



*International Mobility
and Skills Training*

Postdoctoral
Fellowships
in Poland
#MSCA

www.polonezbis.eu

Welcome

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POLONEZ BIS – are you ready for a change?

- **Individual-centered**
quest for talent and experience
unlimited by age, nationality,
gender or career stage
- **Curiosity-driven research**
bottom-up funding for research
in any of the disciplines
described by 25 NCN panels
- **Mobility**
a new environment =
a challenge and an opportunity
for knowledge transfer

POLONEZ BIS – are you ready for a change?

- **Financial independence**
fellowship covers PI's full-time employment contract and a research grant
- **Team building**
work with a mentor,
hire a new research team,
cooperate with the investigators employed by Host Institution
- **Capacity building**
combine research with transferable skills training and intersectoral secondments

POLONEZ BIS – we are recruiting!



3 calls for proposals – transparent procedures, objective assessment criteria, international peer review panels



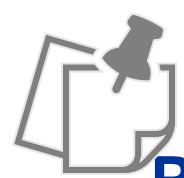
120 research positions for experienced scientists, holders of PhD or at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience



24-month fellowships at Polish Host Institutions of your choice, both academic and non-academic



25 NCN panels: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (HS), Physical Sciences and Engineering (ST), Life Sciences (NZ) – bottom-up approach



POLONEZ BIS – we are recruiting!

Calls open on **15 September 2021**, 15 March 2022, 15 September 2022

Calls close on **15 December 2021**, 15 June 2022, 15 December 2022






Funding decisions – **June 2022**, start of funded projects – **September 2022**



November/December 2022 – kick-off meeting, networking, career development training for PIs and Mentors, organized and paid for by the National Science Centre

POLONEZ BIS proposal – write your own job description

<https://osf.opi.org.pl/app/>

- ▶ **Plan your research**
 -  [choice of NCN panel](#)
 - short and detailed project description
 - ethical issues
- ▶ **Tell the reviewers about yourself and your career so far**
 -  [Compliance with the eligibility criteria](#)
 - career breaks
 - Academic Track Record
- ▶ **Describe the hosting arrangements**
 -  [Host Institution Capacity Form](#)

POLONEZ BIS proposal – write your own job description

<https://osf.opi.org.pl/app/>

➤ **Analyse** the skills you are already good at and identify areas for development



• [Career Development Plan](#)

➤ **Set** research related **goals**, plan intersectoral secondments and dissemination of research results



• [Career Development Plan](#)

➤ **Estimate** necessary resources and costs

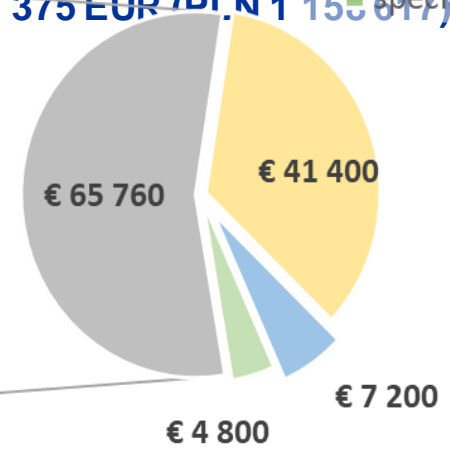
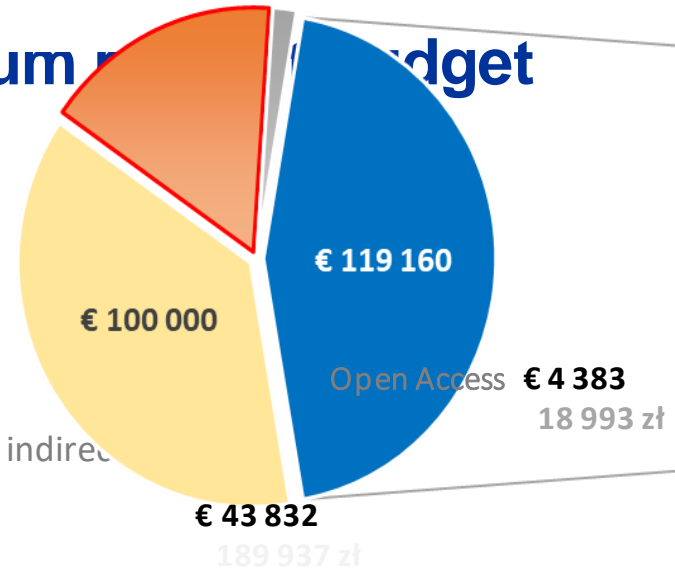


• Project budget

- living allowance
- mobility allowance
- family allowance*
- special needs allowance*

