

# **Scholarship Program of the Slovak Academy of Sciences**

**(“SAS Scholarship Program” or “Program”)**

## **Statute**

## SAS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SAS Scholarship Program is intended to bring excellent foreign workers under the age of 40, who have been working long term abroad in research and development, to the institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (“SAS”). The main aim is to strengthen the SAS institutes by people with experience from leading foreign research institutions who will contribute to the development of Slovak science in the national and international context.

*The basic principles and evaluation criteria of SAS Scholarship Program are excellence and top-quality of proposed researchers as well as the proposed work program.*

Other principles and criteria of the Program are as follows:

- 1. Number of projects:** Possible number of projects funded in the current year within the Program is determined by the amount of financial resources that can be allocated to the Program. SAS Presidium decides about the amount of funding for each committee at the end of the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the projects shall be funded. Based on this decision, committees publish the number of projects that can be funded from the Program at the beginning of the concerned calendar year.
- 2. Projects funding:** Annual budget allocated to the Program is 140 000€. Financial contribution for one project can be up to 40 000€/year, while the duration of a project is maximum 4 years. Allocated financial resources can be used for the salary and statutory deductions of the successful researcher or members of his team as well as running costs of the scientific project up to 15 000€/year.

In optimal case, candidate is already the Principal Investigator of another domestic or foreign funded project on arrival at the SAS institute. If she/he does not, she/he is required to get the funded project as Principal Investigator within 12 months from the award of the scholarship.

- 3. Application to the Program:** Application in Slovak and English language is submitted by director of institute which has an interest in the proposed researcher. Applications are sent continuously throughout the year and are evaluated twice a year. The first evaluation period runs from 1.4. till 31.5. and the second from 31.8. till 31.10. of the calendar year. Applications submitted at the latest 31.3. will be included in the first evaluation period and applications submitted at the latest 30.6. will be included in the second evaluation period. If case of uncertainties date on postmark imprint is crucial. Applications are sent in the manner set out in the SAS Scholarship Program Guide for Applicants.

**4. Application content:** The application mainly contains the introduction of the proposed researcher with a description of her/his scientific qualities and her/his workplace in abroad, reasoning of institute's interest in the proposed researcher, the expected date of conclusion of the employment contract with the researcher and duration of such contract, as well as the determination of the committee competent for the application according to the applicant.

**5. Mandatory annexes of application** are:

- CV of proposed researcher.
- Achievement-Track-Record.
- Detailed timetable and work program of proposed researcher for first year of the SAS Scholarship Program.
- Description of the host institution with the obligatory personal and material conditions provided to proposed researcher by host institution in the case of obtaining financial resources within the SAS Scholarship Program.
- Written comment of proposed researcher to her/his work program and her/his written consent with the participation in the SAS Scholarship Program and with its conditions.

**6. Evaluation Process:** Received application is after checking compliance with formal requirements and removal of mistakes assessed in two-stage evaluation process, which is based on a qualified and impartial peer review system.

Application is assigned to the committee according to the research focus:

- a) Committee of Physical, Space, Earth and Engineering Sciences,
- b) Committee of Life, Chemical, Medical and Environmental Sciences,
- c) Committee of Social Sciences, Humanities, Arts and Culture.

The basis of the evaluation process is:

- Excellence of the scholarship candidate,
- Excellence of the proposed research project,
- Providing of project funding from other resources.

**7. The first stage of evaluation:** In the first stage of evaluation application submission by eligible applicant is checked. Eligibility criteria for applicant are:

- Age of researcher under 40 years at the time of application submission;
- Completed doctoral studies and possessing PhD;
- PhD obtained at least 3 years before application submission;
- Minimum 2 years long continuous study or research stay in abroad which has been finished maximum 6 months before the time of application submission or it still lasts.

- 8. The second stage of evaluation:** Applications which successfully pass the first stage of evaluation are proceeded to the second stage, in which they are assessed by three independent evaluators. The evaluation criteria in this stage are the quality of the researcher, as well as the quality of the host institution, the quality and adequacy of the proposed work program timetable and the expected impact of the program. Specific evaluation criteria together with their weighting are given in the SAS Scholarship Program Guide for Evaluators.
- 9. Decision:** Based on the Evaluation Protocols and committees meeting, the projects which will be funded under the Program are selected. Based on this decision, wage funds and possibly non-investment funds of the host institution will be increased. Conditions of financial support of the admitted researcher from the host institution funds will be a part of the decision.
- 10. Implementation of the work program** and the work program proposal for the next calendar year is included in the interim report submitted annually to the Chairman of the relevant committee to 15th December of a given calendar year.
- 11. Final report of project:** After completion of the project, director of the institute shall submit a final report on the fulfillment of the work program, tasks and achieved results to the SAS Presidium. Final report is a basis for issuing of the certificate of accomplishment/non-accomplishment of project objectives and tasks. The personal presentation of the principal investigator is also the part of evaluation of the final report.

## **Annex 1**

### **Curriculum vitae**

Education

Honors

Principal scientific activities

Participation in projects

Funding ID

Achievement-Track-Record

Publications without the presence of PhD supervisor

Publications with the presence of PhD supervisor

Research monographs, chapters in collective volumes

Granted patents

Invited presentations internationally established conferences and international advanced schools

Research expeditions

Organization of International conferences

International Prizes/Awards

Memberships to Editorial Boards of International Journals