

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE BEKKER NAWA
PROGRAMME no. 12/2026 of March 13, 2026**

I. SCOPE OF RECRUITMENT

Pursuant to Article 19(1) of the Act on the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange of July 7, 2017, the Director of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange hereby announces a call for applications for participation in the Bekker NAWA Programme (hereinafter referred to as the "Programme").

II. PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

2.1. Programme objective

The objective of the Programme is to support PhD students, scientists and academic teachers from Polish science and higher education institutions in their efforts to achieve scientific excellence by financing stays at renowned foreign research and academic centres around the world. The Programme offers Scholarship Holders the opportunity to complete part of their doctoral education or research work together with outstanding scientists from abroad and to establish long-term relationships with foreign research teams.

2.2. Eligible Applicants

2.2.1. The following are eligible to apply for participation in the Programme:

- 1) person who permanently resides in Poland and:
 - a) is a doctoral student studying at a doctoral school referred to in the Act of July 20, 2018, Law on Higher Education and Science or.
 - b) is a scientist, which means. a person with at least a doctoral degree or an equivalent degree obtained abroad, whose primary place of employment (at the time of submitting an application) is the entity referred to in Art. 7(1) points 1,2 and 4-7 of u.p.s.w.n. (a "visiting" position does not constitute employment requirements),
- 2) person who has at least 1 achievement in the case of a doctoral student or 3 achievements in the case of persons with a doctoral degree in the last 5 years (counted from the beginning of 2021) from those listed below:
 - a) a publication with international scope (or confirmation of acceptance for publication) in journals included in one of the international databases: Scopus, Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, Arts & Humanities Citation Index, ERIH+ or
 - b) a peer-reviewed scientific monograph published or accepted for publication (reviewing a multi-authored monograph does not meet the achievement requirement), or
 - c) a publication in reviewed materials from an international conference included in The Computing Research and Education Association of Australasia (CORE), as was indexed in the international database DBLP Computer Science Bibliography, or

- d) a publication) in reviewed materials from an international conference indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection or Scopus or IEEE Xplore database , or
 - e) for representatives of the field of art – a documented presentation of works in a foreign cultural institution or academic centre or receiving an award or distinction in an international competition or festival.
- 1) An applicant may demonstrate 3 achievements under the same item (a, b, c, d or e) as well as various achievements from those indicated in points a-e.
- 2.2.2. The programme is open to representatives of all fields of science. Representatives of the arts may participate in the programme, provided that the activities planned in the project are of a scientific nature..
- 2.2.3. An application for the Programme cannot be submitted by a person who has already submitted an application for another Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange scholarship programme until it is resolved with a final and binding negative decision. The beneficiary of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange scholarship programme cannot submit an application until the scholarship is settled and the contract is considered executed.
- 2.2.4. Bekker NAWA Programme Scholarship Holders may reapply after a waiting period lasting two consecutive recruitment rounds following the submission of a final report on the implementation of their previous project under the above-mentioned programme..
- 2.2.5. Due to the cessation of cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Russian Federation under the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Science and Education, concluded in Warsaw on August 25, 1993, resulting from the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine excludes from participation in the Program natural persons who are citizens of the Russian Federation Russian Federation, as well as institutions and other entities based on the territory of the Russian Federation in the role of a Host centre.

2.3. Thematic scope of activities implemented under the Programme

The Program eligible activities include international mobility activities consisting of internships and conducting scientific research or development work that is crucial at a given stage of one's career.. As a supplement, other forms of scientific or academic activity are also possible, including teaching or lecturing..

2.4. Deadline and other conditions for submitting an application

2.4.1. Deadline for submitting the application.

The call for applications will be open until **May 29th 2026 3:00 PM** according to the official time in Poland.

2.4.2. How to submit an application

Only in electronic form via the Agency's IT system: <https://programs.nawa.gov.pl>.

2.4.3. The language in which the application must be completed

The application must be completed in English. Applications submitted in any other language will not be considered.

Publications should be presented in Polish or English. Attaching publications in other languages is allowed only if the language of the text is the primary language of the publication for a given discipline and the publication itself meets the conditions described in point 2.2 of the Announcement.

