

Štefan Schwarz Support fund

Statute

aimed to create the postdoctoral positions in SAS

The preamble

The Doctoral Studies (DS) provide education and replacement of researchers.

The Štefan Schwarz Support Fund aimed to create the postdoctoral positions in the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS), hereinafter refers as „the Fund “. The Fund creates the opportunities to employ excellent graduates of doctoral studies from Slovakia and abroad maximum 60 months of their accomplishment by habilitation by means of a contribution to the wage fund for an organization that hires the graduate for employment. The time spent on maternity and parental leave does not count in the period of 4 years from the end of the doctoral study. In case candidates are from Slovakia the condition for awarding the scholarship is a completed fellowship abroad of a total length of at least 6 months, while one part of the fellowship had to last at least for 3 months. In exceptional cases, the SAS Council for Education and Doctoral Studies may accord an exception to this rule. Candidates may not be scientists who have already been awarded a scientific qualification IIa level.

Article I

Candidates' selection

The selection of candidates to whom a contribution from the Fund shall be assigned is in charge of the SAS Council for Education and Graduated Doctoral Studies (hereinafter refers as „the Council “) being an advisory body of the SAS Presidium, which is composed of representatives of all three SAS scientific sections (hereinafter refers as „SS “).

The Council announces calls, within which it assesses the submitted proposals according to the quality and priorities set by the SAS. The calls' procedures include seminars with a personal presentation (or videoconference) of candidates, which are organized by individual scientific sections (SS) with the participation of Council members from relevant SS. Calls are also open to doctoral studies graduates from other research institutions and universities in Slovakia and abroad. The call's results are submitted by the Council to the SAS Presidium (hereinafter refers as „P SAS “) for approval. The call is being announced once a year having a deadline of 30 September.

Article II

Procedure for submitting an application

1. A proposal of the candidate with its justification is submitted by the director of the individual SAS organization, which hires the Doctoral study graduate for employment. The proposal shall be sent by mail to the Council Chairman's address by the deadline.

2. The candidate being proposed is obliged to register himself/herself online in the Fund's website and to enter through this system all the data and documents necessary for proposal assessment. After the deadline, the system shall be closed and it will no longer be possible to enter or change the entered data and documents. Proposals that do not contain all the requirements specified in the present Statute after the deadline shall not be assessed.
3. The requested data and documents are as follows:
 - 3.1. candidate's name and surname
 - 3.2. organization name
 - 3.3. a list of published publications (broken down into the structure being used in the Organization's Activity Report). In case of journal publications, the journal impact factor in the year preceding the year of being published and the DOI (Digital object identifier), if known, shall be stated. In case of contributions or publications accepted for printed publishing, the candidate enters into the system a scanned document of their acceptance by the editors or publisher
 - 3.4. list of responses
 - 3.5. participation in local or foreign projects
 - 3.6. appearances at professional events and conferences
 - 3.7. list of patents and patent applications
 - 3.8. applying the results
 - 3.9. completed research fellowship
 - 3.10. project proposal plan for the next following 3 years in the range of maximum 5400 characters

In the project proposal plan it is needed briefly summarize the following:

 - research goals
 - originality of project
 - the main methodical approaches
 - expected benefits
 - assumed sources, from which a research shall be financed
 - 3.11. candidate's curriculum vitae
 - 3.12. certificate of awarding a scientific degree (scanned to be entered into the electronic system)
 - 3.13. two premium quality publications (PDF form)

The documents within the items 3.10. – 3.13. shall not be accessible generally

Article III

Proposal evaluation

The Council shall select a maximum of 20 candidates per year. A nomination submitted under the Article II herein of the present Statute which has not been accepted may be resubmitted again. Each proposal is being considered not more than twice.

Proposals from candidates who, for serious reasons, are unable to attend the SS seminar, not even in the form of a videoconference, shall not be considered at the given date of the competition.

Article IV

Funding conditions

P SAS shall increase the wage fund since the 1 January of the common year to those organizations whose candidates the Council selects and those which will hire candidates for employment. The wage fund will be increased amounting to 100% of the tariff salary in grade T 8 of the salary scale (according to Act No. 553/2003 Codex in the valid wording and amendments and other binding legal regulations) and grade 4, including levies. The funds are allocated for the payroll purpose for the respective hired candidate, who must have a 100% working time engagement in the given SAS organization during the Fund support and must not have more than 50% working time engagement elsewhere.

1. If the organization terminates the employment with the selected candidate or if changes the employment relationship to shorter working hours than the established weekly working time or if the candidate takes unpaid leave, maternity or parental leave, the organization is obliged to report this fact to the Council and the Economic and Technical Department of the SAS Office without postponement. The office shall then adjust and reduce the organization's budget by an adequate amount of wage funds.
2. Time spent on maternity and parental leave shall not be counted towards the time of drawing the allowance.
3. In case of non-compliance with the obligation to notify changes pursuant to para. 1 of this article, the organization is obliged to return unduly drawn wages.
4. Organizations whose candidates are selected by the Council and which will hire candidates shall be required to increase the candidates' remuneration in the form of a personal appraisal by at least EUR 300 per month.
5. The support shall last for 2 years, with the option to extend it by a maximum of 1 year. The application for an extension shall be submitted three months before the end of receiving support from the Fund using the appropriate form. An application for an extension may be submitted if the researcher has generated at least two significant outputs of „a“ type, or one output of „b“ type, or one output of „c“ type and one output of „a“ type, or two outputs of „d“ type during the allowance drawing period:
 - a. Publication in an impact factor journal with higher than the median impact factor of a given discipline. In at least one such publication, the fund recipient must be the first or as a corresponding author. In case it is not possible in a given scientific field (e.g. listing the authors in alphabetical order), the organization's legal statutory body must justify it in the cover letter and the Council has a chance to verify this fact, e.g. with co-authors of reported publications

- b. A monograph published by a respected foreign or domestic publisher
- c. Patent application
- d. Other type of publication output specific to a given scientific field (e.g. large collaborations, IT companies' conferences, etc.), reaching at least an above-average level within the field and an explanation of the output importance written by the organisation's legal statutory body in the accompanying letter. Regarding these outputs, the Council reserves the right to request further comments from external sources.

Applications for extension shall be considered by the Council, which may, in exceptional cases, also favourably consider applications which do not fulfil this condition.

Article V

Final report

1. Beneficiaries are obliged to submit a final report according to the template on the Fund's website within one month after the end of the Fund's support. The request for extension under Article IV, paragraph 6 shall replace the final report after 2 years of support. The reports will be assessed by the Chairman of the Council in collaboration with SAS sections, mainly with respect to their scientific contribution and benefits and compliance with the original project proposal plan.

Final provisions

The Statute was approved by the Presidium of the Slovak Academy of Sciences at its meeting on 10 August 2023.

It shall enter into force on the day following the day of its publication on the SAS website.

The Statutes of the Stefan Schwarz Support Fund for the creation of postdoctoral positions of the SAS of 10. 03. 2016, as amended, are repealed.

Bratislava, 10th August 2023

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the President of SAS