DOCTORAL STUDENT'S REFERENCE KIT

2022/2023







A word from the Rector

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear doctoral students of the University of Gdańsk!

I am happy to greet all Doctoral Students who are starting their studies at the Doctoral Schools of the University of Gdańsk and thus, become members of our academic community - young, resilient, and open to the challenges of the modern world. Behind us there are fifty years of building the foundations of the university's development. During that time, new faculties were created conducting research in terms of more than twenty scientific disciplines representing three fields: exact and natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences. We've built a modern research and didactic infrastructure. And ahead of us there are following years of strengthening the scientific potential, but also determining new directions of development allowing us to enter the top European universities in the mid-twenty-first century. A step towards achieving this goal consists in participating in a project bringing together universities as part of the SEA-EU programme, which combines the potential of six European universities located by all of the seas of our continent. We also strengthen

our cooperation with Tri-City partners within the Daniel Fahrenheit University Union and together with the Gdańsk University of Technology and the Medical University of Gdańsk we undertake actions in favour of sharing organizational solutions but also building intercollegiate research teams and creating an integrated didactic offer.

The twenty-first century constantly poses new challenges before us. We try to seek answers to questions concerning what is true in us and around us, and what is only a conjecture. It gives great joy to participate in the cognitive process, the ability to formulate hypotheses and verify them, and all as a result of tedious scientific work, planned for several years, which you are just starting. I hope that the scientific adventure you are just beginning in the doctoral schools of the University of Gdańsk will help you fulfil your dreams and perfectly prepare your workshops for implementing research plans, performing which will strengthen the university's scientific achievements.

Best wishes! prof. dr hab. Piotr Stepnowski Rector of the University of Gdańsk



Science is the search for truth

Interview with the Vice-Rector for Student Affairs and Quality of Education, dr hab. Arnold Kłonczyński, prof. UG



▶ How to start working on a doctorate?

Science is the search for truth. That is why the most important step, which is related to initiating research work, consists in noticing the problem, solving which will bring us closer to the truth, which is answering the posed questions in a scientific manner. The ability to properly formulate a research problem indicates the maturity of a young scientist. This step should involve an in-depth discussion combined with a reflection on how a given field is impacted by a research goal set in such a manner.

▶ What advice would the Rector give to people who are starting to work on their doctoral dissertation?

The goal of a scientist is to plan and implement scientific research related to a given discipline. The goal is not to write a doctoral dissertation. just as for a mature researcher the goal is not to write a scientific article or monograph. Research is conducted to explore a subject, ask research questions, apply proper methods, and formulate conclusions. The latter point is closely connected with a doctoral dissertation, which is, after all, a "record" or "report" from conducting research as well as a form of presenting its effects. "Working on a doctoral dissertation", as it is put in the question, is nothing more than a research project that ends with a text enclosed in a proper structure, a text presenting the entire process of reaching results. Openness to discussion, especially with the scientific supervisor, but also with other representatives of a given discipline, will help to polish the entire process, which ends with a dissertation.

▶ What are the most significant difficulties a Doctoral Student may encounter when writing a doctoral dissertation? How to avoid them?

Every scientific discipline has its own specificity, and therefore, research is carried out in different ways, taking advantage of research methods used in a given field. Difficulties can also be very diverse, specific for each discipline and depending on the studied matter. I believe that the common ground for all young scientists may consist in an emotional approach to the conducted research and the resulting moments of doubt, uncertainty, or dilemmas related to assessing the obtained results by experts. I cannot find a recipe for how to avoid these dilemmas, I can only comfort you that they are generally not justified.

► Doctoral studies have been replaced by education provided in doctoral schools. Did this eliminate any problems? If so, then which ones? Are there any new problems/difficulties in obtaining a doctoral degree? If so, what are they?

