



LEGAL BULLETIN
NICOLAS COPERNICUS UNIVERSITY IN TORUŃ
Year 2026; item 22

ORDER No. 16

by the Rector of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

from 23rd January 2026.

**Regulations of the ‘Excellence Initiative – Expert’ Programme
for substantive support and mentoring provided by experienced researchers during the
preparation of project proposals in the process of applying for grants from external
funding sources, under the ‘Excellence Initiative – Research University’ (IDUB)
programme.**

Pursuant to Article 52.3 of Resolution No. 37 of the Senate of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń of 16 April 2019 – the Statute of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (NCU Legal Bulletin of 2024, item 10, as amended), in connection with Order No. 14 of the Rector of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń of 22 January 2026 on the Organisational Regulations and the Principles of Management of the ‘Excellence Initiative – Research University’ Programme at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (NCU Legal Bulletin of 2026, item 20).

it is provided as follows:

Article 1

The ‘Excellence Initiative – Expert’ Programme (ID–Expert), providing substantive support and mentoring from experienced researchers during the preparation of project proposals in the process of applying for grants from external funding sources, hereinafter referred to as the ‘Programme’, is implemented within the framework of the ‘Excellence Initiative – Research University’ (IDUB) programme, under which Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, hereinafter referred to as the ‘University’, was granted the status of a Research University by decision of the Minister of Science and Higher Education.

Article 2

1. The aim of the Programme is to establish a system of substantive support provided by more experienced researchers for academic teachers and doctoral students of the University who are preparing applications for research grants from external funding sources, as well as mentoring at the initial stage of grant implementation.
2. The support system is based on two pillars:
 - 1) A competition selecting a team of experts with experience in obtaining external funding for research purposes and in leading teams implementing externally funded research grants;
 - 2) A competition for individuals who wish to benefit from the expertise of the experts during the preparation of a research project in the process of applying for a grant from external funding sources.

Article 3

The recruitment of researchers referred to in Article 2.2.2, who wish to benefit from the support of the experts, is conducted on a rolling basis.

Article 4

1. Only academic teachers employed at the University, holding at least a doctoral degree, who have completed and properly accounted for at least one grant obtained in competitions organized by NCN, NCBiR, NPRH, NAWA, FNP, or within EU programmes, are eligible to participate in the competition for the selection of the ID–Expert team of experts referred to in Article 2.2.1.
2. Applications for the competition must be submitted in accordance with the template attached as Annex 1 to the Regulations, using the dedicated online form available on the IDUB Programme website.
3. The application shall be submitted in English and shall include:
 - 1) The applicant’s details (first name, last name, faculty, unit, scientific discipline, academic degree or title, phone number, email address);
 - 2) Information on the grants led by the applicant (ongoing and completed) (title, funding agency, type of competition, years of implementation, awarded amount, number of investigators, list of partners);
 - 3) An indication of the discipline or disciplines in which the applicant is competent and can provide assistance to a person preparing a grant application;
 - 4) An indication of the agencies and grant programmes (competitions) in which the applicant can provide support to a person preparing a grant application;
 - 5) An indication of the three most significant achievements obtained over the past 10 years;
 - 6) A signed statement of the applicant in accordance with Annex 5 to the Regulations.
4. Submitting an application shall be deemed as acceptance of the Regulations.
5. The application is subject to formal and substantive evaluation by the competent field council, within three groups of fields:
 - 1) Humanities, social sciences, and arts;
 - 2) Exact, natural, and technical sciences;
 - 3) Life sciences.
6. Applications that do not meet the formal requirements shall not undergo further substantive evaluation. In justified cases, the applicant may be requested to complete the application within 24 hours.
7. For the purposes of substantive evaluation, a 0–100 point scale shall be applied.
8. Each field council shall prepare a ranking list of competition participants, which shall be submitted to the Rector through the Chair of the Coordinating Team.
9. The Coordinating Team reviews the ranking lists submitted by the field councils and recommends the competition winners who achieved the highest results in the selection process.
10. The competition is decided by the Rector by way of a decision.
11. Information on the outcome of the competition shall be sent to the applicant by email, to the address from which the application was submitted.
12. The list of experts and information on the scope of their competencies (names of agencies, programmes, and disciplines in which they can provide support) shall be published on the IDUB Programme website.