2.4.4. Maximum number of applications that an Applicant may submit

Each Applicant may submit only one application for funding in a given call under the Programme, covering a visit to one host institution.

If more than one application is submitted, the application submitted last according to the time of submission in the NAWA ICT system will be subject to evaluation.

2.5. Implementation time frame

2.5.1. Programme implementation period

From March 1st 2027 to December 31st 2029.

2.5.2. Project implementation period (contract period)

- 2.5.2.1. The Project implementation planned in the application should start between March 1st, 2027, and October 1st, 2027. The Agency reserves the right to pay funds no earlier than March 15th 2027. We recommend to take it into consideration while planning mobility period.
- 2.5.2.2. The project implementation period/contract period includes the mobility period (period of stay in the host institution) plus 3 months. The project must be implemented within the Programme implementation period.
- 2.5.2.3. The applicant specifies the duration of mobility (stay at the host institution) in the application, stating the number of full months. Mobility may be carried out for a period of not shorter than 3 months and not longer than 24 months¹.
- 2.5.2.4. Mobility should be implemented on a continuous basis, although it is allowed to suspend the Project for a total period not exceeding 3 months. No funding is provided for the period of suspension.
- 2.5.2.5. The permissible period of stay outside the host institution is not longer than 10% of the total stay. The period of stay outside the host institution cannot be used at the beginning or end of the Project implementation period (it cannot be used to shorten the Project implementation period).

¹ Przy obliczaniu czasu trwania Projektu stosuje się zasady wynikające z Kodeksu cywilnego, przy czym za ostatni dzień miesiąca uznaje się dzień poprzedzający dzień upływu terminu określony zgodnie z tymi zasadami. Np. 36 miesięcy od dnia 1 lipca 2025 r. upływie 30 czerwca 2028 r.

2.6. List of information and attachments required in the application

2.6.1. The application must include all information required in the application form.

2.6.2. The following documents must be attached to the application in the form:

- 1) an invitation from the host institution issued during the call for applications period, confirming the will to accept the Applicant. The invitation should be prepared on the letterhead of the host institution in accordance with the template included in Appendix to the Announcement;
- 2) copies of the Applicant's required achievements. In the case of publication, the full text of the publication must be attached, and in the case of a publication accepted for publication, a confirmation must be attached. In the case of a monograph, please attach a file containing the title page, the ISBN number page, the editorial page, the table of contents and a selection of fragments containing the author's most important theses - a total of no more than 20 pages. In the case of representatives of the field of art, a copy of the catalog with an ISBN number confirming the presentation of the work in a foreign institution or academic centre, or a copy of an award in an international competition, or other formal confirmation of artistic achievement should be attached;
- 3) in the case of doctoral students:
 - a) a document confirming the status of a doctoral student,
 - b) an opinion of the supervisor at the doctoral school about the candidate and the planned project/programme of the visit;
- 4) in the case of persons with a doctoral degree:
 - a) a document confirming the Applicant holds a doctoral degree, together with an officially certified translation into English or Polish, if the original language is other than English or Polish,
 - b) a certificate from the human resources department confirming the period and form of employment. The document should have the current date (not earlier than the date of announcement of the recruitment – issued in Polish.

Attachments should be provided in written or electronic form. In the case of written form, a scan of the document with a handwritten signature is acceptable, while electronic form requires the document to be certified with a qualified electronic signature.

2.7. Procedure for assessing and selecting applications for financing

2.7.1. General assumptions

Applications are subject to formal and merit-based assessment in accordance with the Regulations of NAWA programmes for natural persons.

2.7.2. Eligibility check of submitted proposals

Its purpose is to determine whether the submitted application is complete and meets the formal requirements specified in the Announcement.

The application may also be left without consideration for formal reasons at a later stage of assessment.

2.7.3. Merit-based assessment

Merit-based assessment includes the following stages:

- 1) preliminary assessment of applications made by the Assessment Team. Applications that do not receive a recommendation from the Assessment Team at this stage are not referred for further assessment;
- 2) two Reviewers assessment ;
- 3) final assessment by the Evaluation Team.