As part of the still existing but gradually shut down doctoral studies conducted at individual faculties, education was closely connected with the discipline or related disciplines practiced at a given faculty. A doctoral school constitutes a new form of organizing the education of doctoral students, which – in the case of the model used at the University of Gdańsk – is of a domain nature,

i.e. broader than covering one – two disciplines of doctoral studies. This is only the third year of functioning for doctoral schools. The first midterm evaluation is behind us, which is why it is too early to assess this model of education. However, what's most important is the element remaining common for both models, namely the close master-student relation. The intergenerational sharing of knowledge and experience is of great value.

According to the Rector, what is the optimal time to write a doctoral dissertation? Does it make sense to write it if we don't plan to work in the field of science in the future?

As I've already mentioned, each scientific discipline has its own specifics. Furthermore, the scope of conducted research, the used tools, and in the case of my discipline - history - the nature of the source base determine how much time will be required to implement a given research project. Scientific work does not stand only for activities related to specific research, but also time needed to properly prepare for research, participating in scientific discussions, and criticism of partial results obtained in the form of peer-reviewed scientific publications. Practicing science is associated with personal development. It does not have to involve planning a following scientific career. I do not know anyone who regrets devoting himself to conducting research and preparing a dissertation, despite the fact of not continuing scientific work.



A word from the Chairman of the Doctoral Students' Council

I would like to cordially greet you on behalf of the Doctoral Students' Council of the University of Gdańsk!

I am glad that so many people have decided to begin their education in doctoral schools precisely at the University of Gdańsk – the largest university in Pomerania, which is constantly and dynamically developing, expanding its didactic offer, and cares for the quality of education as well as the comprehensive development of doctoral students.

The University of Gdańsk provides doctoral students with a wide range of opportunities for pursuing their passions and developing their interests, including in the doctoral students' self-government, the Centre for Student and Doctoral Activity, the Academic Cultural Centre, the Academic Sports Association, science clubs and doctoral organizations, as well as through participating in international and national doctoral student exchanges. Therefore, I encourage you to be as active as possible during your studies.

The self-government of doctoral students is formed by all of the university's doctoral students. The tasks of the self-government of doctoral students include representing and protecting the interests of doctoral students, as well as cooperating with university bodies in matters provided for in the Law on Higher Education and in the Statute of the University of Gdańsk.

The activities of the self-government of doctoral students are carried out thanks to representatives selected from among doctoral students by the doctoral students themselves. In each doctoral school there is a doctoral council of a given school, and at the general university level there is the Doctoral Students' Council of the University of Gdańsk. Doctoral students have their representatives in the university's numerous collegiate bodies, including disciplinary committees, faculty councils, the Senate, as well as Senate and university committees. By participating in the work of these bodies, we try to represent doctoral students and take care of their interests as best as possible.

Representatives of the Doctoral Students' Council of the University of Gdańsk are involved in char-



ity actions, advise and help doctoral students in solving their individual problems related to studying, as well as take part in preparing the setting of the most important ceremonies taking place at the University of Gdańsk and outside its walls.

The Doctoral Students' Council, through the Budget Committee, financially supports the activities of doctoral students by co-financing their participation in conferences, trainings and scientific queries.

We organize conferences, trainings, sports competitions, as well as an entire range of various types of cultural and entertainment events.

Therefore, I sincerely hope that we will meet more often on the occasion of events organized by us, and not on the occasion of troubles. I sincerely wish you that.

Good luck in all activities!

Sebastian Barczak Chairman of the Doctoral Students' Council of the University of Gdańsk



Doctoral Students' Council

The Doctoral Students' Council is the highest body of the doctoral students' self-government of the University of Gdańsk. The aim of our activity is to represent the interests and defend the rights of all the university's doctoral students.

FINANCING

The Doctoral Students' Council of the University of Gdańsk has a budget, which is spent on the scientific activity of individual doctoral students, faculty doctoral councils, doctoral councils of doctoral schools, as well as doctoral organizations (e.g. science clubs). Individual doctoral students may

receive funding (up to PLN 2,000) for conference trips (only in the case of presenting a paper or a poster presentation) as well as scientific queries or trainings (up to PLN 1,000).

