

## **REGULATIONS FOR GRANTING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BEST PHD CANDIDATES OF THE JOINT DOCTORAL SCHOOL, PURSUING DOCTORAL THESES ON THE BASIS OF A CO-TUTELLE AGREEMENT**

### **§ 1**

#### **General provisions**

1. The Regulations set forth the rules for awarding scholarships to the best doctoral candidates pursuing doctoral dissertations based on co-tutelle agreements.
2. The regulations cover doctoral candidates studying at the Joint Doctoral School (JDS).
3. The scholarship is intended for 12 doctoral candidates (half each - Polish and foreign doctoral candidates) pursuing joint doctoral projects in accordance with ongoing co-tutelle agreements.
4. These regulations are based on the Statute of the University, the Regulations of the Joint Doctoral School, and the agreement with the National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) No. BPI/STE/2024/1/00005/U/00001, dated 30/12/2024, for the implementation of the *New International Horizons for Doctoral School / New International Horizons for Doctoral School (NIH4DS)* project, under the NAWA STER-Internationalisation of Doctoral Schools program
5. Project implementation period: 01.01.2025-31.12.2027

### **§ 2**

#### **Detailed rules for awarding the scholarship**

1. The scholarship is awarded for a maximum of 10 months, with the possibility of being awarded for a shorter period, such as for doctoral candidates applying in the final year of the project.
2. Priority in awarding the scholarship is given to doctoral candidates pursuing projects and co-tutelle agreements initiated after the project start date.
3. Doctoral candidates who have received a scholarship in earlier edition of the NAWA-STER Program project implemented at the Joint Doctoral School, are not eligible to participate in this Competition.
4. The amount of the scholarship is PLN 5,000.00 gross per month.
5. Scholarship applications are submitted on a quarterly basis, except for the last quarter of project implementation period. The schedule may be changed in year 2027, depending on the availability of funds.
6. The application must be accompanied by the Individual Research Plan (IRP), approved by both universities participating in the cotutelle doctorate agreement.
7. In the middle of the period of receiving the scholarship (usually after 5 months), the doctoral candidate (scholarship recipient) is required to submit an interim report prepared in accordance with Appendix 2 of these Regulations, describing the impact of the scholarship

- on the implementation of his/her dissertation and the progress of research.
8. Once can receive the scholarship once during his/her education at the Joint Doctoral School.
  9. Obtaining a scholarship does not preclude participation in other competitions and pro-quality programs.
  10. The scholarship will be revoked, with the requirement of repayment, in any of the following cases:
    - failure to carry out obligations under the Individual Research Plan
    - negative mid-term evaluation
    - suspensions of education at the JDS
    - removal from the list of the JDS doctoral candidates
  11. Doctoral candidates who have extended their period of study are not eligible to apply for the scholarship and to receive it.

### **§ 3**

#### **Procedure for submission and evaluation of applications**

1. Scholarship applications are submitted only electronically, using a form available on the project website.
2. Evaluation of applications is carried out by the Scholarship Committee consisting of:
  - Director of the Joint Doctoral School (Chairman)
  - JDS Coordinator for International Cooperation
  - Representatives of the seven scientific units of the JDS
3. The Commission shall draw up a report on the evaluation of applications, in accordance with the model attached as Annex No. 1 to these Regulations.
4. When evaluating the merits of applications that meet the formal conditions, the following criteria shall be applied:
  - Positive opinion of the promoter: 10 pts
  - Past academic achievements: 40 pts

Evaluation of a doctoral student's scientific achievements is based on scientific publications, research collaborations and conference speeches submitted in the application. The maximum number of points to be scored is 40 points (scientific publications - 25 points; participation in international projects - 10 points; speeches at foreign conferences - 5 points). Particular emphasis in the evaluation is placed on the quality of publications, the degree of their internationalisation and the doctoral student's involvement in international research projects. The following criteria are used in the evaluation of the components determining academic achievement:

- a) Scientific articles published in journals indexed in Scopus or Web of Science (WoS) databases: 5 points for each publication, maximum 15 points - output generated from the omega.polsl.pl database

- b) Co-authored publications with scientists affiliated with foreign institutions: 2 points for each co-authored publication, maximum 10 points - output generated from the omega.polsl.pl database
  - c) Participation in research projects carried out in cooperation with foreign scientific institutions: 5 points for each project, maximum 10 points.
  - d) Presentation of a paper and/or participation in a poster session at an international conference abroad: 2.0 points for each paper / 0.5 for poster, maximum 5 points.
5. The maximum number of points is 50. Positive recommendation of the application is determined by the place on the ranking list and obtaining at least 35 points.
  6. The decision to award the scholarship is made by the Director of the Joint Doctoral School within 30 days of the end of the quarter in which the application was submitted. The decision is communicated to the applicant electronically and published on the project website.
  7. The Scholarship Committee's decision to grant/not grant a scholarship in a given call is final and not subject to appeal.
  8. In case of failure to receive the requested scholarship, the doctoral candidate has the right to re-apply for the scholarship in the next call, provided that the quality of the application submitted is improved.

