

REGULATION NO 56
of the Rector of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń
of 5 March 2025

**Regulations of the call for research teams in priority research areas of the Nicolaus
Copernicus University in Toruń**

pursuant to Art. 52 Section 3 of Resolution No 37 of the Nicolaus Copernicus University Senate
of 16 April 2019, the Statute of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (NCU Legal
Bulletin of 2024, Item 10),

it is hereby decided as follows:

Chapter 1

The subject and purpose of the call for research teams

§ 1

1. The call for research teams is organised as part of the "Excellence Initiative - Research University" (E-RU/IDUB) programme.
2. The aim of the call is to select research teams conducting research in priority research areas (PRA/POB) of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, hereinafter referred to as the "University".
3. The priority research areas implementing the strategic goals of the University as a research university are the following:
 - 1) Discovery, Diagnostics, Therapy for Healthcare (D2TH);
 - 2) Interfaces of Human Experience: Communication, Cognition, Culture, Wellbeing (InC3Web);
 - 3) Nature-based Solutions, Biodiversity and Climate Change (NatBio);
 - 4) Novel Materials and Technologies for the Future (MoTiF).
4. Detailed descriptions of the PRAs are specified in the call announcement available on the EI-RU (IDUB) website.
5. The selected research teams are to comply with one selected PRA referred to in Section 2, and present a research and development plan (hereinafter referred to as the "Project") within the area specified. The teams should have significant research potential, reflected in publications and experience in conducting research funded from external funds, as well as evidenced domestic and international collaboration.
6. As a result of the call, 20 research teams are selected, 5 teams in each PRA. The call winners get funding in the amount of up to PLN 600,000, PLN 200,000 per year for the period of 3 years, i.e. from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2028.
7. Funding obtained in the call cannot be used for:
 - 1) additional remuneration of team members,

2) equipment investments exceeding 30% of the total amount requested.

8. Priority research areas and the research teams representing them and selected in the call will be included in the University's plan for the next edition of the "Excellence Initiative - Research University" programme for the years 2027-2031.

Chapter 2

The call conditions

§ 2

1. The call is intended for the University academic staff who have demonstrated significant research activity, have been granted external funds for research and have been undertaken actions for internationalisation in the last 10 years. The teams may include those already in operation or new teams whose members aim at close research collaboration, including interdisciplinary collaboration, connecting persons from various organisational units of the University.

2. The team consists of maximum 15 members of the University academic staff. The team may also include PhD students and students of the University, who are not included when the number of team members is determined.

3. The members of the research team shall include all the academic staff members who will be involved in the work of the team starting from 1 January 2026, and the team leader and the deputy team leader shall be also specified.

4. A member of the academic staff, a doctoral student or student of the University may be a member of only one team in the call.

Chapter 3

The call proceedings

§ 3

1. The call is divided into two stages:

1) Stage I – submission and evaluation of preliminary applications and selection of winners eligible to participate in Stage II;

2) Stage II – submission of full applications by the leaders-winners of Stage I, evaluation of applications and selection of winners.

2. The detailed schedule and recruitment dates are specified in the call announcement available on the EI-RU (IDUB) website.

§ 4

1. In Stage I, preliminary applications, prepared in compliance with the template in Appendix No 1 to the Regulations, shall be submitted via email using the application form available on the EI-RU (IDUB) website after the call has been opened.

2. Applications submitted in English include:

1) specification of the priority research area to which the research team will be allocated,

- 2) name of the research team,
 - 3) name and last name of the project leader and a link to the leader's profile in the NCU Omega Database
 - 4) 5 key achievements of the leader,
 - 5) abstract and description of the project,
 - 6) specification of potential for success, including skills, experience, resources,
 - 7) specification of individual or research groups at the University with whom collaboration can be established under the project submitted,
 - 8) Personal Data Processing Consent and GDPR Compliance.
3. Applications submitted in Stage I are evaluated in formal and merit-based terms by the selection committee appointed by the Rector.
4. In the case of formal criteria, the "meets/does not meet" rule applies. The merit-based evaluation of the application is carried out in compliance with the following criteria:
- 1) evaluation of the project leader's potential: maximum score - 5 points,
 - 2) evaluation of the project: maximum score - 5 points,
 - 3) evaluation of skills, experience, resources ensuring the achievement of the project's intended objective: maximum score - 5 points,
 - 4) evaluation of potential as to collaboration with individuals or research groups at the NCU: maximum score - 5 points.
5. Applications that do not meet formal criteria are not subject to merit-based evaluation. In justified cases, it is possible to request the applicant to supplement the application within 2 working days.
6. The applications are evaluated and the ranking list is prepared by the selection committee, which recommends applications that were admitted to Stage 2 of the call.
7. The decision on a positive evaluation outcome and admission to Stage 2 of the call is made by the Rector on the basis of the ranking list.
8. The list of winners of Stage 1 is published on www.umk.pl/idub website within the time specified in the call schedule, and the applicants receive the decision by email to the address from which the application for the call was sent. The decision is sent along with an application evaluation form, in compliance with the template set out in Appendix 2 to the Regulations.
9. The applicant has the right to file a request for reconsideration in case of a negative decision of the Rector; it is to be submitted in writing at idub2@umk.pl within 7 days of the date of delivery of the decision.
10. The Rector's decision issued as a result of the request for reconsideration is final.