Distributing the funds is carried out by the Budget Committee of the Doctoral Students' Council of the University of Gdańsk.

All necessary information is provided by the Doctoral Students' Council of the University of Gdańsk:

https://radadoktorantow.ug.edu.pl/

phone: 58 523 23 69

e-mail: kacper.wisniewski@ug.edu.pl rada.doktorantow@ug.edu.pl

Grants

WHAT ARE GRANTS?

Grants are funds entrusted to an individual, team or research institution intended to pay for the costs of research activities. It is possible to use these funds for various purposes, starting with purchasing the necessary equipment, through travel costs, up to salaries of a research team.

WHAT REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A GRANT?

Due to the fact that there are various types of grants, no one is able to clearly describe the universal criteria that must be met in order to be awarded a grant. Therefore, at the very beginning it is worth verifying whether the institution that offers a given grant wants to finance our research (e.g. whether the research fits within the limits of its statutory activity, etc.).

However, regardless of which institution we apply to, we must make every effort to plan the studies that will make a significant contribution to the progress of science or technology.

WHAT INSTITUTIONS OFFER GRANTS IN POLAND?

Many entities, both financed by the state and private ones, offer providing funds for research in the form of grants, but at the very beginning it is worth starting your search with the following institutions:

- The National Science Centre
- The Foundation for Polish Science
- Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission

HOW CAN THE UNIVERSITY OF GDAŃSK HELP IN OBTAINING A GRANT?

There are two offices in the structure of the University of Gdańsk that deal with research projects:

Office of Development Projects

Rector's Office of the University of Gdańsk Jana Bażyńskiego 8 St.

80–309 Gdańsk

rooms R 217–221, second floor

e-mail: projektyug@ug.edu.pl

phone: 58 523 24 08; 58 523 23 60 58 523 31 24; 58 523 31 23

58 523 31 72

Office of Scientific Projects

Rector's Office of the University of Gdańsk Jana Bażyńskiego 8 St.

80-309 Gdańsk

rooms R 204, R 206 and R 230, floor II e-mail: projektynaukowe@ug.edu.pl

phone: 58 523 24 29; 58 523 31 29

58 523 31 04; 58 523 31 35

Scholarship in doctoral schools

GENERAL INFORMATION

Despite a name corresponding with the doctoral scholarship paid to doctoral students who initiated their doctoral studies before the beginning of the academic year 2019/2020, the doctoral scholarship at a doctoral school is granted on different terms!

Pursuant to art. 209 section 1 of the Act on Higher Education and Science Law of July 20, 2018 (Journal of Laws 2018, item 1668 as amended) a doctoral scholarship is, in principle, awarded to every doctoral student who does not possess a doctoral degree.

PAYMENT PERIOD

The doctoral scholarship will be paid for the entire duration of studying at a doctoral school (also during the holiday period), for a maximum period of 4 years, although this period does not include:

• the suspension period (education, at the request of a doctoral student, is suspended for a period

corresponding to the duration of maternity leave, leave under the conditions of maternity leave, paternity leave and parental leave, specified in the Act of June 26, 1974 Labour Code).

• the education period at a doctoral school, if education has ceased there and there is no other doctoral school providing education in a given discipline, and the entity running the doctoral school covers the costs of the procedure for awarding the doctoral degree in the external mode to the person who has lost the opportunity to complete the education.

INITIAL PAYOUT

Doctoral students of doctoral schools will receive their first payment with compensation for the previous month in the month following being admitted to the doctoral school. Doctoral students admitted to doctoral schools on October 1, will receive a double payment around November 20. After that, the scholarship will be paid monthly, around the 20th of each month.



SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT

Pursuant to art. 209 section 4 of the Act on Higher Education and Science Law, the amount of the monthly doctoral scholarship is at least:

- 37% of a professor's remuneration up to the month, in which a mid-term evaluation was carried out.
- 57% of a professor's remuneration after the month in which a mid-term evaluation was carried out.