Maximum budget

EUR 267 375 EUR (PLN 1 153 077), 1 EUR = PLN 4,3333



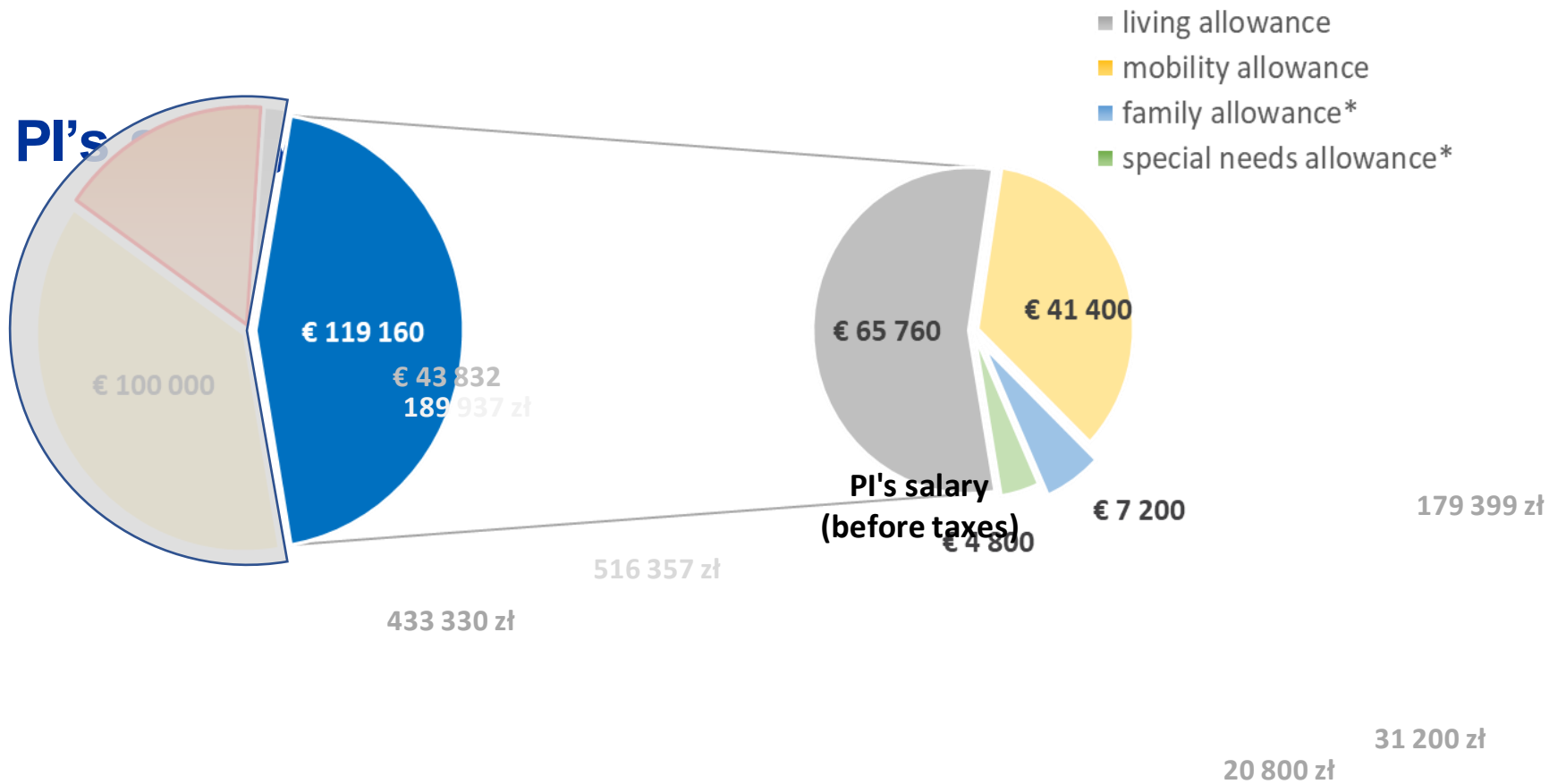
research costs 433 330 zł

PI's salary (before taxes) 516 357 zł

179 399 zł

20 800 zł

31 200 zł

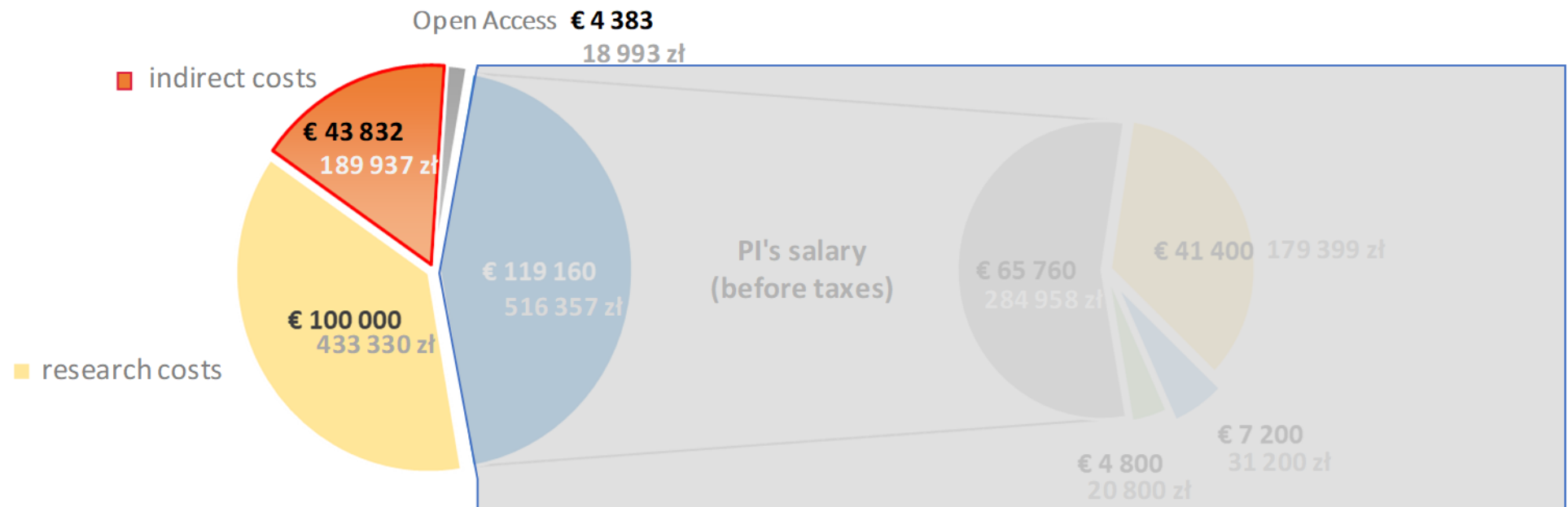


Living and mobility allowance shall be paid to all principal investigators.

Family allowance shall be paid to PIs who submit a declaration with their proposal that their spouse/partner and/or child/children will relocate to Poland together with them for at least 3 months during the project funding term.

Special needs allowance shall be paid to PIs with long-term impairments which may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others (definition: Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities).

Research costs and overheads



- ✓ additional salaries of the Mentor (up to PLN 2000/month) and other investigators recruited or assigned to the project (no limit on number or salaries)
- ✓ option to hire or grant scholarships to students and/or PhD students
- ✓ other direct costs
 - equipment/devices/software up to EUR 2,500 (PLN 10,834) per unit
 - consumables and supplies
 - business trips i.e. travel and subsistence allowances for the PI and research team members, including PI's intersectoral secondment, field trips, conferences
 - services outsourced to third parties
 - travel and subsistence of external experts and collaborators visiting the project
 - costs of promoting the project and research results, including the project website

POLONEZ BIS – before applying

What to do?

➤ Are you eligible to apply?

- experience
- mobility
- career development

➤ Find appropriate Host Institution

- Partner Search Tool
- EURAXESS Poland – institutions which received HR Excellence in Research award
- Research in Poland (National Agency for Academic Exchange)

➤ Contact the prospective Mentor and the Project Office / R&D Office

- Host Institution Capacity Form
- state aid?
- internal procedures

Supporting documents/helpful links

➤ [Call text](#)

[Guide for Applicants](#)

[Compliance with eligibility criteria](#)

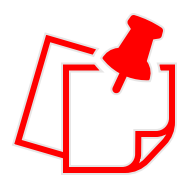
[Career Development Plan](#)

➤ <https://polonezbis.eu/en/partner-search-tool/>

<https://www.euraxess.pl/poland/research-poland-0>

<https://researchinpoland.org/key-figures/>

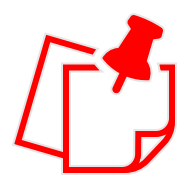
➤ [Host Institution Capacity Form](#)



Eligible applicants

Research experience

- a. PhD - upload the scan of the PhD diploma in the online submission system
 - b. no PhD – upload documents confirming at least 4 years of full-time research experience (e.g. a declaration signed by a representative of an institution where the research was carried out)
- if the original documents were not drawn in Polish or English, upload the originals and a translation into Polish or English
 - measure the 4 years from the date you obtained a degree which formally entitles you to start on a doctorate (e.g. MA, MSc) – in the country where the degree was obtained or in Poland
 - not sure if your diploma or degree is recognized in Poland?
 - ask the Host Institution
 - use the Kwalifikator system available in Polish and English on the website of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange <https://nawa.gov.pl/en/recognition/system-kwalifikator>. The reliability of information found in the database is guaranteed by an electronic signature of NAWA



Eligible applicants

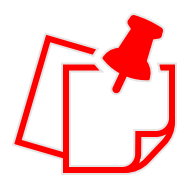
Mobility requirement

applicants must move to Poland for the duration of the fellowship and must not have resided, studied or been employed in Poland for more than 12 months between 15 September 2018 and 14 September 2021

- [Compliance with the eligibility criteria](#)

No.	Period concerned		Country	Document's name	Description
	from YYYY-MM-DD	to YYYY-MM-DD			
1					
2					
...					

- account for the time between 15 September 2018 and 14 September 2021 in full - descriptions should cover 36 months, without any gaps
- provide scans of documents confirming the stay in countries listed in the table, e.g. a work contract, a study certificate, proof of payment of tuition fees, a residence permit, flat rental contracts, utility bills in PI's name, insurance contracts, tax declarations etc. (one document is enough for each period listed)
- not necessary to translate the documents into English or Polish
- **researchers who held employment contracts in Poland for more than 12 months between September 2018 and September 2021 are not eligible even if they took an unpaid leave of absence (unpaid sabbatical) from a Polish institution during which they lived/ studied/ worked abroad.**



Ineligible applicants

Who may not apply:

- a. researchers previously funded as POLONEZ fellows
 - b. researchers who between 15 September 2018 and 14 September 2021 were PIs in a research project carried out at a Polish institution (funded by NCN or other funder)
 - c. researchers who applied as PI in any other proposal submitted to NCN
 - in answer to any call launched on 15 September 2021, or
 - in answer to previous NCN calls if their proposal:
 - received a funding decision which remains in force, or
 - is still under evaluation, or
 - is under appeal
- If you are a PI in a proposal you cannot sign the proposal as a representative of the Host Institution.
 - A rejection decision remains in force for 14 days and can be appealed by the applicant. The applicant may waive the right to appeal in an official letter to the NCN Director. In other NCN calls usually the institution is the applicant, so the institution must sign the waiver.
 - If you have submitted a proposal to another funder in Poland or abroad, and it is still under evaluation, you may apply for POLONEZ BIS but if both proposals are funded you will have to choose which one you will carry out.

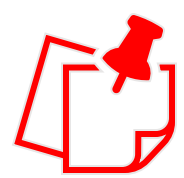
Applicant's commitments

During the funding term the PI commits to:

- ✓ reside in Poland for 100% of the project funding term and be available to the Host Institution. Documented foreign business trips related to the project and holidays governed by labour law spent abroad are included in the residency in Poland
- ✓ participate in at least three 2-day training courses developing research and non-research competencies, organised and paid for by the NCN
- ✓ carry out an intersectoral secondment phase outside of the Host Institution (14 days minimum).