1. In Stage 2, full applications, prepared in compliance with the template in Appendix No 3 to the Regulations, are submitted via email through the application form available on the EI-RU (IDUB) website.

2. Applications prepared in English include:

- 1) specification of the priority research area to which the research team will be allocated;
- 2) the name of the research team and its members, the project leader (winner of Stage 1), deputy leader and all academic staff members included in it (maximum 15 persons), as well as links to the profiles of team members at the NCU Omega Database; teams may also include individuals who did not win Stage 1;
- 3) a list of key (maximum 20) research publications of team members in the last 10 years (2016-2025);
- 4) a list of key (maximum 10) scientific achievements of team members within the last 10 years (2016-2025), including research projects granted, scholarships, patents, or commercialisation of research results;
- 5) a list of key (maximum 10) scientific activities confirming collaboration with domestic and foreign partners; the name of the institution and the country of the partner should be provided;
- 6) a description of the project, along with a presentation of an innovative research concept within the PRA specified, strategic goals, and expected outcomes;
- 7) a description of the intended support for the development of young research academic staff, including young scholars up to 7 years after being awarded a doctoral degree, doctoral students and students;
- 8) a description of the team's potential collaboration within the University and beyond;
- 9) the requested amount (maximum PLN 200,000/year) and its intended purpose (e.g. implementation of research tasks, scholarships, mobility, equipment, remuneration);
- 10) Personal Data Processing Consent and GDPR Compliance of all academic staff members allocated to the team.

3. Applications submitted in Stage 2 are evaluated in formal and merit-based terms.

4. Formal evaluations is made by the selection committee referred to in Art. 4 Section 3. In the case of formal criteria, the "meets/does not meet" rule applies.

5. Merit-based evaluation is carried out by a team of external experts appointed by the Rector, according to the following criteria:

- 1) evaluation of the team (structure, publications and scientific achievements): maximum score - 25 points,
- 2) evaluation of collaboration with domestic and international partners: maximum score - 15 points,
- 3) evaluation of the project (plan, budget): maximum score - 30 points,
- 4) evaluation of the development of young research academic staff: maximum score - 15 points,

5) evaluation of intended collaboration within the University and outside the NCU: maximum score – 15 points.

6. Applications that do not meet formal criteria are not subject to merit-based evaluation. In justified cases, the applicant may be requested to supplement the application within 2 working days.

7. The team of external reviewers prepares a ranking list of applications and recommends the winners.

8. The decision on the selection of research teams and granting funding is made by the Rector based on the ranking list submitted.

9. The list of winners is published on www.umk.pl/idub website within the time specified in the call schedule, and the call participants receive the decision by email to the address from which the application for the call was sent. The decision is sent along with an application evaluation form, in compliance with the template set out in Appendix 4 to the Regulations

10. The applicant has the right to file a request for reconsideration in case of a negative decision of the Rector; it is to be submitted in writing at idub2@umk.pl within 7 days of the date of delivery of the decision

11. The Rector's decision issued as a result of the request for reconsideration is final.

Chapter 4

Monitoring the activity of research teams

§ 6

The operation of each research team within the PRA is to be reported annually and monitored by a committee appointed by the Rector, and is subject to its final evaluation.

Chapter 5

Processing of personal data

§ 7

1. The administrator of personal data is the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, seated at ul. Gagarina 11.

2. The purpose of personal data processing is to organise a call for the selection of research teams in priority research areas of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń.

3. Personal data are processed pursuant to Art. 6 Sec. 1 Point f) of the (EU) Regulation 2106/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (GDPR), i.e. in legitimate interest such as:

- 1) effective organisation of the call,
- 2) announcement of results of the call and granting awards or distinctions,
- 3) a possibility of contacts with the call participants.

4. After the call participant has expressed their consent, personal data are also processed for the purposes of publishing information about the winners along with the disclosure of their image. In the event of consent being expressed, the participant has the right to withdraw it at any time, yet without affecting the processing that was carried out before the consent's withdrawal.
5. Personal data are stored until the date of cessation of the possibility of pursuing claims in connection with the organisation of the call, however no longer than for one year from the date of the award ceremony.
6. The call participant has the right to request access to their personal data, its rectification, deletion, or restriction of data processing.
7. The call participant has the right to file objections to data processing.
8. Filing an objection to personal data processing will prevent participation in the call and does not have any other effects.
9. The call participant has the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority.
10. In order to contact the University in matters related to the processing of their personal data, in particular in connection with submitting an application to exercise their rights, the call participant should use the e-mail address: IOD@umk.pl or write to the address: Nicolaus Copernicus University (UMK w Toruniu), ul. Gagarina 11, 87-100 Toruń, with a note "IOD".

Chapter 6

Final provisions

§ 8

1. Any questions regarding the project can be directed to idub2@umk.pl .
2. Submitting an application is equivalent to accepting the Regulations.