The merit-based assessment criteria	Preliminary assessment of the Assessment Team	Reviewers (the arithmetic mean of both scores is taken into account)	Evaluation Team
1. The Applicant's scientific or academic career and scientific accomplishments, <i>– What extent is the Applicant's scientific output recognized in the context of the stage of their scientific career?</i>	15	15	-
2. Justification for choosing the host institution for the Project implementation <i>– What extent is the host centre suited to the activities planned in the Project?</i> <i>– The host institution assesment, including its international recognition and importance to the discipline</i> <i>– The scientific standing of the supervisor assesment(their international recognition in the discipline)</i> <i>– Assesment of achievements of the team in which the Applicant plans to implement the Project</i>	-	10	10
3. Scientific quality of the Project – scope and method of implementation of planned activities <i>What is the scientific level of the Project including:</i> <i>– originality of the subject of the Project</i> <i>– correctness and novelty of the Project's assumptions</i> <i>– adequacy and timeliness of research tools and methods Project's planned results potencial risks and proposed countermeasures</i> <i>– adequacy of Project implementation period to the planned activities.</i>	-	10	15
4. Potential impact of participation in the Programme on the Applicant's further scientific career and the role of the Project in the advancement of sciencee <i>To what extent can the implementation of the Project influence the development of research in its discipline, strengthen Poland's presence in global science, and develop the Applicant's scientific career?</i>	-	10	15

The merit-based assessment criteria	Preliminary assessment of the Assessment Team	Reviewers (the arithmetic mean of both scores is taken into account)	Evaluation Team
TOTAL:	15	45	40
Maximum points			100

2.8. Amount of funds available in the Call Recruitment

The amount of funds allocated for the implementation of the Programme is 20 000 000 PLN, with 4 000 000 PLN for doctoral students and 16 000 000 PLN for persons with a PhD. The Agency reserves the right to change the amount of the above funds, as well as not to use the full allocation.

2.9. Project budget

2.9.1. Project budget includes:

- 1) The scholarship for each month of Scholarship Holder's stay in the host institution in amount:
 - a) 3 750 zł for a doctoral student or
 - b) 7 500 zł for a person with a PHD.
- 2) The Applicant specifies the length of stay in the Application, stating the number of full months of stay. A Lump sum for living and accommodation costs for each month of the Scholarship Holder's stay in the country where the host institution is located:

	GROUP OF COUNTRIES	COUNTRIES	MONTHLY RATE IN PLN
I	Countries with lower costs of living and accommodation	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Egypt, Georgia, India, Lithuania, Latvia, Morocco, Moldova, Romania, , Ukraine, Vietnam and other countries of the world. ²	4 000
II	Countries with average costs of living and accommodation	Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, France, Greece, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Germany, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain, Monaco, Vatican City State, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand, Turkey, Hungary, Italy, Uzbekistan	6 000

² Excluding group II,III and IV countries

III	Countries with higher costs of living and accommodation	Saudi Arabia, Australia, Bahrain, Brunei, China, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Hong Kong, Japan, Canada, Qatar, South Korea, North Korea, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macau, Mexico, Norway, New Zealand, Oman, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Faroe Islands, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates	8 000
IV	Countries with the highest costs of living and accommodation	United States of America, ,	12 000

- 3) Lump sum for travel costs – depending on the country to which the Scholarship Holder goes

Country	Rate in PLN
Belarus, Lithuania	1000
Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Moldova, Germany, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine, Hungary	1500
Albania, Andorra, Belgium, Bulgaria, Montenegro, France, Greece, Netherlands, Ireland, Kosovo, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Monaco, Norway, Russia, San Marino, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Vatican City, United Kingdom, Italy	2000
Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Georgia, Spain, Iraq, Iran, Iceland, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Faroe Islands	3000
Afghanistan, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, India, Yemen, Cameroon, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Congo, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Central African Republic, Cape Verde, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire, Sao Tome and Principe, United Arab Emirates	4500
Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Chile, China, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eswatini, Fiji, Philippines, Hong Kong, Grenada, Guyana, Guatemala, Haiti , Honduras, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Cambodia, Canada, Kiribati, Colombia, Comoros, South Korea, North Korea, Costa Rica, Cuba, Laos, Lesotho, Madagascar, Macau, Malawi, Maldives, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Myanmar, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, South Africa, Saint Kitts Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, El Salvador, Samoa, Seychelles, Singapore , Sri Lanka, United States,	6500