Article 5

1. Academic teachers and doctoral students of the University are eligible to participate in the competition to receive substantive support from the experts.
2. Applications for the competition must be submitted in accordance with the template attached as Annex 2 to the Regulations, using the dedicated online form available on the IDUB Programme website. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
3. The application shall be submitted in English and shall include:
 - 1) The applicant's details (first name, last name, faculty, unit, scientific discipline, academic degree or title, career stage, phone number, email address);
 - 2) A list of the most important publications from the past 5 years (no more than 10);
 - 3) The name of the agency, the application submission deadline, and the type of grant competition in which the applicant intends to submit a grant proposal;
 - 4) A brief description of the subject of the application;
 - 5) An indication of up to 3 experts from the list of experts whose experience the applicant wishes to utilize;
 - 6) A commitment to participate in the relevant training organized within the framework of this Programme;
 - 7) A commitment to submit a grant application to an external research funding institution.
4. The submitted application is reviewed by an expert designated from among those proposed in the application. Upon the expert's approval of the application, the Rector shall decide to assign the applicant to the expert for mentorship.
5. A single expert may mentor a maximum of five individuals at the same time.
6. Winners of the 'Excellence Initiative – Debuts' competition shall have priority in receiving support from the experts.

Article 6

1. The responsibilities of the expert include:
 - 1) Assistance in preparing the substantive part of the application, *i.e.*, reviewing the application at least twice and suggesting improvements;
 - 2) Supporting the implementation of the project during the initial stages (maximum of 3 months) in the event that the individual under the expert's mentorship is awarded a grant;
 - 3) Assistance in analysing the weaknesses of the grant application and in preparing a revised version of the proposal in the event the grant is not awarded.
 - 4) Preparing a final report on the collaboration with the supervisee in accordance with the template attached as Annex 3 to the Regulations and submitting it to the email address: ekspert@umk.pl.
2. The expert shall receive a task allowance of PLN 2,000 gross for providing support to each supervisee who submits a grant application to external funding sources, upon submission of the final report referred to in Article 6.4.

Article 7

The responsibilities of the supervisee include:

- 1) Submitting the prepared substantive part of the application to the expert twice for review;
- 2) Submitting the administrative part of the application to the appropriate section of the Research and Projects Support Department or another relevant administrative unit no later than three weeks before the submission deadline;
- 3) Submitting the grant application to the selected agency under the appropriate programme;
- 4) In the event of being awarded a grant, participating in training on project management;

- 5) Preparing a brief final report on the collaboration with the expert after receiving the decision from the funding agency, in accordance with the template attached as Annex No. 4 to the Regulations, and submitting it no later than two weeks after receiving the agency's decision to the email address: ekspert@umk.pl. Failure to submit the final report will result in ineligibility to participate in future competitions under the IDUB Programme.

Article 8

1. A written request for reconsideration of the matter may be submitted against the Rector's decision within seven days of the announcement of the results to the email address: ekspert@umk.pl. The request may be based solely on a violation of the rules governing the conduct of the competition.
2. The Rector's decision following the consideration of the request shall be final.

Article 9

Order No. 20 of the Rector of NCU of 12 February 2024 – the Regulations of the 'Excellence Initiative – Expert' Programme for substantive support and mentoring by experienced researchers during the preparation of project proposals in the process of applying for grants from external funding sources under the 'Excellence Initiative – Research University' (IDUB) Programme (NCU Legal Bulletin of 2024, item 43) is hereby repealed.

Article 10

The Order shall enter into force on 23 January 2026.

RECTOR

Prof. dr hab. Andrzej Tretyn