**Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava**

**Call for Proposals for the Provision of Support for Doctoral Students and Young Researchers of STU to Start a Research Career**

The Rector of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava announces an internal call for doctoral students and young researchers. The call aims to start the careers of doctoral students and early stage researchers in their scientific field. The projects will enable young researchers to finance early stage research, support their participation at scientific conferences and an exchange of experience with foreign countries. The experience gained in this way, can be used when submitting projects in other national or European schemes.

The call originates from and is financed through the Recovery and resilience plan of the Slovak Republic (RRP SR) No. **09I03-03-V05 „Early stage grants“ (further mentioned as ESG).**

**1. Call schedule:**

10.11.2023 – Publishing of the call

30.11.2023 – Call deadline at the STU units

14.12.2023 – Call deadline at the University level, applications
 have to be delivered to the Rectorate of the STU

19.12.2023 – Evaluation of the call and following publication of results at

 www.stuba.sk website

01.03.2024 – Expected start of project implementation

**2. Project duration**

The minimum duration of the project is 12 months and the maximum is 24 months. Project implementation is expected to start on 01.03.2024. The activities supported by the project must be completed by 30.04.2026 at the latest.

**3. Number of supported projects**

Based on the performance of individual units of STU in the field of scientific and research activities for the year 2022, the total number of grants will be distributed to the STU units as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grant type/STU unit** | **SvF** | **SjF** | **FEI** | **FCHPT** | **FAD** | **MTF** | **FIIT** | **UM** | **Sum** |
| Research activity A | 9 | 3 | 13 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | **47** |
| Research activity B | 3 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | **17** |

If the number of grants at one of the units is not fulfilled, the grants will be allocated to another unit based on the decision of the evaluation committee at the university level.

**4. Research activity A – doctoral projects**

**Eligible applicants**

An eligible applicant for Research Activity A is exclusively a full-time doctoral student (internal doctoral student) studying at one of the STU units in Bratislava. Grants will be awarded exclusively to students of full-time doctoral studies in the standard length of study, whose expected date of defence of the dissertation does not precede the date of completion of the project implementation.

Research activity A should be based on the topic of the PhD student's dissertation with the aim of financially supporting and increasing the quality of the achieved scientific and artistic outputs of the dissertation. The research activity must be of non-economic nature and an indirect state aid cannot be provided in connection with its solution.

**Budget of the Research activity A**

The budget for Research Activity A is a maximum of 6 000 EUR.

**Measurable indicators of the project**

Mandatory measurable project indicators for Research activity type A are one active participation in a foreign conference for each started year of the project, documented by publication in an indexed collection, one article in the WoS/Scopus database (accepted for the review procedure) during the first year and at least one article in Q3 (accepted for the review procedure) for the second year of the project. A submitted final project report, which will contain evaluation of the solution, achieved results and identification of project outputs, is a mandatory measurable indicator as well.

**5. Research activity B – postdoctoral projects**

**Eligible applicants**

An eligible applicant for Research Activity B is a young researcher working at one of the STU units. Grants will be awarded exclusively to teaching or research staff who have an employment contract at the STU for the established weekly working hours for the whole duration of the project implementation, and at the same time, on the day of awarding the postdoctoral project, they have not yet reached the period of 5 years since obtaining the PhD degree. At the same time, it is not possible to provide the postdoctoral grant to other employees or students of third-level university study programs.

Research activity B should follow up on the worker's previous research with the aim of financially supporting and increasing the quality of achieved scientific outputs. The research activity must be of non-economic nature and an indirect state aid cannot be provided in connection with its solution.

**Budget of the Research activity B**

The budget for Research Activity B is a maximum of 12 000 EUR.

**Measurable indicators of the project:**

Mandatory measurable project indicators for Research Activity type B are one active participation in a foreign conference for each started year of the project, documented by publication in an indexed collection and one article at least in Q3 (accepted for the review procedure) for each started year of the project. At the same time, a mandatory measurable indicator is a participation in the project in one of the schemes of VEGA, KEGA, APVV, Operational Program Slovakia, or one of the foreign calls for submitting project applications, where the successful applicant will be either the principal investigator or co-investigator. A submitted final project report, which will contain evaluation of the solution, achieved results and identification of project outputs, is a mandatory measurable indicator as well.

**6. Eligible costs**

Eligible costs are:

*a) Travel reimbursement of the grant holder*

*b) Consumables, other goods and services necessary for the implementation of the project*

*c) Devices and equipment, the entry price of which is not higher than 1 700 EUR incl. VAT*

*d) Software, intellectual property rights, the entry price of which is not higher than 2 400 EUR incl. VAT*

*e) VAT*

**7. Cost eligibility conditions**

Project expenses cannot be subject to double financing. This means that a successful grant applicant cannot finance the same project expenses at the same time with several forms of support from public sources, sources of the European Union or other instruments of financial assistance provided by the Slovak Republic.