In practice:

- before a mid-term evaluation: approx. PLN 2104.65 net.
- after a mid-term evaluation: approx. PLN 3242.29 net

After a positive mid-term evaluation, in the case of employment exceeding half of a full-time work base, the amount of the scholarship shall be 40% of the monthly scholarship referred to in Art. 209 section 4 point 2 of the Act on Higher Education and Science Law (57% of a professor's remuneration).

During the period of suspending education, the provisions on determining the maternity allowance shall be used to determine the amount of the doctoral scholarship, except that the basis for calculating the allowance is understood as the amount of the monthly doctoral scholarship referred to in the above-mentioned Art. 209 section 4, due on the date of submitting the application for suspension.

INCREASED SCHOLARSHIP FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

A doctoral scholarship in an amount increased by 30% is awarded to a doctoral student who has:

- a disability certificate;
- a disability degree certificate
- a certificate of total, partial inability to work or inability to exist independently, pursuant to Art.
 5 of the Act of August 27, 1997 on professional and social rehabilitation and employing people with disabilities.
- or a decision to be included in one of the groups of invalids and being a disabled person, pursuant to Art. 62 of the Act of August 27, 1997 on professional and social rehabilitation and employing people with disabilities.

HOW TO RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP IN A DOCTORAL SCHOOL IN A TIMELY MANNER

- first of all, formalities must be completed and an oath has to be signed in the administration office of doctoral schools,
- then download the documents available on the www.stypendia.ug.edu.pl website in the Scholarships for doctoral students of doctoral schools tab and after filling them out, deliver the documents to the Scholarship Office (room 110 in the building of the so-called "old rector's office" at Bażyńskiego 1a St. in Gdańsk),
- every doctoral student who wishes to receive a scholarship at a doctoral school must provide either the administration office of doctoral schools or the Scholarship Office with the number of a current account kept at a national bank; without this, it is impossible to transfer the funds.

Insurance

- For a doctoral student in a doctoral school, contributions to the pension and disability insurance are mandatory. The contribution is deducted from the scholarship, and that is why, among others, the gross amount of the scholarship differs from the net amount.
- The sickness contribution is voluntary, which in terms of a basic scholarship reduces it by PLN 58.11 per month for the first two years.
- If not working or not married, every doctoral student after the age of 26 has the right to ac-
- quire health insurance at the university. To do so, the person must submit a proper application, which can be found at www.stypendia.ug.edu. pl. In this case, the health insurance premium is paid by the state budget and does not reduce the scholarship received at the doctoral school.
- Foreign doctoral students from outside the European Union can insure themselves voluntarily with the National Health Fund. The health insurance contribution concerning such persons cannot be paid by the state budget.

Doctoral schools at the University of Gdańsk

A doctoral school constitutes a new form of educating doctoral students, preparing for obtaining a doctoral degree, created on the basis of the Act of July 20, 2018, the Higher Education and Science Law (Journal of Laws 2018, item 1668 as amended), also called the Constitution for Science.

Doctoral schools have initiated their functioning during the academic year 2019/2020. Doctoral students who started their doctoral studies before that year continue their studies following the principles in force so far. People who cannot receive education at a doctoral school still have the possibility to prepare a doctoral dissertation in an extramural mode.

A person who holds a master's degree or equivalent may be admitted to a doctoral school. Education at a doctoral school takes 4 years (8 semesters), and classes are held in a stationary mode. In addition, education at a doctoral school is free of charge, and every doctoral student of a doctoral school receives a scholarship.

The University of Gdańsk offers education in the following doctoral schools:

- Intercollegiate Doctoral School of Biotechnology of the University of Gdańsk and the Medical University of Gdańsk,
- Doctoral School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences.

We invite you to become familiar with the website of the doctoral schools of the University of Gdańsk: https://sd.ug.edu.pl/. There, it is possible to find all information necessary during the education process, such as the Regulations of Doctoral Schools, study programs, as well as many other legal acts and regulations. In case of any questions, please contact the Section for Handling Doctoral Schools, acting as an office of doctoral schools.