During the funding term the PI commits NOT to:

- ☒ use any other sources of funding their arrival or stay in Poland
- ☒ participate in any international mobility, except to carry out the project research and training tasks under POLONEZ BIS
- ☒ receive any other salary from funds allocated as direct costs under research projects funded in other NCN call
- ☒ receive any salary from another employer pursuant to an employment contract, including an employer with a registered office outside of Poland

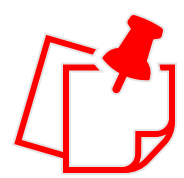


Eligible Host Institutions

All legal entities with a registered office in Poland are eligible as fellowship host institution, regardless of the sector they represent.

The proposal should describe only one Host Institution (Participating entity) which will employ the POLONEZ BIS PI. The PI may cooperate with more than one institution in Poland or abroad e.g. during short-term secondments.

- the profile of the selected Host Institution should reflect the nature of the research project and the PI's profile and professional goals set in the [Career Development Plan](#)
- the hosting arrangements should be described in the [Host Institution Capacity Form](#)
- Host Institutions outside the public finance sector or institutions that do not receive any institutional core funding for research must provide additional documents about their R&D activities, publications and research infrastructure
- POLONEZ BIS funding may constitute state aid – additional documents are needed in such case; please get in touch with the Polonez Team as soon as possible



Ineligible Host Institutions

A Host Institution is ineligible if:

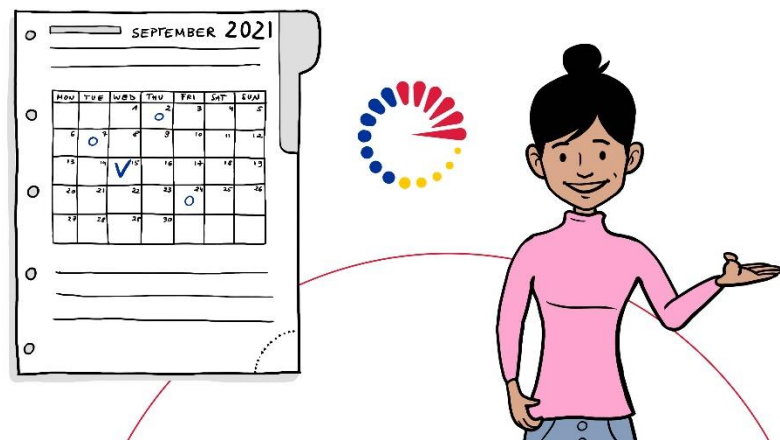
- a. it employed the PI within 3 years before the proposal submission deadline i.e. between **15 December 2018 and 14 December 2021**;
 - b. it granted the PI the PhD degree **unless** since the PhD award the PI completed a documented postdoctoral fellowship(s) outside Poland, lasting a total of at least 3 years, including at least one postdoctoral fellowship lasting an uninterrupted period of 12 months;
- List and document the post-doctoral fellowships in Part 2 of [Compliance with the eligibility criteria](#)
 - The proposal includes the PI's declaration regarding their previous or current employment in the Host Institution

Host Institution's commitments

During the funding term the Host Institution commits to:

- ✓ employ the Principal Investigator for the entire POLONEZ BIS fellowship funding term based on a full-time employment contract, exclusively for the implementation of the project research and training tasks and in compliance with the [European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers](#)
- ✓ employ the Mentor throughout the entire fellowship funding term, based on an employment contract. The Mentor's contracted working time should be sufficient to allow for adequate supervision of the project and mentoring of the PI
- ✓ provide the Principal Investigator with free full access to facilities, infrastructure and/or equipment necessary to carry out the research tasks described in the proposal
- ✓ appoint or employ an administrative officer with fluent command of Polish and English, who will help the PI at the relocation stage and with administrative and financial issues during the fellowship. The minimum working time of the administrative assistant should be 0,25 Full Time Equivalent.
- ✓ reach an agreement with the Principal Investigator on how to use at least 25% of the other indirect costs
- ✓ support the PI in promoting their research outputs, open access publishing, and data management

Help Marie decide if she's eligible for POLONEZ BIS

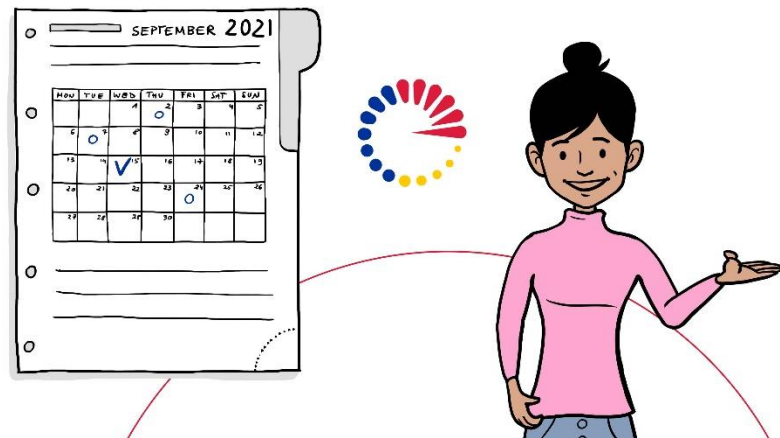


Marie moved to Poland on 20 November 2020 and has been employed as a researcher at the Fictional University since then.

Marie has an excellent research idea and would like to apply for POLONEZ BIS in December 2021.

Does Mary comply with the mobility rule?

Help Marie decide if she's eligible for POLONEZ BIS

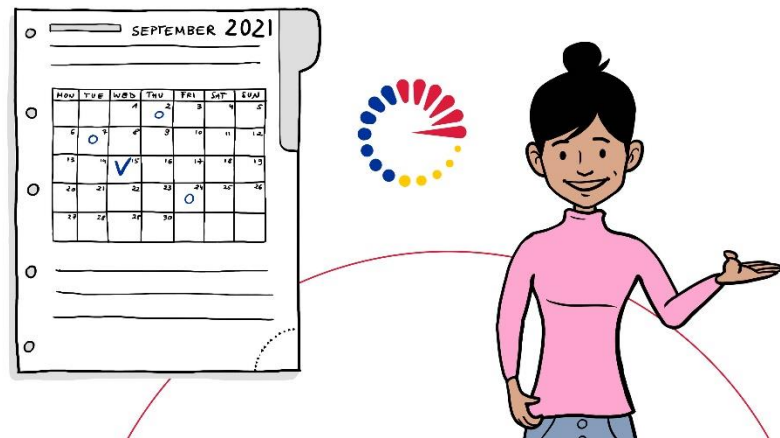


Marie moved to Poland on 20 November 2020 and has been employed as a researcher at the Fictional University since then.

Marie has an excellent research idea and would like to apply for POLONEZ BIS in December 2021.

Is the Fictional University eligible as Marie's POLONEZ BIS Host Institution?

Help Marie decide if she's eligible for POLONEZ BIS




Marie moved to Poland on 20 November 2020 and has been employed as a researcher at the Fictional University since then.

Marie has an excellent research idea and would like to apply for POLONEZ BIS in December 2021.

Does Marie comply with POLONEZ BIS criteria for an experienced researcher?

Welcome to the Partner Search Tool <https://polonezbis.eu/en/partner-search-tool/>

 POLONEZ BIS

NEWS PROGRAMME APPLICANTS **PARTNER SEARCH** FAQ CONTACT

[Home](#) | PST

Partner Search Tool

Welcome to the POLONEZ BIS Partner Search Tool

POLONEZ BIS provides an online partner search tool for researchers, organisations and enterprises interested in participating in future POLONEZ BIS projects.

In order to submit your own expression of interest you first have to create an account. Registered users can publish and edit their offers or project ideas using their own login. This information will appear online as soon as it has been quality checked by the POLONEZ BIS Coordination Team.

[CREATE AN ACCOUNT ->](#) [LOG IN ->](#)

If you have any questions about the programme or the Partner Search Tool, please contact us at polonez@ncn.gov.pl.

If you want to browse the expressions of interest already submitted, you do not need to create an account.