§ 9

This regulation shall enter into force on 5 March 2025.

R E C T O R

prof. dr hab. Andrzej Tretyn

**A proposal to Stage 1 of the call for research teams
in priority research areas
of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń**

Priority research area (one of the areas to which the project is allocated)
<input type="checkbox"/> Discovery, Diagnostics, Therapy for Healthcare (D2TH) <input type="checkbox"/> Interfaces of Human Experience: Communication, Cognition, Culture, Wellbeing (InC3Web) <input type="checkbox"/> Nature-based Solutions, Biodiversity and Climate change (NatBio) <input type="checkbox"/> Novel Materials and Technologies for the Future (MoTIF)
Name of the research team
Project leader (degree/ title, name and last name, Faculty, 5 key achievements, link to NCU Omega Database, up to 200 words)
Abstract (abstract - max. 100 words; diagrams and figures may be attached as one separate image file)
Project description*
Potential for success* (skills, experience, resources ensuring the achievement of the project's intended objective)
Potential collaboration* (individuals or research teams at NCU with whom collaboration on the project may be established)
Attachments (PDF files):
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Data Processing Consent and GDPR Compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Image file with diagrams and figures (max. 1 standard A4 page)

* The overall number of characters in the project description, potential for success and potential collaboration cannot exceed 3,600 characters, including spaces and special characters (2 standard A4 pages)

.....
(the Applicant's signature)

EVALUATION FORM

**of a proposal to Stage 1 of the call for research teams in priority research areas
of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń**

Name of the research team:	
Name and last name of the team's leader:	
Formal criteria	
The proposal was submitted on time	YES NO
The proposal includes attachments required	YES NO
Formal eligibility check	The proposal meets formal criteria. The proposal does not meet formal criteria.
Merit-based evaluation	
1) evaluation of the project leader's potential	Score (maximum score - 5 points)
2) evaluation of the project	Score (maximum score - 5 points)
3) evaluation of skills, experience, resources ensuring the achievement of the project's intended objective	Score (maximum score - 5 points)
4) evaluation of potential as to collaboration with individuals or research teams at the NCU	Score (maximum score - 5 points)
	In total (maximum score - 20 points)
Decision of the Selection Committee:	

**A proposal to Stage 2 of the call for research teams
in priority research areas
of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń**

Priority research area (one of the areas to which the project is allocated)
<input type="checkbox"/> Discovery, Diagnostics, Therapy for Healthcare (D2TH) <input type="checkbox"/> Interfaces of Human Experience: Communication, Cognition, Culture, Wellbeing (InC3Web) <input type="checkbox"/> Nature-based Solutions, Biodiversity and Climate change (NatBio) <input type="checkbox"/> Novel Materials and Technologies for the Future (MoTIF)
Name of the research team
Research team members (degree/ title, name and last name, unit/ entity of the project's leader, the deputy leader and all the academic staff members in the team, and links to profiles of all team members in the NCU Omega Database)
The list of key research publications of the team members in the last 10 years (2016-2025); maximum 20 publications
The list of key (maximum 10) scientific achievements of the team members in the last 10 years (2016-2025), including research projects granted, scholarships, patents, or commercialisation of research results (1 standard A4 page)
The list of key (maximum 10) scientific activities confirming collaboration with domestic and foreign partners (the name of the institution and the country should be provided) (1 standard A4 page)
Description of the project, along with a presentation of an innovative research concept within the PRA specified, strategic goals, and expected outcomes (3 standard A4 pages)
Description of the intended support for the development of young research academic staff, including young scholars up to 7 years after being awarded a doctoral degree, doctoral students and students (1 standard A4 page)

Potential collaboration within the University and beyond the NCU (1 standard A4 page)
The requested amount (maximum PLN 200,000/year) and its intended purpose (e.g. implementation of research tasks, scholarships, mobility, equipment, remuneration) (1 standard A4 page)
Attachments (PDF files):
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Data Processing Consent and GDPR Compliance of all academic staff members in the team/ team members
<input type="checkbox"/> Image file with diagrams and figures (max. 1 standard A4 page)

.....
(the Applicant's signature)

EVALUATION FORM

**of a proposal to Stage 2 of the call for research teams in priority research areas
of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń**

Name of the research team:	
Name and last name of the team's leader:	
Formal criteria	
The proposal was submitted on time	YES NO
The proposal includes attachments required	YES NO
Formal eligibility check	The proposal meets formal criteria. The proposal does not meet formal criteria.
Merit-based evaluation	
1) evaluation of the team (structure, publications and scientific achievements): 2) evaluation of collaboration with domestic and international partners	Score (maximum score - 25 points) Score (maximum score - 15 points)
3) evaluation of the project (plan, the budget)	Score (maximum score - 30 points)
4) evaluation of the development of young research academic staff 5) evaluation of intended collaboration within the University and outside the NCU	Score (maximum score - 15 points) Score (maximum score - 15 points)
	In total (maximum score - 100 points)

Opinion of the reviewer/ the Selection Committee: