarding scientific grants in the Foundation for Polish Science's IDEAS FOR POLAND programme

§ 1

THE PROGRAMME

1. Under the Foundation for Polish Science's IDEAS FOR POLAND programme, aimed at encouraging outstanding young scientists - winners in the European Research Council's Starting Grant competitions - to work in Poland, scientific grants are awarded as part of the research grant offered to the programme's recipients.
2. The programme is addressed to young researchers who fulfil the following conditions:
 - a) they have obtained a European Research Council Starting Grant,
 - b) they are active researchers and achieve significant scientific results,
 - c) they intend to head or already head a research team at a national school of higher learning or other institution whose statutory goals include research.
3. Candidates may apply for a research grant under the programme immediately upon obtaining a Starting Grant or during its implementation, but no later than 24 months before the end of implementation.
4. Funding for the programme is provided by the Foundation for Polish Science and is guaranteed in the Foundation's annual financial plan.

§ 2

PROCEDURE FOR AWARDING SCIENTIFIC GRANTS

1. The Programme is implemented in the form of an open competition covering all fields of science, and applications are accepted continually. Information on the competition is published at least in the Foundation's information materials and on the Foundation website.
2. Persons applying for a scientific grant as part of a research grant in the IDEAS FOR POLAND programme should register and submit their application by filling out the appropriate form available on the Foundation's website and adding the required attachments.
3. The required application attachments include:
 - a) information on the applicant's scientific career and major achievements,
 - b) information on the obtained Starting Grant - title, brief project description, duration,
 - c) permits related to planned research:
 - i. in the case of projects necessitating research involving animals – the consent of the relevant ethical commission, as required by the regulations on animal experiments,
 - ii. in the case of projects involving studies of protected species of plants, animals and fungi or studies in protected areas – consent or a permit as required by environmental protection regulations,
 - iii. in the case of projects involving research on genetically modified organisms or with the use of such organisms – a statement from the head of the research unit where the project will be carried out, confirming that it has obtained consent as required by regulations on genetically modified organisms,
 - iv. in the case of projects involving clinical trials – consent or a permit as required by the relevant regulations.
4. If the candidate is employed by a Polish research institution, he or she should attach a certificate confirming such employment. If the candidate is not employed in Poland, he or she should attach a promise of employment signed by the head of the institution which plans to employ the recipient.

5. An application may be withdrawn upon the applicant's request in writing at any stage of the competition procedure.
6. Applications submitted to the Foundation are subject to formal and merit evaluation.
7. To carry out the merit evaluation, the Foundation Board appoints independent reviewers whose names are kept confidential. The merit evaluation includes:
 - a) evaluation of the candidate's research work and achievements to date, including research independence and experience in research project management,
 - b) evaluation of the research plans related to conducting scientific work in Poland and the importance of the research for the development of the scientific discipline represented by the candidate, including the originality of the research topic, project hypotheses, and presented research methodology,
 - c) evaluation of the Polish research unit's capacity to ensure proper utilization of the grant at the candidate's disposal.
8. The decision to award a grant is made by the Foundation Board based on the reviewers' evaluations.
9. The amount of the grant is set by the Foundation Board and is equal at least to the salary paid to a researcher in a given position at the research unit where the project is carried out.
10. Project implementation and grant payment should last for a minimum of one year.

§ 3

CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

1. The present rules were adopted by the Foundation Board on 1 April 2009.
2. Any changes to the present rules may be made under the same procedure as they were adopted.
3. The present rules come into force on the date when the Minister of Science and Higher Education issues a decision of approval.