[LIST ALL RESEARCHERS](#) [LIST ALL INSTITUTIONS](#)

Welcome to the Partner Search Tool <https://polonezbis.eu/en/partner-search-tool/>

[Home](#) | [PST](#) | [List all researchers](#)

[LIST ALL RESEARCHERS](#) [LIST ALL INSTITUTIONS](#)

Filter by

Thematic area/field Key words Organisation type Country

[SEARCH →](#)

List of all Researchers

Show results

ID	Country	Researcher	Thematic area/field	Published	More
2585	India	ritunesh kumar	ST8 Production and processes engineering	2021-09-06	Read
2578	Germany	Iuliia Eremenko	HS2 Culture and cultural production	2021-09-02	Read

Welcome to the Partner Search Tool <https://polonezbis.eu/en/partner-search-tool/>

Country	Brasil
Academic title	Dr.
Organisation	Midwestern State University
Thematic area/field	NZ – Life Sciences / NZ9 Fundamentals of applied life sciences and biotechnology
Key words	urban forestry, nature-based solutions, urban green infrastructures
More	
Short summary of activities and expertise	I'm a Forest Engineer with a Ph.D. in forest engineering (urban forestry studies) from the Federal University of Paraná, Brazil, in 2003. From 2003 to 2012 I worked as a forest engineer at the Municipal Secretariat for the Environment in Curitiba, Brazil, working on projects related to urban forest management and tree risk assessment. In the middle of 2012 I've started working at the University of Paraná, as a substitute professor, and since 2015 as Adjunct Professor in the Forest Engineering Department, working as a Professor in the Stricto Sensu Postgraduate Program in Forestry Sciences with expertise in Urban Forestry and Urban Ecology. At the moment I'm developing several research projects, highlighting the ecosystem services provided by nature-based solutions in cities, urban tree growth modeling; urban landscape quality and trees; urban tree inventory, and urban tree vigor recovery.
Relevant publications and/or research/innovation products	
Other relevant achievements	I am an author and co-author of more than 30 scientific articles published in national Scientific Journals and international conferences and technical books. I've been advising 7 master's dissertations and 2 Ph.D. theses, and 10 undergraduate projects.
Preferred Host Institution type	Public, Private, Academic, Non-academic, Research centre, Enterprise, Non-governmental organization



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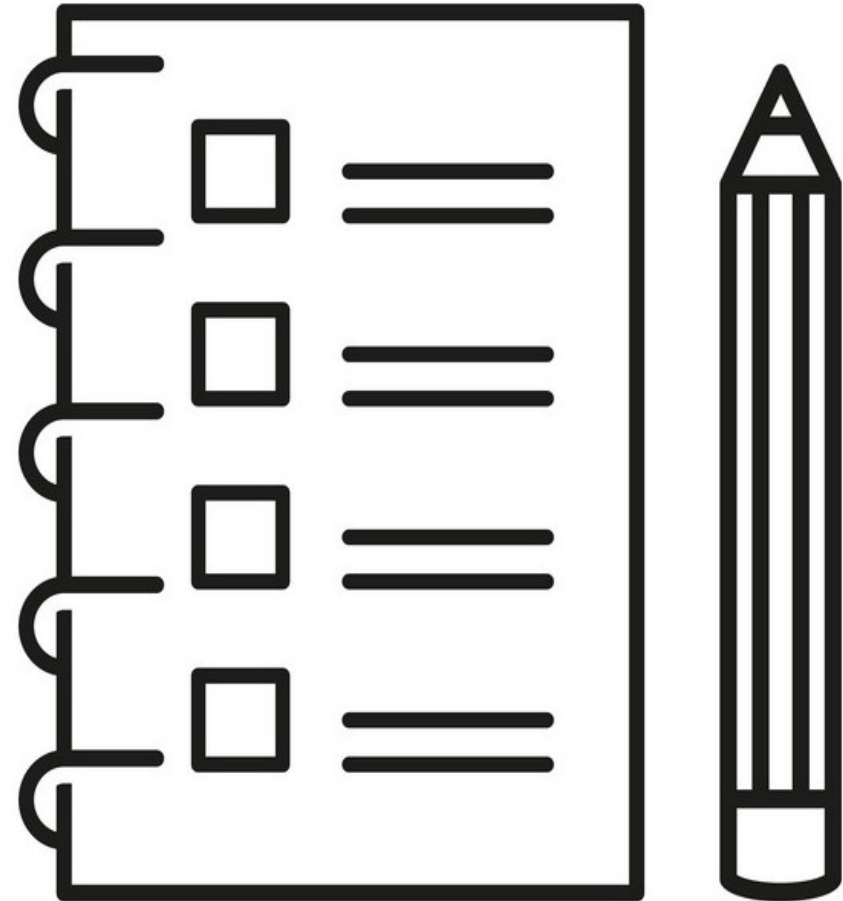
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My experience in POLONEZ 2

Sergey Samsonov,
University of Gdańsk

Outline

- Briefly about me
- Application procedure
- Experience in the project:
pros and warnings
- Summary



Me

- 2006: Master in Biophysics, (St.Petersburg Polytechnical University)
- 2009: PhD in Structural Bioinformatics (TU Dresden)
- 2009-2017 Postdoc (TU Dresden)
- From 2017: PI (University of Gdańsk)



My grant

- Submission: June 2016
- Approval: November 2016
- Duration: May 2017-April 2019
- Unit: University of Gdańsk
- Title: Computational approaches to study protein-glycosaminoglycan interactions
- Panel: ST
- Budget: 944 874 PLN (217 970 EUR)
- Project team: me + 2 assistants
- 16 publications
- Hirsch index: from 9 to 17
- <http://www.prot-gag.org>



Application procedure

- The applicant
- Project:
 - feasibility vs. novelty
 - what was not possible to do in the previous position and why
- Host Scientist:
 - partial overlap
 - recognition in the field
 - previous collaborations
 - personal characteristics



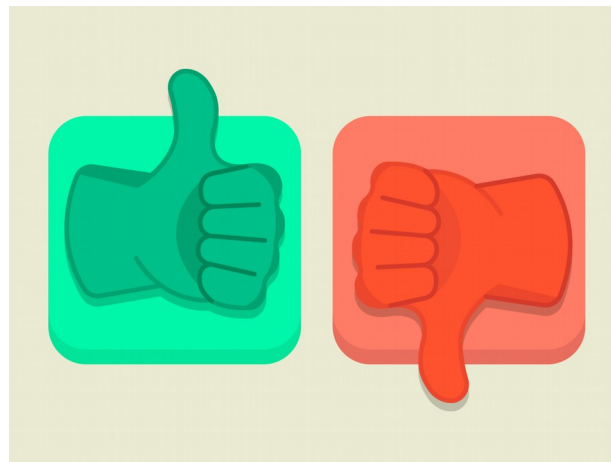
Experience in the project: pros and warnings

Advantages:

- Freedom/independence
- New collaborations
- Research visits
- Soft skills training
- New grants opportunities
- NCN support

Warnings:

- Unit regulations:
 - budget (salaries)
 - employment
 - indirect costs
 - secretary
 - reports
- Poland for foreigners



Summary

Just apply!!!