The activities defined in the submitted application, through which the applicant achieves the results of the project, cannot be financed from the funds of this call and simultaneously from other public sources, if such financing would constitute double financing.

In order to prevent double funding, the grant applicant cannot hold an R1 scholarship (call with code 09I03-03-V02), R2/R3/R4 scholarship (call with code 09I03-03-V04), or scholarships from the call to support researchers threatened by the conflict in Ukraine (call with code 09I03-03-V01).

Expenses that do not fall under the eligible expenses listed above are ineligible.

**8. Project financing**

The full amount of the grant will be allocated to the successful applicant in the Magion IS. The applicant can subsequently draw funds from it in accordance with the terms of the grant[[1]](#footnote-1). In the event that funds from the RRP SR have not yet been provided to the STU by the project start date, the applicant will be provided with funds without delay as soon as STU receives them. The expected start of the project may be postponed based on the grant approval date by the RRP SR - ESG.

**9. Changes in the project during its implementation**

Changes in the project implementation and changes in the budget above 30 % of a budget item are subject to approval by the vice-rector for science and research. Budget changes up to 30 % are not subject to approval by the vice-rector for science and research, and the applicant will state all deviations from the planned budget in the final project report. Changes in the project are administered by the relevant Department for Science and Research at the Faculty or the Institute of Management.

**10. Final report submission**

The applicant awarded a grant for the solution of the project is obliged to submit a final report on the implementation of the project and a report on the financial spending of the allocated funds to his/her vice-dean for science and research within one month from the project end date. The report will include an evaluation of the usefulness of the project, the fulfilment of measurable indicators and copies of published outputs (publications in magazines, proceedings, abstracts from conferences, etc.). The final report is the basis for the final evaluation of the performed tasks.

**11. Application submission**

The applicant will send the completed Application Form, which is an attachment to this call, together with the requested attachments, in two copies, no later than the call deadline to the relevant STU unit’s department for science and research. The application must be signed by the applicant and the mentor/head of the department. The application is also submitted electronically in .pdf format to the department of science and research at the relevant faculty or the Institute of Management. The name of the file must start with the abbreviation of the faculty and contain the Type of research activity (A or B). The recommended format is e.g. *SvF\_A\_Smith\_Grant\_Application\_ESG*. Failure to comply with the file name does not constitute grounds for disqualification of the application. The application can be prepared in Slovak or in English.

**12. Application evaluation**

Applications will be evaluated by a professional evaluation committee (collective body) at the faculty/UM level. The evaluation committee evaluates each project, writes a report (project evaluation) and determines the order of projects from the best to the lowest quality. The following criteria will be evaluated: a/ analysis of the state of the subject matter solved in the project, b/ formulation of the solution procedure, c/ appropriateness of the methods and procedures used, d/ contribution of the solution, e/ evaluation of the importance and possibilities of using the results. The applicant will be able to see the evaluation sheets, but the name of the evaluators will be anonymous. The faculty/UM will send the projects together with the evaluation and the resulting ranking to the Rectorate of the STU.

The approval/non-approval of the project for funding is decided by the expert evaluation committee at the university level. The commission is composed of vice-deans for science and research of all STU faculties and UM. The chairperson of the commission is the vice-rector for science and research. The commission's meeting is called by its chairperson. The commission has reached a quorum if at least five members and the chairperson of the commission are present at its meeting.

**13. Grant awarding**

Successful applicants will receive a decree stating that they have been awarded an ESG grant. The decree will contain at least:

1. identification of the researcher and the department within which the researcher will implement the project
2. identification of the entity providing the grant - the gestor of the institutional scheme
3. project title
4. project identification – code or number
5. allocated amount
6. project duration

The decree must meet the visibility conditions of the Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic.

The results of the call will be published on the website www.stuba.sk.

**14. Changing and cancelling of the call**

The call is published in Slovak and in English languages. In case of ambiguities or inconsistencies, the Slovak language version is binding.

The announcer of the call has the right to change or cancel the call in case of a change in the conditions of the RRP SR – ESG call or non-approval of the RRP SR – ESG grant.

***Attachments:***

*Grant application – Research activity A – doctoral projects*

*Grant application – Research activity B – postdoctoral projects*

1. The doctoral student uses the allocated grant funds in cooperation and under the supervision of the applicant’s mentor. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)