Suriname, Thailand, Taiwan, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Zambia, Zimbabwe

- 2.9.2. The rules for settling scholarships and lump sums for living and accommodation costs are set out in the Regulations of the National Agency for Academic Exchange Programs for natural persons – in Chapter V, point 2.1, whereby the condition for the settlement of funds is the actual completion of the international mobility referred to in point 2.1.
- 2.9.3. The lump sum for travel expenses is the total amount for a round trip.
- 2.9.4. If a Scholarship Holder has a certificate of severe or moderate disability, the lump sum for living and accommodation costs may be increased by PLN 2,000 per month at the Scholarship Holder's request.=
- 2.9.5. A monthly allowance in amount of PLN 2,000 is available for each month of the Scholarship Holder's stay if the Scholarship Holder has an underage child or children. The allowance is due regardless of whether the children participate in the trip to the host centre. The birth of a child after the application is submitted does not entitle to apply for increased funding.
- 2.9.6. The full monthly amount of the scholarship, lump sum for living and accommodation costs is payable if the stay of the Applicant is 15 days or more in accordance with the final report. In case of less than 15 days, half the rate applies. Sample calculation of the amount of financing due calculated as part of the verification of the final report:
- 1) if an Applicant planned a 7-month stay in the application and the actual stay lasted 6 months and 14 days, they will receive the amount for 6.5 months,
 - 2) if if an Applicant planned a 7-month stay in the application and the actual stay lasted 6 months and 17 days, they will receive the amount for 7 full months of stay
 - 3) if an Applicant planned 7 months of stay in the application, and the actual stay lasted 7 months and 2 days, they will receive the amount for 7 full months of stay - i.e. the maximum amount indicated in the application.,
- 2.9.7. Insurance and visa costs, if required, are borne by the Scholarship Holder.
- 2.9.8. Financial resources under the Programme mean the funds referred to in Art. 18(2) point 1 of u.n.a.w.a. Pursuant to Art. 21(1) point 39a of the Act of 26 July 1991 on personal income tax, the funds are free of income tax.
- 2.9.9. The Programme does not provide financial resources for institutions (indirect costs) or research costs (e.g. materials, reagents or participation in conferences). The costs of research and other expenses must be covered from other sources

2.10. Payment schemes

Payments will be transferred to the Scholarship Holder's bank account kept at a bank operating in the territory of the Republic of Poland and made as follows:

- 1) Scheme of payments for Projects lasting up to 12 months - scheme B in accordance with the Regulations of the programmes of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange for natural persons:

- a) advance payment - in the amount of 90% of the total financing amount, transferred to the Scholarship Holder's bank account, after signing the Scholarship agreement but not sooner than 3 months before Project start date;
 - b) balancing payment – in the amount of up to 10% of the total financing amount, transferred within 30 days from the date of approval of the final report by the Agency;
- 2) Scheme of payments for Projects lasting over 12 months - scheme C in accordance with the Regulations of the programmes of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange for natural persons:
- a) an advance payment of 60% of the total financing amount, transferred to the Scholarship Holder's bank after signing the Scholarship agreement but not sooner than 3 months before Project start date;
 - b) interim payment – in the amount of 30% of the total financing amount, transferred within 30 days from the date of acceptance of the interim report. The report is assessed within 45 days from the date of submission of the complete report;
 - c) balancing payment – in the amount of up to 10% of the total financing amount, transferred within 30 days from the date of approval of the final report by the Agency.