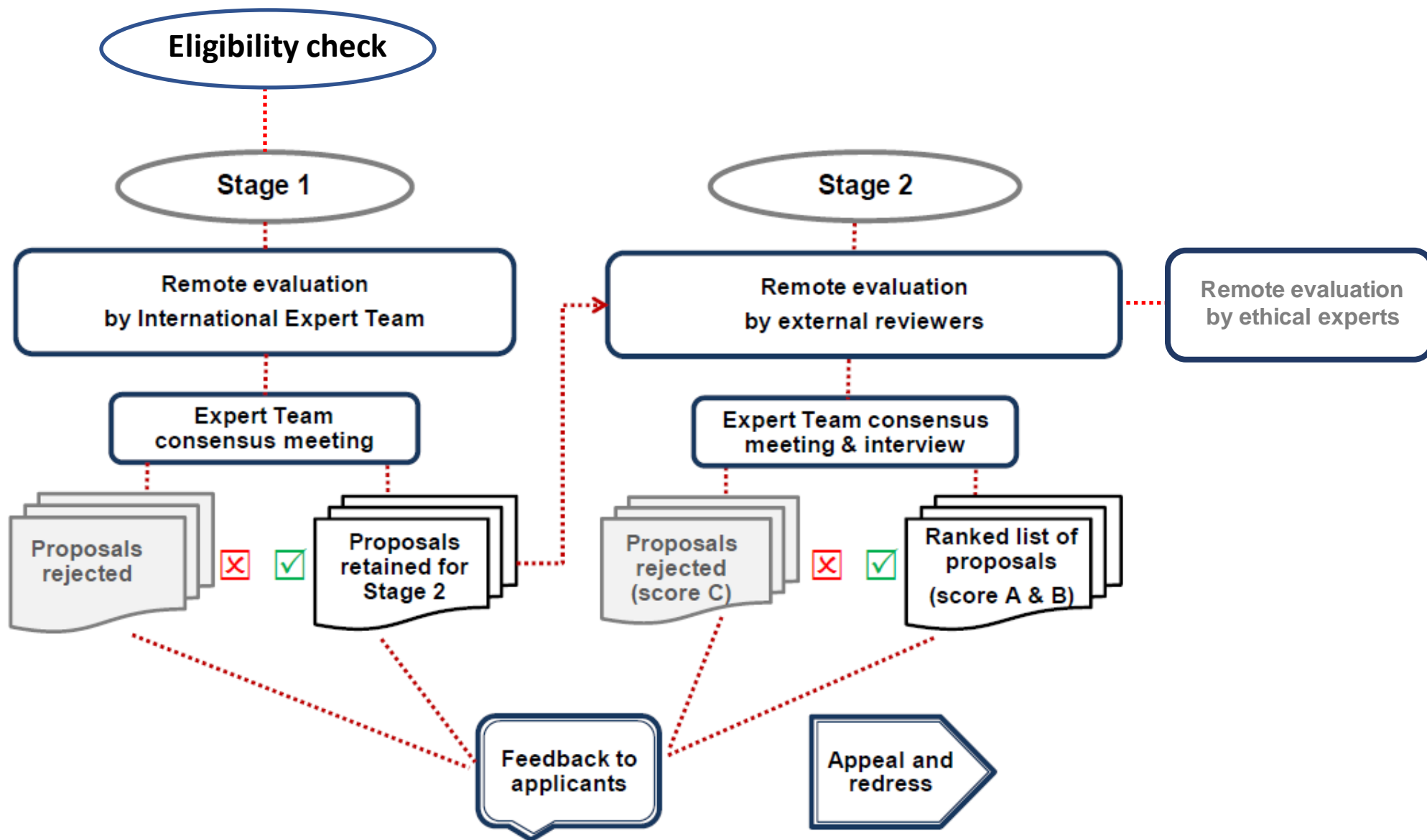
<http://www.comp-gag.org>

sergey.samsonov@ug.edu.pl



Proposal Evaluation Process

Proposal Evaluation Process



Proposal Evaluation Criteria

General questions

- Has the proposal been prepared in a reliable manner?
- Does the project meet the criteria of a scientific proposal?
- Does the project meet the criteria of basic research?
- Does the proposal meet other eligibility criteria outlined in the call for proposals?

Basic research is defined as experimental or theoretical endeavours undertaken to gain new knowledge of the foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial use

Other yes/no questions

- Are the costs to be incurred well justified with regards to the subject and scope of the research?
- Has the data management been duly planned?
- Have the ethics issues in research been appropriately addressed?
 - Does the proposal involve the use of the human embryonic stem cells (hESC)?
 - In the case of “yes”, is the use of the hESC necessary to achieve the scientific objectives of the project?
- Does the project undertake interdisciplinary research?

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

A. PROJECT ASSESSMENT

A1. SCIENTIFIC QUALITY OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

- *Originality and innovative nature of the project, and relationship to the “state of the art” of research in the field, including any interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary aspects of the proposal,*
- *relevance of the research methodology and work plan in relation to the scientific objectives of the project, including (if applicable) appropriate integration of sex and/or gender dimension in the project’s content.*

A2. SCIENTIFIC IMPACT OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

The potential for substantial international impact on the research field, taking into account the specifics of the research field and the variety of forms of impact.

A.3. DISSEMINATION OF PROJECT OUTPUTS

- *The potential for high quality research publications and other research outputs, taking into account the specifics of the research field,*
- *quality and scope of measures proposed to disseminate and exploit project results within research community and general public*

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

B. QUALIFICATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE APPLICANT (PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)

Qualifications and scientific achievements of the applicant (principal investigator) in the past 10 years, taking into account the stage of scientific career, career breaks, and the diverse range of research outputs evaluated from an international perspective, in particular:

- *important contribution to the field(s) or discipline(s),*
- *up to 10 most important publications from the academic and research track record, with up to 3 of them attached to the proposal as PDF files; for research in art, up to 10 most important artistic achievements and achievements in research in art from the academic and research track record,*
- *research performance and research outputs (publications, datasets, software, etc.) of previous grants,*
- *presentations to internationally established conferences, including invited talks,*
- *scientific or artistic prizes/awards or membership in well-regarded international organizations,*
- *international recognition,*
- *other research activities,*
- *other competences e.g. managerial, transnational or intersectoral experience.*

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

C. ASSESSMENT OF THE SUPERVISION AND THE HOST INSTITUTION

C1. QUALIFICATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MENTOR

Qualifications and scientific achievements of the mentor in the past 10 years, taking into account the stage of scientific career, career breaks, and the diverse range of research outputs evaluated from an international perspective, in particular:

- *important contribution to the field(s) or discipline(s),*
- *up to 10 most important publications from the academic and research track record; for research in art, up to 10 most important artistic achievements and achievements in research in art from the academic and research track record,*
- *research performance and research outputs (publications, datasets, software, etc.) of previous grants,*
- *presentations to internationally established conferences, including invited talks,*
- *scientific or artistic prizes/awards or membership in well-regarded international organizations,*
- *international recognition,*
- *other research activities,*
- **experience in mentoring or supervising research.**

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

C. ASSESSMENT OF THE SUPERVISION AND THE HOST INSTITUTION

C2. EXCELLENCE AND APPROPRIATENESS OF THE HOST INSTITUTION

- *The academic rank of the Host Institution, including HR Excellence Research award,*
- *quality of the institutional environment: suitable and adequate facilities, equipment and other resources and opportunities for international networking,*
- *measures taken by the host for providing quantitative and qualitative mentoring and opportunities for integration of the applicant into the existing team/institution,*
- *mutual gain from transfer of knowledge and expertise between the host institution and the applicant.*

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

D. POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE PROJECT ON THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OF THE APPLICANT (PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)

- *Contribution to career development and (if applicable) re-establishment,*
- *potential for reaching or re-enforcing a position of professional maturity,*
- *impact of competencies acquired during the fellowship on the future career prospects of the applicant, in particular through exposure to transferable skills,*
- *relevance of the proposed intersectoral secondment.*

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

SCORING: 1-5

The threshold mark: **70 %**

A1. SCIENTIFIC QUALITY OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT **(25%)**

A2. SCIENTIFIC IMPACT OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT **(10%)**

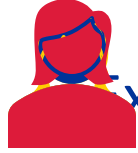
A.3. DISSEMINATION OF PROJECT OUTPUTS **(10%)**

B. QUALIFICATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE APPLICANT **(25%)**

C1. QUALIFICATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MENTOR **(10%)**

C2. EXCELLENCE AND APPROPRIATENESS OF THE HOST INSTITUTION **(10%)**

D. POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE PROJECT ON THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OF THE APPLICANT **(10%)**



Experts & Reviewers

Three International Expert Panels:



Life Sciences



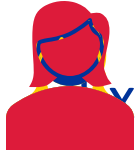
Physical Sciences and Engineering



Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Experts:

- experienced researchers selected by the NCN Council,
- represent different disciplines, but they are not necessarily specialists in the subjects of the proposals,
- mainly from outside Poland,
- prepare individual assessments of applications at the I stage of the evaluation process,
- select applications to the second stage of the evaluation
- select reviewers for proposals in the second stage of the evaluation process,
- conduct interviews with candidates,
- recommend applications for funding,
- act according to the Code of Ethics for Experts of the National Science Centre.



Experts & Reviewers

Reviewers:

- selected by the experts,
- specialists in the subjects of the proposals,
- prepare individual assessments of applications at the II stage of the evaluation process,
- act according to the Code of Ethics for Experts of the National Science Centre.

Ethical Experts:

- selected by the NCN Council,
- evaluate ethics issues of proposals at the second stage of the evaluation process,
- conduct interviews with candidates,
- act according to the Code of Ethics for Experts of the National Science Centre.



Interview

- during the second stage of the assessment,
- remotely via telecommunications tools,
- duration about 20-40 minutes.

Information about the date of the interview and reviews will be sent within 14 days in advance.



Results

- Ranking list will be published no later than in the first half of June 2022.
- In the case of resignation from funding by candidates on the ranking list, applications on the waiting list will be funded.
- Applications that do not receive funding in POLONEZ BIS 1 might be re-submitted in the next calls.