Section for Handling Doctoral Schools

Faculty of Chemistry

Wita Stwosza 63 St., 80–308 Gdańsk, room F220

phone: 58 523 51 74

e-mail: gabriela.bielinska@ug.edu.pl szkola.doktorska.biotech@ug.edu.pl szkola.doktorska.hs@ug.edu.pl szkola.doktorska.sp@ug.edu.pl



Doctoral Student's Glossary

- Individual Research Plan (IPB) constitutes a document introduced in the Act on Higher Education and Science Law of July 20, 2018. During the first year of education, in cooperation with the supervisor the doctoral student prepares the IPB, i.e. a four-vear plan for carrying out the doctoral project, indicating the objectives of the project, the significance of the undertaken research, research methods, and a detailed research plan, including a schedule of implementing planned tasks as well as a cost estimate. Detailed principles for preparing the IPB are specified in the regulations of a given doctoral school. According to the Act, a doctoral student is obliged to submit an IPB within a year of initiating education. A complete document with all required signatures must be submitted to the Section for Handling Doctoral Schools.
- The mid-term evaluation constitutes another element of the doctoral students' education process introduced in the Act on Higher Education and Science Law of July 20, 2018. This evaluation is carried out in the middle of the training cycle. In the case of doctoral schools of the University of Gdańsk, where the education process takes four years, this means that the midterm evaluation is carried out at the end of the fourth semester, i.e. in September or February of a given year, depending on the semester of initiating education. A committee for carrying out the mid-term evaluation (its composition is also determined by the law), appointed separately for each discipline, evaluates the implementation of IPB by each of the doctoral students completing the second year of education. The basis for the

- evaluation consists in the documents provided to the committee and (optionally) an interview with the doctoral student undergoing the evaluation. Each of the doctoral students undergoing the evaluation also has the right to request an interview with the commission. The result of the evaluation can be positive or negative.
- Internships are mandatory in the course of education, but their volume and form differ in individual doctoral schools. It is best to verify the solutions in force at a particular school in its educational program, available on the website of doctoral schools.
- Doctoral student reports are a summary of each year of education at a given doctoral school, but they cover both the course of education and (apart from first-year doctoral students) implementing the Individual Research Plan. In accordance with the Regulations of Doctoral Schools, at the University of Gdańsk these reports are submitted once a year, and each time subject to approval by the supervisor. The deadline for submitting the report may vary: in the case of doctoral students who started their education during the winter semester, this deadline is June 30. while doctoral students who began their education during the summer semester submit a report depending on the doctoral school by January 31, or by February 28 (except for the vear in which the mid-term evaluation is carried out – then the deadline for submitting the report is January 15). Report forms are available on the doctoral schools' website. Filled out, signed, and approved documents must be submitted in due time to the Section for Handling Doctoral Schools.

"Progress; Journal of Young Researchers"

"Progress; Journal of Young Researchers" is a journal created for students, doctoral students, and young researchers who can take advantage of it to make their first steps in the field of scientific publications. Each submitted article undergoes a process of initial editing, and then it is reviewed by two scientists from outside the author's main unit who are always selected individually. The Editorial Board makes every effort to ensure that in the case of each review the author receives feedback allowing for introducing possible corrections and developing the scientific workshop.

The publisher of the journal is Wydawnictwo UG, providing professional proofreading and editing of texts. "Progress" is a semi-annual magazine. Information concerning calls for texts for subsequent issues appears at https://progress.ug.edu.pl/and on the magazine's FB profile https://www.facebook.com/zatokanauki.

If you want to contact the magazine please write to the following e-mail address: progress@uq.edu.pl.

Centre for Student and Doctoral Student Activity

The Centre for Student and Doctoral Student Activity constitutes a unit that appeared in the structure of the University of Gdańsk at the beginning of 2021. The task of this unit, set before the Centre by His Magnificence, is to support and coordinate student and doctoral activities. The Centre focuses on facilitating the activity of students and doctoral students of the University of Gdańsk, striving to improve their social competences and skills, as well as acting to improve the quality of university space.