2.11. Submitting reports and verifying them

- 2.11.1. A Scholarship Holder is obliged to submit reports on the implementation of the Project via the Agency's ICT system and to provide confirmation of the commencement of activities at the Host Centre:
- 1) **Confirmation** of the start of mobility by the Scholarship Holder, issued within 1 month of the start of the Project, signed by a Representative of the Host Centre.
 - 2) An **interim report** is submitted only in the case of Projects longer than 12 months within 14 days after the expiry of half of the Project implementation period in accordance with the report template.
 - 3) The **final report** is submitted within 30 days from the end of the Project in accordance with the report template.
- 2.11.2. A properly prepared report is subject to verification by the Agency and acceptance in terms of compliance of the Project with the Agreement. The information contained in the report is used to assess the reliability and correctness of the implementation of the activities planned in the Project and the financial resources spent, as well as validity of any changes introduced during the mobility.
- 2.11.3. In the final report, the Scholarship Holder takes into account any deviations that occurred during the mobility, affecting the amount of funding granted, especially those related to the shortening the mobility.
- 2.11.4. The funding awarded, which is a summary of lump sum amounts, will be treated as incurred expenditure. As part of lump sum amounts, the Scholarship Holder is not obliged to collect and present accounting evidence to confirm expenses.
- 2.11.5. A Scholarship Holder is obliged to keep documents confirming travel to and from the place where the Host Centre is located and provide them at Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange's request.

2.11.6. Unused or incorrectly used funds are deducted from the balancing payment or returned to the Agency's bank account within 14 days from the date of request for a return, if the amount exceeds the amount of the balancing payment.

2.12. Obligations of the Scholarship Holder

2.12.1. Obligations of the Scholarship Holder are:

- 1) To possess of at least basic health insurance for all participants of the trip, including in particular insurance for the costs of treatment and transport to the hospital, including the stay in the host facility and the trip there and the return trip to Poland; if the host centre is located in a member country of the European Union or the European Free Trade Association, the EHIC card (European Health Insurance Card) or any other policy covering the indicated scope of protection is recognized as part of the confirmation of health insurance;
- 2) To submit timely required reports;
- 3) To achieve of the Project results planned in the application;
- 4) To inform the Agency about changes in the implementation of the Project
- 5) To inform the Agency about your particular scientific, teaching and other successes
- 6) To execute properly the scholarship agreement, in particular settlement of the granted funds

2.12.2. The Scholarship Holder may additionally be employed in the host centre if required by the regulations in force there.

2.12.3. The Scholarship Holder is obliged to immediately inform the Agency about any problems or irregularities in the implementation of the Project, including any dispute with the host centre, which threaten or may threaten the proper implementation of the planned activities.

2.13. Additional information

2.13.1. The time frame specified for presenting the Applicant's scientific or artistic achievements may be extended if the Applicant was on maternity leave, leave on the terms of maternity leave, paternity leave, parental leave, or childcare leave, granted under the terms of the Act of June 26, 1974 – Labor Code, or periods of receiving maternity allowance or parental benefit, or periods of receiving sickness allowance or rehabilitation benefit in connection with incapacity for work, including that caused by an illness requiring medical rehabilitation. In the case of women, the period may be extended by 18 months for each child born or adopted. The candidate may choose the most advantageous way of indicating breaks in their academic career. If this option is used, the Agency should be informed of this in the application.

2.13.2. An applicant with a moderate or severe disability certificate who wishes to receive an additional lump sum for living and accommodation costs may include a relevant statement in their application. This information will be processed by the Agency on the basis of Article 9(1)(a) of the GDPR in conjunction with Article 6(1) letter d of the GDPR for the purpose of issuing a decision on the granting of the additional lump sum referred to in point 2.9(3)(4) of this Call.

2.13.3. The Agency reserves the right to cancel or shorten the Recruitment Process, in particular in the event of significant changes in the law affecting the implementation of the Recruitment Process,

events of major force, or in other justified cases.

2.14. Planned date for announcing results of the recruitment

The announcement of the results of the Call is planned up to January 31, 2027

2.15. Source of the financing for the Programme

National measures.

III. Appendices

Appendices for the Call are:

- 1) Regulations of the Programmes of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange Programmes for natural persons;
- 2) Model Agreement;
- 3) Model invitation from the Host Centre
- 4) Model thesis advisor's opinion
- 5) Model certification of doctoral student status
- 6) Model opinion of the supervisor at the host institution
- 7) Model reports
- 8) Model Application form

IV. Contact the Agency

For additional information, please contact us (working days, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.):

Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange

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