Take-away message

- ▶ POLONEZ BIS allows you to combine your talents and skills with your interests and your values – all you can look for in a good job
- ▶ POLONEZ BIS guarantees fair and transparent recruitment procedures for research positions in Poland and funds your professional growth in the new environment
- ▶ POLONEZ BIS extra funding for research strengthens your independence and your pitch at the Host Institution
- ▶ The National Science Centre has a proven record in successful performance of MSCA projects – and we will support you all the way!
- ▶ 109 POLONEZ Fellows already completed the programme and over 40 successfully applied for NCN grants to continue research in Poland

Are YOU ready for a change?

Thank you!
Stay in touch!

www.polonezbis.eu
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Questions and Answers

1 Call – general questions

Q: How many positions will be awarded in each call?

A: There are 120 research positions in 3 calls, the budget allocated for the 1st call should make it possible to fund 42 - 45 proposals, depending on how many researchers will request the maximum grant amount. Please remember that the experts evaluating the proposals may decide that fewer proposals were excellent enough to be funded.

Q: Will applicants be informed about the first stage decision?

A: Yes, the NCN will send decisions on completion of each stage of proposal evaluation to the PI and the Host Institution and make the results of the merit-based evaluation available to the PI.

1 Call – general questions

Q: What is the proportion of Polish citizens to foreigners granted in the previous editions?

A: At the time of proposal submission in previous calls 51 out of 109 POLONEZ Fellows declared Poland as their country of origin. 25 out of 109 POLONEZ Fellows declared Poland as their place of residence.

Q: Could you let us know the average acceptance rate during last calls?

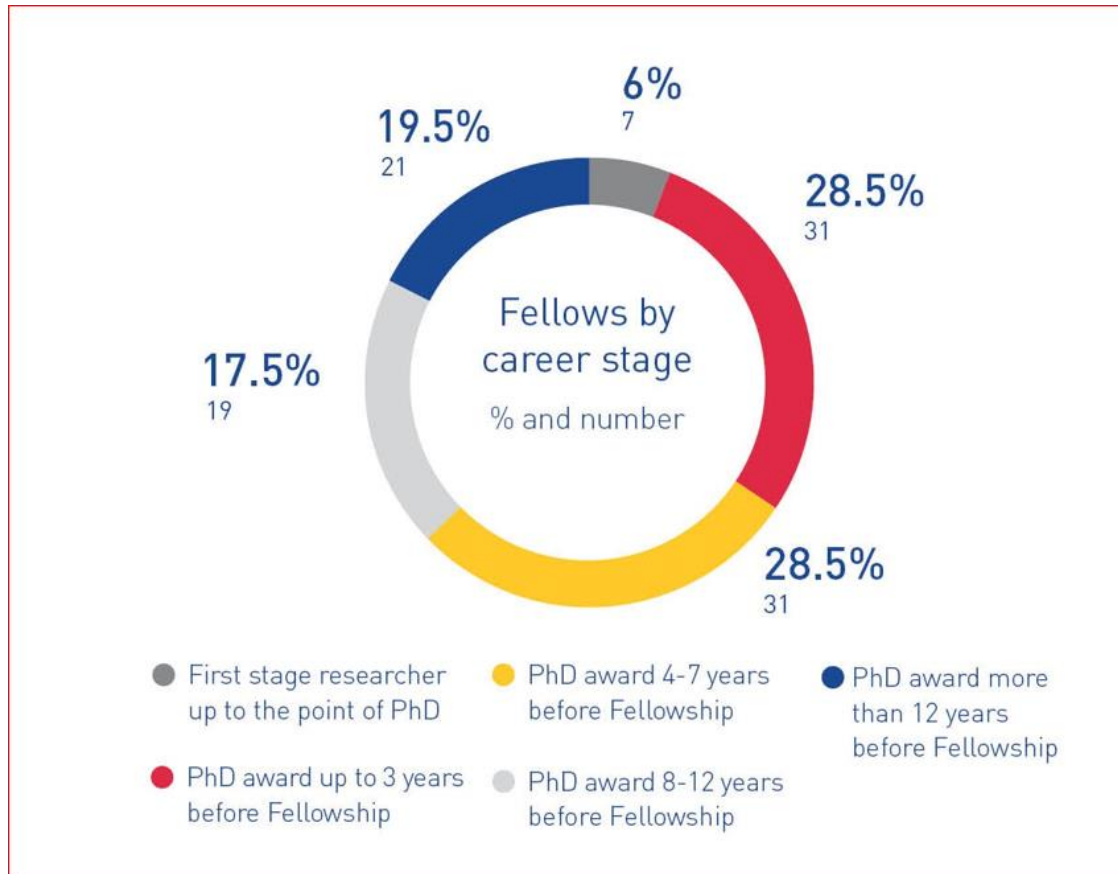
A:



Please note that the last POLONEZ call closed in December 2016 and the world has changed a lot during the last 5 years.

1 Call – general questions

Q: What is the proportion of fresh PhDs to applicants with > 5 years of postdoctoral experience who got granted previously?



More POLONEZ statistics available at:

https://cordis.europa.eu/docs/results/h2020/665/665778_PS/polonez-overview-cordis.png

2 Proposal – general questions

Q: What is the maximum number of pages of the proposal?

A: There is no overall page limit for the proposal, but different parts of it have their own limits, e.g. the short project description (evaluated by the NCN Experts at the 1st stage) can be up to 5 A4 pages (including references to publications), the full project description (evaluated by the external reviewers at the 2nd stage) can be up to 15 A4 pages.

Wherever there are limits for particular attachments/documents, we have indicated them in the [instructions on how to complete and submit a proposal to POLONEZ BIS 1 call](#). The limits are also indicated in the ZSUN/OSF Electronic Submission System itself.

2 Proposal – panels

Q: In which domain does high energy physics fall? 'ST2: Fundamental constituents of matter'?

Q: In which subject area the research proposal based on chemical science will be considered? Will it be the Physical science[s] and engineering?

A: NCN does not advise applicants on the choice of panels – they are solely the applicant's decision. To help you determine which panel suits your planned research best, the NCN's website has a dedicated section ['Funding - NCN Panels'](#) where you can see not only the main panels but also auxiliary panels and their descriptors.

Q: Is it a must to submit a proposal based on the suggested [research] fields, or will any other fields also be considered during the evaluation?

A: Yes, it is necessary to select the main and auxiliary panels from the list. The Electronic Submission System (ZSUN/OSF) will not allow you to enter a research field other than the NCN panels.

2 Proposal – cooperation with organisations outside Poland

Q: Is it possible to involve an organisation outside Poland? Can they receive a part from the funds?

A: There is a number of ways you can involve organisations outside of Poland in your project, but in most cases such organisations cannot receive any direct funding:

1. the PI and/or members of the research team can conduct experiments/ research tasks at an institution abroad together with employees of this institution or use research infrastructure which is not available at the host institution. In such cases the grant can cover the costs of business trips of the POLONEZ BIS researchers, or costs of consumables necessary for the experiment
(if applicable). Such cooperation involves no direct payments to the organisation abroad;
2. the PI can invite an employee from an organisation in or outside of Poland to act as a consultant or expert on your project. If this is the case, the grant can pay/refund travel and subsistence costs connected with visits of such experts (cost category – other direct costs – visits and consultations);
3. the PI can outsource/subcontract some of the tasks to an organisation in or outside of Poland – if this is the case, the host institution will pay the organisation based on a service contract. Please note that POLONEZ BIS funds are public funds and your host institution will have to follow public procurement rules for subcontracting;
4. please note that if you invite an employee from an organisation outside of Poland to become one of the co-investigators on your research team, they sign a short-term contract with your host institution and you will be able to pay them. However, this is not considered international cooperation, even if such co-investigators conduct their research tasks outside of Poland.

2 Proposal – conflict of interest

Q: Can we exclude the reviewers for a conflict of interest?

A: At the very end of the proposal form in ZSUN/OSF, there is a non-obligatory section "experts", which you may complete if you feel that specific reviewers should not be involved in the evaluation of your proposal due to a potential conflict of interest. The information you give in this section will only be visible to the NCN employees conducting the proposals' eligibility checks (it will not be revealed outside of the NCN).

All experts evaluating the proposals must declare that there is no conflict of interest with the proposal to be evaluated.

3 Principal Investigator (PI) - eligibility

Q: If I have been granted MINIATURA (NCN) for the next 12 months, may I apply to POLONEZ BIS?

A: If you have already accepted the funding decision, you are not eligible for POLONEZ BIS.

If you resign from your MINIATURA grant, and you comply with other requirements of the POLONEZ BIS programme, you will be able to apply.

3 Principal Investigator (PI) - eligibility

Q: Can I apply for more than one POLONEZ research project at the same call?

