

# ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM No. 41/2024 of December 5, 2024

## I. SCOPE OF THE CALL

Pursuant to Article 19 section 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 announces a call for applications for participation in the outgoing mobility program for doctoral students, scientists and academic teachers - the Walczak NAWA (hereinafter referred to as the "Programme"). The program is a joint initiative of the Medical Research Agency (hereinafter "ABM") and the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (hereinafter "Agency"), implemented by the Agency on behalf of the Minister of Health.

## II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### 2.1. Aim of the Program

The aim of the Program is to strengthen the potential of Polish scientific units and healthcare entities by supporting the international mobility of PhD students, scientists and academic teachers with respect to medical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences and health sciences. Expected result of the Program is the improvement of the health care system in Poland. People implementing Projects under the Program have the opportunity to conduct scientific research, learn good research or clinical practices, learn new methods and technologies, or obtain materials for developing a teaching program or scientific work. Mobility may be carried out with the participation of centers around the world that conduct research, teaching or activities related to the provision of health services in connection with scientific activities.

### 2.2. Eligible Applicants

1. The program is addressed to people with Polish citizenship, foreigners who have a Pole's card or a permanent residence card in Poland with the exclusion of citizens of Russian Federation.
2. The following may apply for participation in the Program:
  - 1) a doctoral student studying at a doctoral school referred to in the Act of July 20, 2018, Law on Higher Education and Science (hereinafter referred to as "u.p.s.w.n."), in the disciplines of medical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences or health sciences within the meaning of the Decree of the Minister of Education and Science of October 11, 2022 on scientific fields and disciplines and artistic disciplines;
  - 2) a person with at least a doctoral degree in the field of medical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences or health sciences (or an equivalent degree obtained abroad), whose place of employment is:
    - a) a healthcare entity referred to in the Act of 15 April 2011 on medical activities providing healthcare services financed from public funds or
    - b) entity referred to in Art. 7 section 1 of u.p.s.w.n.
3. The condition for participation in the call is that the Applicant must demonstrate the following number of publications in English, published or accepted for publication in journals indexed in the *Journal Citation Reports* database (with the *Impact Factor*):

- 1) in the case of PhD students - at least 1 publication;
- 2) in the case of people with at least a doctoral degree - at least 2 publications.
4. The Applicant cannot be employed or carry out a postdoctoral internship at the host institution at the time of submitting the application.
5. The internship may be carried out in a host institution carrying out research, didactic or health care activities in conjunction with scientific activities located in any country except the Russian Federation.
6. The Applicant cannot be a beneficiary of the Walczak NAWA Program of the 2023 edition.

### 2.3. Deadline and other conditions for submitting the application

Application submission deadline	The call for applications will be open <b>until February 28, 2025 at 3:00 PM</b> according to the official time in Poland.
How to submit an application	Only within electronic form in the Agency's IT system: <a href="#">FILL IN THE APPLICATION</a>
Language in which the application must be developed	The application must be completed in English. Exceptions include appendices to the application, they may be submitted in Polish or English.
Maximum number of applications that an Applicant may submit	An Applicant may submit only one application for funding in a given call for applications under the Program, covering mobility to one foreign host center. If more than one application is submitted, the application submitted last according to the time of submission in the Agency's IT system will be evaluated. <b>NOTE:</b> An application under the Programme cannot be submitted by a person who has already submitted an application under another Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange scholarship programme until it is resolved with a negative decision, and 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.

### 2.4. Thematic scope of activities implemented under the Program

1. The following activities are possible under the Program:
  - 1) **international mobility to pursue an educational path** – during which it will be possible, in particular, to become acquainted with the models and curriculum of the host institution, and to obtain materials for the development of a teaching program;
  - 2) **international mobility to pursue a scientific path** – under which it will be possible, in particular, to conduct part of scientific research using the infrastructure at the host center, gain new professional and scientific experience, learn good research, laboratory, diagnostic or clinical practices, learn new methods and technologies at the host center, obtain materials for scientific work;
  - 3) **international mobility to pursue a clinical path** – within which it will be possible, in particular, to gain new professional and scientific experience, learn good research, laboratory, diagnostic or clinical practices, and learn new methods and technologies in the host center.

2. An Applicant presents a stay plan covering one leading activity that they intend to implement at the hosting center, indicating their goals, significance for the development of their scientific career and justifying the choice of the host center for the planned activities and benefits of the stay for both the scientist and the parent unit.

## 2.5. Implementation time frame

Program implementation period	From July 1, 2025 to October 1, 2026
Project implementation period (contract validity period)	The Project implementation period includes the mobility period plus 3 months. The project must be implemented within the Program implementation period.
Length of mobility	From 1 to 6 months. Mobility must be completed during the Project implementation period (agreement validity period).
Implementation of mobility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Implementation must be continuous, with the exception of those specified in points 2 and 3.</li> <li>2) The permissible period of stay outside the host facility is no longer than 10% of the total length of stay. The period of stay outside the host facility cannot be used at the beginning or end of the Project implementation period (it cannot be used to shorten the Project implementation period).</li> <li>3) It is permissible to suspend the implementation of the Project for a total period of no longer than 3 months. Suspension is possible during the term of the agreement. During the suspension period of the Project, funding is not available. Suspension is not permissible if the length of mobility is one month.</li> </ol>

## 2.6. List of information required in the application and application appendices

1. Scientific CV of the Applicant in accordance with the application form.
2. An invitation from the hosting center confirming the willingness to host the Applicant for the requested period. The invitation should be prepared on the letterhead of the hosting facility in accordance with the model included in Appendix 2 to the Call. The document should be dated (not earlier than the call announcement date) and signed by the substantive supervisor and the person holding a managerial position at the host center.
3. A document confirming the status of a doctoral student at a doctoral school or holding an academic degree/title (if the diploma has not yet been issued, you can attach a resolution of the council of the competent authority awarding the doctoral degree).
4. In the case of persons other than a doctoral student, a certificate confirming the period and place of employment in Poland in accordance with point 2.2 of the Call.
5. In the case of a doctoral student, the supervisor's opinion about the candidate and the planned project/mobility program.
6. Copies of full texts of publications meeting the conditions in point 2.2 point 3 of the Call.

## 2.7. Application evaluation and selection procedure

General assumptions	Applications are subject to formal and merit-based evaluation in accordance with the Regulations of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange programs for natural persons (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulations") constituting an appendix to the Call.
Formal evaluation	It is carried out in accordance with the principles set out in Chapter IV section 5 point 5.1 of the Regulations. If an incomplete application is submitted, NAWA calls on the Applicant to complete the application within 14 days after receiving the call.
Merit-based evaluation	<p>The merit-based evaluation is carried out by the Evaluation Team on the basis of the evaluation criteria in accordance with Chapter IV section 5 point 5.2 of the Regulations.</p> <p>The Evaluation Team consists of experts appointed by the Agency's Director pursuant to Art. 22 section 3 of u.n.a.w.a. Candidates for experts may be proposed by ABM.</p> <p>If the Applicant is found to have violated ethical principles or is unreliable in preparing the application, or if the application is found to be inconsistent with the Program objectives specified in point 2.1 of the Call, the Evaluation Team may award the application a score of 0 (zero), justifying such a decision in a dedicated field on the application evaluation card. In such a case, the application cannot be qualified for funding.</p>

### MERIT-BASED EVALUATION

	Criterion	Points
1	The Applicant's scientific achievements, work experience and professional career path, in relation to the career stage.	20
2	Reputation and scientific level of the host center, research team and its leader, adequacy of the choice of the center to the planned activities.	20
3	<p>The value of the Project for improving the health care system in Poland.</p> <p>In case of the path:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) scientific: the scientific value of the project is considered, taking into account the impact on the development of the scientific field/discipline.</li> <li>2) clinic: the practical (applicable) value of the project is considered, taking into account the impact on the organization of work, procedures, treatments, techniques, processes, technologies, tools, resources, systems and other activities used for the prevention, diagnosis and therapy of a given disease entity.</li> <li>3) didactic: the value in terms of modification of the study program, new didactic forms, teaching materials, proposals for a new lecture within the existing medical/pharmaceutical/health sciences curriculum is considered.</li> </ol> <p>The following elements of the applications are considered: adequacy of the Project's length with respect to planned activities and possible procedures at the</p>	40

	host institution, the scope of planned activities, the methods used, planned results.	
4	The impact of participation in the Program on the further development of the Applicant's career path and the possibility of using the acquired knowledge and skills in the home unit.	20
	<b>Total</b>	100

## 2.8. Amount of funds available in the Call

The total allocation for the call is PLN **3,600,000**, but the Agency reserves the right to change it.

## 2.9. Project budget

When preparing the application, the Applicant takes into account the following principles:

### 1) SCHOLARSHIP

CATEGORY OF AUTHORIZED PERSONS	MONTHLY RATE IN PLN
DOCTORAL STUDENT	3 750
A PERSON WITH A PHD	7 500

### 2) LUMP SUM FOR LIVING AND ACCOMMODATION COSTS

GROUP OF COUNTRIES	COUNTRIES	MONTHLY RATE IN PLN
Countries with lower costs of living and accommodation	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Egypt, Georgia, India, Lithuania, Latvia, Morocco, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam and other countries of the world not listed in other country groups.	4 000
Countries with average costs of living and accommodation	Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Northern Macedonia, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain, Monaco, Vatican City State, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, Uzbekistan	6 000
Countries with higher costs of living and accommodation	Saudi Arabia, Australia, Bahrain, Brunei, China, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, 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
Countries with the highest cost of living and accommodation	United States of America, Israel	12 000

**3) LUMP SUM FOR TRAVEL COSTS (both ways)**

Countries	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, San Marino, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Vatican City, United Kingdom, Italy, Faroe Islands	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	3000
Afghanistan, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Democratic Republic of 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, São Tomé and Príncipe, 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, Grenada, Guyana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, 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, Suriname, Thailand, Taiwan, Tanzania Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Zambia, Zimbabwe	6500

**4) FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

One-time financial support	Unit rate	20 000 PLN
Monthly financial support	Unit rate	10 000 PLN

One-off financial support in the amount of PLN 20,000 is available to a Fellow implementing a project lasting more than 3 months as part of a scientific path for expenses related to the implementation of research work. If your stay is shortened, you are not entitled to support and the support granted is refundable.

The rates calculated in points 1 and 2 and the monthly financial support indicated in point 4 apply to each full month of stay at the host facility. The Applicant specifies the length of stay in the application, specifying the number of full months of stay.

A one-off lump sum for travel costs is a funding for a round-trip travel expenses and is due only for completed trips. The Fellow at the Projects settlement stage may be asked to provide copies of the documents confirming travel.

The rules for settling the Project are specified in Chapter VI of the Regulations, and the condition for qualifying the settlement of funds is the actual completion of international mobility referred to in point 2.4.

In the event of shortening the duration of mobility, the full monthly rate of the scholarship, lump sum for living and accommodation costs and monthly financial support is due when the Applicant's stay, according to the final report, is 15 days or more. In case of less than 15 days, half the rate applies.

**Sample calculation:**

- 1) if the Applicant planned four months of stay in the application and the actual stay lasted 3 months and 14 days, they will receive the amount for 3.5 months,
- 2) if the Applicant planned four months of stay in the application and the actual stay lasted 3 months and 17 days, they will receive the amount for 4 full months of stay.

A full month is defined in accordance with Article 112 of the Civil Code: "A term defined in weeks, months or years shall end with the expiration of the day which by name or date corresponds to the initial day of the term, and if there was no such day in the last month - on the last day of that month. [...]".

For example, the period from March 1 to April 1 of a given year or from August 15 to September 15 is considered as 1 full month. Projects involving mobility lasting 1 month are an exception to the rule on preferential charging of monthly rates (above and below 15 days), which applies only to mobility longer than 1 month (charging after the first full month). The implementation of a stay of one full month is the minimum program requirement to qualify any costs.

In the event of a change in the status of the Fellow (e.g. obtaining a PhD degree), the scholarship is provided on the terms specified in the application. Such a change does not entitle you to increase funding.

Financial resources under the Program mean the funds referred to in Art. 18 section 2 point 1 of u.n.a.w.a. Pursuant to Art. 21 section 1 point 39a of the Act of 26 July 1991 on personal income tax, the funds are free of income tax.

## **2.10. Payment schemes**

Under the Project, payments are made according to the payment scheme: Advance payment scheme B of the Regulations (see Chapter V, section 1 of the Regulations).

### **2.11. Documenting expenses**

The use of lump sums in the case of scholarships, travel, subsistence and accommodation costs as well as financial support in the Project means that they will not be settled on the basis of the actually incurred expenses. At the request of the Agency, the Fellow is obliged to present documentation confirming the implementation of activities and achievement of the intended results and products in accordance with the approved Application - under pain of being deemed undue.

### **2.12. Submitting reports and verifying them**

1. The Fellow is obliged to submit a report on the implementation of the Project via the Agency's IT system in accordance with the model attached to the Call. The model includes the scope of content required to be presented in the report. The visual form of the report in the Agency's IT system may be changed in relation to the model. The above does not constitute a change in the rules of implementation of the Program.
2. The complete and formally correct final report is submitted for substantive evaluation by the Evaluation Team and then for financial evaluation.
3. The Evaluation Team evaluates the report in terms of reliability and correctness of the implementation of the planned activities and funds spent, as well as the validity of any changes introduced during the implementation of the Project.
4. During the substantive evaluation, the following criteria are taken into account:
  - 1) compliance of the scope of tasks performed with the Agreement;
  - 2) quality of the results achieved.
5. In the final report, the Fellow takes into account any deviations that occurred during the implementation of the Project, affecting the amount of funds granted, especially those related to the shortening of the scholarship.
6. Financial resources used against their intended purpose or unused shall be returned to the Agency's bank account within 14 days from the date of request for the return of them.
7. The Beneficiary shall have 14 days to file an appeal against NAWA's determination of the report evaluation, counting from the date of receipt of the Report Evaluation Card/information in the Agency's IT system about the report in question. In addition to the request for re-evaluation the appeal should include the justification along with any explanations and documents that may affect the Agency's re-evaluation. The signed appeal should be sent by post (date of postmark is decisive), courier service (date of receipt by courier company is decisive), e-mail (to the e-mail address of the project supervisor at NAWA) or through the Agency's IT system (date of receipt is decisive) or delivered in person to NAWA headquarters (date of receipt is decisive). In the case of mailing, courier service or personal delivery, the appeal should be addressed to the National Agency of Academic Exchange at the address of NAWA headquarters, i.e. Polna 40, 00-635 Warsaw, with the note "appeal against the report of the evaluation of the report on projects nr...".

### **2.13. Obligations of the Fellow**

1. Having at least basic health insurance, including in particular insurance for the costs of treatment and transport to hospital, covering the entire stay in the host facility as well as the trip there and the return trip to Poland; if the hosting center 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. timely submission of a report including the opinion of the representative of the host center (substantive supervisor or leader of the team in which the Project was implemented) on the progress of the Project implementation;
  3. implementation of the Project results planned in the application;
  4. informing the Agency about changes in the Project or about any problems or irregularities in the implementation of the Project;
  5. informing the Agency about your particular scientific, teaching and other successes;
  6. proper execution of the scholarship agreement, in particular settlement of the granted funds;
  7. the Fellow may additionally be employed at the host center.

#### **2.14. Planned date of announcing the results of the Call**

The call results will be announced by June 30, 2025.

#### **2.15. Source of financing for the Program**

Targeted subsidy from the Minister of Health

### **III. APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1: Proposal application template
- Appendix 2: Template of the invitation from the Host institution
- Appendix 3: Template of promoter's opinion
- Appendix 4: Template for confirming the status of a doctoral student
- Appendix 5: Supervisor opinion template
- Appendix 6: Model report
- Appendix 7: Model agreement
- Appendix 8: Regulations of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange Programs for natural persons

### **IV. CONTACT THE AGENCY**

For additional information, please contact us (working days, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.):

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