## **§ 4**

### **Principles of Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination**

1. The competition for the award of scholarships referred to in these Regulations shall be conducted in accordance with the principles of equal opportunity and non-discrimination, ensuring equal treatment of all applicants, regardless of gender, age, nationality, type and degree of disability, beliefs or other characteristics protected by law.
2. Both Polish and foreign doctoral candidates pursuing doctoral dissertations on the basis of a co-tutelle agreement may apply for the scholarship. The competition regulations and all necessary documents will be available in Polish and English.
3. In an effort to ensure a balanced representation of women and men in the group of grantees, measures will be taken to promote gender balance. At the same time, the evaluation of applications will be based solely on substantive criteria regarding the quality of the research project and the scientific achievements of the applicant(s), without introducing gender preferences. In the case of two applications with identical merit evaluation, priority will be given to the person from the underrepresented group, with appropriate justification from the Scholarship Committee.
4. In order to ensure equal access to the scholarship, the Scholarship Committee is required to adapt the procedures and competition documentation to serve people with disabilities, taking into account their individual needs
5. Members of the Scholarship Committee do not evaluate applications submitted by doctoral candidates whose supervisors or assistant supervisors they are - their place in the Committee is taken by a person designated by the Committee Chairman.
6. The results of the competition will be public - the list of persons who have been awarded a

scholarship will be published on the website of the NIH4DS project, respecting the protection of personal data.

## **§ 5**

### **Final provisions**

1. The Regulations come into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 and are valid until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2027.
2. The Joint Doctoral School, as the organizer and coordinator of the Competition, reserves the right to change the content of the Regulations, resulting from the concern for the correct and complete implementation of the NIH4DS project.

**Appendix No.1**  
*to the Regulations for granting scholarships for the best doctoral candidates of JDS, pursuing  
doctoral theses on the basis of a co-tutelle agreement*

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE APPLICATIONS EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Meeting of the Applications Evaluation Committee composed of:

1. Chairman: .....
2. Member: .....
3. Member: .....
4. Member: .....
5. Member: .....
6. Member: .....
7. Member: .....
8. Member: .....

was held on.....at the Doctoral School of the Silesian University,  
2A Akademicka Street, 44-100 Gliwice.

The following person has been designated as Secretary of the Commission:

.....

Number of received applications for a scholarship for the best doctoral candidates  
pursuing doctoral dissertations in international cooperation on the basis of a co-tutelle  
contract: .....

A ranking list of applications has been made by the Commission after substantive  
evaluation.

Number of applications receiving positive recommendation: .....

Attachment to the Minutes:

1. Ranking list of applications recommended for the scholarship, along with the  
scores awarded and the amount and duration of the scholarship.

.....  
*signature of the Commission Chairman*

**Appendix No.2**  
*to the Regulations for granting scholarships for the best doctoral candidates of JDS pursuing  
doctoral theses on the basis of a co-tutelle agreement*

## SCHOLARSHIP GRANTEE INTERMEDIATE REPORT

Name & Surname of doctoral candidate: .....

Scientific discipline: .....

Thesis supervisor (and co-supervisor, if applicable):  
.....

Doctoral thesis title: .....

Reporting period: .....

*Impact of the grant on preparation of doctoral dissertation*

1. How has the received scholarship contributed to the progress of your research? (e.g. access to materials, opportunity to attend conferences/seminars, workshops, courses, international collaboration, etc.).

.....

.....

.....

3. Has the grant enable additional dissertation-related activities? (e.g., purchase of equipment, research tools, software, literature, publication-related fees, research mobility, etc.).

.....

.....

.....



*Progress in preparation of doctoral thesis*

1. Major achievements in research during the period covered by the report (please list and describe briefly):

- Experimental / theoretical results
- Scientific publications / articles in preparation
- Conference speeches / participation in seminars
- Other significant achievements (e.g., scientific collaborations, methodology development, tool development, etc.).

2. Is the progress of your work in accordance with the research plan? (Yes/No - if not, please justify delays and indicate the corrective actions which have been taken)

.....

3. Completed research milestones against the IRP schedule: (e.g., completion of a specific stage of experiments, data analysis, preparation of dissertation chapters, etc.).

.....  
.....  
.....

4. Anticipated next steps and plan for the upcoming period: (e.g., further research, planned publications, scientific collaborations, etc.).

.....  
.....  
.....