A: No, you can submit only one proposal in which you are a PI in answer to any call launched on 15 September 2021 (one POLONEZ BIS 1 or one OPUS 22 or one SONATA 17 or one PRELUDIUM BIS 3).

Q: Is there a way to submit an application as two PIs co-supervising a joint project, or to submit two applications explicitly mentioning planned close collaboration with another applicant? Or any other possibility to jointly realize a research idea which is a joint work of two eligible candidates willing to move to Poland?

A: No, it is not possible to submit a proposal with two co-PIs. Submitting two proposals with different PIs explicitly mentioning close collaboration with another applicant is possible. However, it might be risky because experts evaluating proposals will look at the feasibility of each project separately and it is not possible to guarantee that both projects are accepted.

3 Principal Investigator (PI) - eligibility

Q: Question about mobility/eligibility rule: what about stays in Poland that were interrupted? How does this count towards the mobility rule? Does that make one uneligible? For example, if a researcher was in Poland for family reasons March-December 2020, then traveled to Germany for work (Dec 2020 - Feb 2021), returned to Poland for family reasons Feb 2021-Sept 2021

A: To check if you comply with the mobility principle you have to add all your stays in Poland in the entire period between 15 September 2018 and 14 September 2021 - it should be mapped on the Compliance with the eligibility criteria form. In the given example a researcher spent the total of 18 months in Poland, so he/she seems not to be eligible to apply in POLONEZ BIS 1. However, it is recommended to check the type of visits, since some exceptions may apply, for instance short stays, holidays, procedures for obtaining refugee status, etc.

3 Principal Investigator (PI) - eligibility

Q: I have a contract in Poland, and I am here for 3 months. If my current contract is granted from other source than NCN, am I eligible to apply for POLONEZ BIS?

A: If you have been in Poland for only 3 months, you are eligible to apply for POLONEZ BIS 1 (mobility rule). However, if you and your current employer signed an employment contract under the Polish Labour Law, your current employer is not eligible to become your host institution.

Q: How would you approach staying in Poland during lockdown while remotely working in full time research position abroad?

A: The Centre will refer such cases to the European Research Executive Agency on the case-by case basis as explained on the official Horizon 2020 FAQ page, [FAQ ID 13246](#): „In line with its efforts to support MSCA beneficiaries and researchers in this *force majeure* situations, REA will consider adopting a flexible approach whenever possible, based on a case-by-case analysis.”

3 Principal Investigator (PI) - eligibility

Q: According to my understanding I can't be employed by host institution before the end of the call (15 December). Does it mean that I can't be offered the contract of the employment? What about the civil law contract, such as contract of mandate (umowa zlecenie) or contract to perform a specified task (umowa o dzieło)?

A: In POLONEZ BIS employment is always understood as employment contract under the Polish Labour Law (umowa o pracę). The civil law contract of mandate or a contract to perform a specified task do not count as employment. If you have signed some kind of contract with your prospective host institution and you are not sure which kind it is, please contact HR department at the institution and they will be able to explain what kind of contract it is.

3 Principal Investigator (PI) - eligibility

Q: Can I start to work at the host institute after the call deadline but before the results are announced?

Q: According to the rules for the application, I can't be employed by the host institution before the end of the [POLONEZ BIS 1] call (15 December, 2021). But after my proposal [is submitted], is it possible to get the contract from employer there?

A: Yes, you can sign an employment contract pursuant to the Polish Labour Law after 15 December 2021. It will not block your employer as your host institution in the POLONEZ BIS 1 call, but in case you are not successful in the 1st call, the institution that employs you will not be eligible as your host institution in the further POLONEZ BIS calls.

Another option might be to sign a civil law contract of mandate or a contract to perform a specified task – these do not count as employment pursuant to the Polish Labour Law so the institution will still be eligible as your host institution in further POLONEZ BIS calls.

3 Principal Investigator (PI) - eligibility

Q: Is a fresh PhD graduate without any postdoc experience eligible to apply?

A: Yes, the purpose of the call is to help researchers develop their professional careers and scientists at all career stages are equally welcome.

Q: If a PhD student has been doing research for more than 5 years but has no publication, but has good recommendation letters, are they eligible to apply?

A: No, at least one publication has to be uploaded with the proposal in order to apply. Please note that there will be two more POLONEZ BIS calls (March – June 2022 and September – December 2022), so there is still some time to submit a publication before these calls close.

3 Principal Investigator (PI) - eligibility (documents)

Q: Can I upload a confirmation of PhD instead of diploma (I don't have it yet as I'm a fresh PhD)?

Q: If the PhD degree is not recognised at the host institution, what should the candidate do?

A: If you do not have a PhD diploma yet, or the document you have is not recognized by your host institution, you should apply as a researcher without a PhD and upload documents confirming 4 years of equivalent research experience e.g. a declaration signed by a representative of the institution where she/he has carried out research or by a dean of the institute or faculty or the applicant's academic tutor. A 4-year doctoral programme counts as 4 years of research experience.

3 Principal Investigator (PI) - eligibility (documents)

Q: What should the optimal diploma translation certification look like?

A: At the stage of proposal submission, a PhD holder must provide a scan of the PhD diploma and its translation into English or Polish, if the language of the original is neither English nor Polish - a certified translation is not required.

3 Principal Investigator (PI) – eligibility to re-apply

Q: Will an applicant who will prove unsuccessful in the last stage of the current POLONEZ BIS evaluation be able to apply again in June 2021 (will there be enough time to re-apply)?

A: Most likely there will be a narrow window to re-apply in the consecutive POLONEZ BIS call. Applicants rejected after 1st stage of the POLONEZ BIS 1 evaluation will receive the decisions (with the reviewers' comments) earlier, but those rejected after 2nd stage or PIs whose proposals qualify for the waiting list, will receive the decisions around the end of May/beginning of June. This will leave you only a few days to re-apply in POLONEZ BIS 2. To be on the safe side, you may start completing your POLONEZ BIS 2 proposal much earlier and wait for the call results.

Please note that a rejection decision will be open for appeal for 14 days and during this time you will not be able to submit a new proposal. So if you receive a rejection and would like to resubmit the proposal to POLONEZ BIS 2 you will have to waive your right to appeal, in an official letter to the NCN. All rejection decisions will include information about your right to waive the appeal rights.

4 Principal Investigator (PI) – academic track record

Q: Is a current career break going to be a problem in receiving a grant? Is the current employment status of the applicant very important in assessing the application?

A: Career breaks are provided for in POLONEZ BIS and are not a problem in receiving a grant. For a detailed list of eligible career breaks, please see the application materials. Please note that the eligible career breaks declared in the proposal extend the PI's research and academic track record period (10 years before the proposal submission year by default).

What is important in assessing the proposal is the applicant's current competences, previous and current involvement in research and training programmes and in general the stage of scientific development.

4 Principal Investigator (PI) - academic track record

Q: Is it a handicap to be a senior applicant, 10 years after PhD, but interested to do research in Poland?

A: There is no age limit or career stage limit within POLONEZ BIS 1. In the Career Development Plan applicants will self-assess their strengths and areas for development. For a researcher who is 10 years after PhD it will be easier to indicate a possible transfer of knowledge to the host institution, but on the other hand it might be a little more difficult to describe plans for further professional development.

Q: Do applicants with longer postdoctoral training / currently unemployed / without history of independent research grants have lower chances of being awarded POLONEZ BIS?

A: The call text does not introduce any limits in this respect. Much depends on the contents of the Career Development Plan. In previous POLONEZ calls about 28% of applicants were up to 3 years after their PhD, another 28% up to 8 years after their PhD. For some Fellows, POLONEZ was the first ever grant after their doctorate.

4 Principal Investigator (PI) – academic track record

Q: How do you define the most important publications? Should one focus on the first/last authorship / impact factor of the journal / number of citations / if the topic of the paper is related to the topic of the proposal etc.?

A: Selecting the most important publications, especially for scientists with a rich academic record, can be quite a challenge. Overall, what's most important, is scientific excellence. But there are other aspects to consider as well. For example, if you are a leader of a research idea and want to prove your leadership in research, it makes sense to show publications with the first authorship. If you want to show that you have experience with the subject of your proposal and have already done some research on it, it is a good idea to show these papers as well. Please note, that NCN is committed to promoting the DORA recommendations and to not using journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a measure of the quality of individual research articles to assess an individual scientist's contributions. In the assessment of the publication component of the Principal Investigator's track record, experts and reviewers should take into account their expert knowledge of their field of research, as well as the citation and publication practices of that field. Selected publications will be assessed on their overall quality, contribution to the field and impact on its development. They should also be evidence of research performance and research outputs of previous grants.