The Centre carries out social and charity activities, but it also supports the activities of members of the academic community of the University of Gdańsk. If you have an idea for an interesting project, but you do not know how to implement it, you are not familiar with the procedures in force at the university – report to the Centre for Student and Doctoral Student Activity of the Uni-

versity of Gdańsk, and we will indicate a club or organization where you will be able to start your activity. We will discuss the procedures related to establishing a club or organization, we are going to help you fill out the documentation, as well as create a statute and an action program.

If you want to organize a scientific conference, charity campaign, concert or any other event, but you do not know what conditions must be met by the event to take place at the university – reach out to the Centre for Student and Doctoral Student Activity of the University of Gdańsk. We will inform you who you should ask for permission and what conditions related to the regulations must be met.

More information about the Centre can be found at www.casid.ug.edu.pl

Please send your questions to the following e-mail addresses: lukasz.bien@ug.edu.pl or casid@ug.edu.pl





Young Science Congress

The Young Science Congress is an international and multidisciplinary scientific conference that takes place at the University of Gdańsk.

In terms of the project, several dozen panels take place, during which scientists present the results of their research, discuss their theses, establish scientific contacts, and more.

The subject matter of the presentations is not limited and it is possible to present lectures in the field of exact and experimental sciences, humanities, social sciences, and others. The event also discusses issues related to the role of universities, scientists, and doctoral students in the changing social and political reality.

The high quality of the presentation is ensured by lecturers and researchers forming a scientific committee chaired by His Magnificence the Rector of the University of Gdańsk Prof. Piotr Stepnowski.

After the conference, a reviewed post-conference publication prepared by the Progress journal is published.

More information about the edition that will take place in 2023 will appear on the Congress of Young Science website (https://kongresmlodejnauki.pl/) at the beginning of next year.



Career Office

The Career Office offers individual and group career counselling and coaching sessions for the doctoral students of the University of Gdańsk. It organizes trainings and workshops in the field of soft and professional competences, meetings with employers, and it cooperates with more than 2000 companies.

The Office also organizes or co-organizes such events as Academic Job Fairs, Career Days, CV Day, Picnics with Careers, or open days of companies.

The career office's website includes dozens of job and internship offers, as well as many interesting articles and information about your professional career.

We sincerely invite you to cooperate and contact the Career Office. The office is located in Gdańsk at Bażyńskiego la St. (former building of the rector's office).

We also invite you to visit the https://biuro-karier.ug.edu.pl website and to like and follow the Career Office's profile on Facebook.

Important addresses and phone numbers

• OFFICE OF THE DOCTORAL STUDENTS' COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GDAŃSK

Jana Bażyńskiego la St. 80–309 Gdańsk room 409

phone: 58 523 23 69

e-mail: rada.doktorantow@ug.edu.pl

SCIENCE OFFICE

Rector's Office of the University of Gdańsk Jana Bażyńskiego 8 St. 80–309 Gdańsk rooms 401–403. 507–511

EDUCATION OFFICE

Rector's Office of the University of Gdańsk Jana Bażyńskiego 8 St. 80–309 Gdańsk rooms 502–504, 509, 514

SECTION FOR HANDLING DOCTORAL SCHOOLS

Faculty of Chemistry Wita Stwosza 63 St. 80–308 Gdańsk room F220

phone: 58 523 51 74

e-mail: szkola.doktorska.biotech@ug.edu.pl szkola.doktorska.hs@ug.edu.pl szkola.doktorska.sp@ug.edu.pl



PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT CENTRE

Jana Bażyńskiego la St. 80–309 Gdańsk room 224 phone 58 523 43 70 e-mail: cwp@ug.edu.pl

OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Jana Bażyńskiego 1a St. 80–309 Gdańsk rooms 118, 121 phone 58 523 25 10

OFFICE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Rektorat UG Jana Bażyńskiego 8 St. 80–309 Gdańsk rooms 202–203, 207, 227 phone 58 523 31 70 58 523 31 22 58 523 25 56



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