4 Principal Investigator (PI) – academic track record

Q: Can/should reviews be included in the top three papers list (last authorship and a good number of citations) or should we rather include research-based papers?

A: The research-based papers would be a better idea, especially in experimental research. But it depends on the discipline: in humanities and social sciences it can be a bit different and reviews may also be valuable in academic achievements. But in general, we do not expect reviews of other people's publications from you. First of all your scientific publications are necessary to evaluate your academic achievements.

4 Principal Investigator (PI) – academic track record

Q: Do 'scientific lectures and presentations' relate to presentations at conferences only, or also to specialized courses/companies/universities?

A: In this section of proposal you can list keynote speeches and presentations delivered at renowned international conferences, but also other forms of scientific activities, such as presentations at workshops, training courses etc.

Q: Should the most important scientific achievement be related to the topic of the proposed project (or can it be related to another field of study)? How do you define the most important scientific achievement (is it impact to the society / impact factor of the paper etc.)?

A: The call text does not define what is the most important achievement. It may be related to the project proposal, but it is not a requirement. It is up to the PI and Mentor what they want to prove or/and show by choosing one scientific achievement or another.

5 Project – research plan

Q: Some applicants have to be in the field (outside Poland) to run their experiments, is there a limit in the duration for such field studies?

A: No limit was set in the call text but applicants should seek balance between project scientific objectives and plans for the transfer of knowledge between the PI and the host institution. Field studies constitute documented business trips directly related to the implementation of the project (in Poland or abroad) and comply with the PI's commitment to reside 100% of the funding term in the territory of Poland.

On the other hand, if most of the project funding term is spent away from the host institution the Experts evaluating the project may find it difficult to assess how the applicant will be integrated into the existing team/institution, or the mutual gain from transfer of knowledge and expertise.

6 Project impact

Q: The application materials mention a commitment to submit an ERC application as an expectation, or something to be appreciated. Does it help to commit to submitting ERC in Poland then?

A: The Guide for Applicants mentions that one of the expected results of the POLONEZ BIS Calls is “increased potential of the PI and host institutions to successfully apply for international funding, including ERC grants.”

However, PIs are not directly obliged to submit an ERC application, with a Polish institution as a host or otherwise.

6 Project impact

Q: What about the scientific achievements of the humanity branch, like philosophy, for example? Should the project have a direct impact on science? Or it is possible to have possible implications at the theoretical level?

A: In the case of many studies carried out in the field of humanities (especially in philosophy) the theoretical component dominates over the empirical one and the application aspect is sometimes completely absent. Although, you can also find many opposite examples of even philosophical studies, which can have a direct impact on the development of science or on the non-academic sector (e.g. philosophy of mind on neuroscience). Of course, the applicant may submit a proposal in any HS sub-panel, also in those areas where strictly theoretical research dominates, and – according to the evaluation form - the assessment of the impact of a given project on the research field should take into account its specificity. Nevertheless, in the case of POLONEZ BIS, it's worth paying a special attention to various forms of possible impact of the project outcome on the academic environment and on society since also these aspects will be subject to the merit-based assessment.

7 Project Team - Mentor

Q: Are there informal requirements for the Mentor in terms of his/her status at the research institution (e.g. habilitation needed? "profesor nadzwyczajny" needed? "profesor belwederski" needed?)

A: No, there are no such requirements. The mentor must have research experience sufficient to allow for adequate supervision of the project and mentoring of the principal investigator.

Q: Does mentor have to work in the host institution?

A: Yes, on the date of the call launch (15 September 2021), the mentor must already be employed by the host institution.

7 Project Team - Mentor

Q: Is it a good idea to apply with a mentor, who is a young group leader (and has fewer publications, grants, and mentoring experience than a well-experienced mentor)?

A: The mentor is to support the PI both logistically in the new workplace and substantively in the implementation of the project. In general, it is better to choose an experienced mentor, with a rich scientific track record and already experienced in mentoring. In some cases it may be more appropriate to choose a mentor who is well suited to the project's needs and goals and there is a lot to be learned from him/her, despite his/her short work experience.

Please keep in mind that the qualifications and the scientific achievements of the mentor will be evaluated on the basis of his/her research and publication track as well as his/her previous supervision/mentoring experience (and are worth 10% of the overall evaluation mark).

7 Project team – students

Q: Are there any limits to the number of Ph.D. students who can be supported from the grant?

A: No, there are no limits on that. Please remember that salaries or scholarships of PhD students consume a part of the 100.000 Euro budget for research costs. You can employ as many as necessary to complete the project tasks but remember about the general cap on research costs.

Q: Can PhD students, who can be supported from the grant, be from outside Poland?

A: Yes, generally all the investigators you recruit for the team can be from outside Poland. If they are to be part of the project team, they will have to sign a contract with the Host Institution to perform specific tasks and to get their salaries or scholarships. If students/PhD students from outside Poland do not move to Poland to carry out their project tasks, they are not eligible candidates for scholarships, but may still receive salaries from the project. When assigning tasks to students/PhD students please consider what degree of supervision they will need from you.

7 Project team – students

Q: Is there a need to announce the contest for the positions of PhD students and co-investigators or particular employees or students can be taken into account already at the time of proposal submission?

A: No, at the point of completing the proposal the PI does not have to decide if the students will be employed, and under what type of contract or whether the PI will grant scholarships to students selected in an open contest. The proposal gives you a separate budget line for students and you can decide on the details later on. If you decide to grant scholarships, you will have to follow the NCN regulations (an official open contest for those positions). That is why the students/PhD students must be anonymous in the proposal (the proposal may be rejected on formal grounds if you name them).

Q: What if some students change the status from Master to PhD student during the project?

A: This question should be addressed to the prospective mentor and the host institution because it involves not only the [Regulations for awarding scholarships in NCN-funded research projects](#), but also rules regarding doctoral schools. The best option under such circumstances may be to sign short-term contracts with students instead of granting scholarships.

7 Project team – students

Q: The program is for 24 months and if one considers to employ a Ph.D. student and in that case he will stay for 3 years. So is there any possibility to get any extension in the funding?

A: It is not possible to get any extension in the funding. POLONEZ BIS covers the cost of tasks necessary to carry out the project described in the proposal. It does not cover the salaries of the PI/students/co-investigators after the project has been completed. If the host institution wants to retain a PhD student after the grant, it will have to use own funds to cover these costs.

7 Project team – co-investigators

Q: Is it possible to include an external researcher (from outside of Poland) as a co-investigator in the proposal?

A: Yes, it is possible to include an external researcher as a co-investigator from outside Poland in the project. However, co-investigators and students remain anonymous in the proposal. Please note that the rationale for the involvement of individual members of the research team in the project will be evaluated by the Expert Team. That is why the Research Team section requires you to include the description of competencies and tasks to be performed by individual members of the research team.

Q: Can other employees from the host institute be employed in the project?

A: Yes, you can have co-investigators who are already employed by the host institution and you can pay them additional salaries on top what they already have.

8 Secondments

Q: Should we have some invitation/agreement from the host of the secondment during the proposal stage? Should we go for secondments in Poland or outside Poland is also OK?

A: You do not have to have invitations or agreements with secondment institutions at the time of the proposal submission. You can choose the secondment in Poland or abroad. If you already know at the proposal stage what institution you are going to visit for the secondment, provide its name in the Career Development Plan (CDP) and describe what this institution does. Please note that CDP may be updated further on during the project implementation, if you decide to change your plans.

Q: Do I understand the rules correctly that a secondment is obligatory - so at least one has to be carried out during the project?

A: Exactly, at least one 14-day secondment is obligatory.

8 Secondments

Q: What is a secondment institution?

A: There are 2 types of eligible secondment institutions:

- a) public or private universities located in Poland or in any EU Member State or Associated Country, research institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences within the meaning of Article 7 (1) (3) – (4) of the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018, and research institutes within the meaning of Article 7 (1) (5) – (8) of the same;
- b) all other entities, including those located in any EU Member State or Associated Country. – co-investigators

Applicants who carry out their research projects in an institution listed in point a) must complete their intersectoral secondment in an institution listed in point b). Those who carry out their research projects in an institution listed in point b) must complete their secondment in an institution referred to in point a).

The secondment must not be completed in an institution that previously employed the applicant.



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