

## TUL Rector's Directive

No. 4/2019

Title:	<b>TUL Grant Program to Support Basic Research of Young Academic and Research Staff Members "RISING-STARS" Announcement</b>			
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### 1. General Provisions

This directive announces the TUL Grant Program to support basic research of young academic and research staff members "RISING-STARS" (hereinafter referred to as GP RISING-STARS or program).

### 2. Basic characteristics and the objective of the grant program

The strategic objective of GP RISING-STARS is to (i) provide young talented academic and research staff working in the field of basic research at TUL, (ii) support the creation of excellent, internationally competitive results, (iii) strengthen young workers' international contacts, and (iv) support the preparation of project proposals for basic research grant competitions of national (GAČR) and international (ERC) providers. The tool for implementing the objective is to provide targeted support for talented and motivated scientists and their teams who will work on specific, clearly defined and original projects with active involvement in international collaboration in basic research. An

indispensable aspect of this type of grant support is the motivation of workplaces to further invest in extraordinary scientific young talents.

The basic mandatory objectives to be evaluated within each project are:

- (i) sending at least two grant support applications to a competition by a national basic research (GAČR - Junior) or an international (ERC) provider,
- (ii) publishing the results of work in basic research in professional impact journals,
- (iii) passing a post-doctoral internship in another country lasting at least 180 days (unless the applicant has already passed such an internship).

### 3. Time period for grant funding

The RISING-STARS grant program is announced for the period from 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2025.

### 4. Total amount of funds allocated

The total funds allocated to the program for the period from 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2025 shall be a minimum of CZK 10 million. In case of an increase in the institutional support for long-term conceptual development of the TUL, the funds for the program will be increased optimally to CZK 20 million. Program funds shall be drawn on the basis of individual calls for grant applications according to the schedule below.

### 5. The method of announcing calls for the grant program

Unless the Rector specifies otherwise, the GP RISING-STARS call parameters shall be set out by the following schedule:

Beginning and end of the period for receiving grant applications	Beginning and end of the evaluation period	Date of announcement of projects accepted for financing	The beginning of the project
15 April – 12 May 2019	13 May – 15 June 2019	15 June 2019	1 July 2019
1 – 30 September 2019	1 October – 15 November 2019	15 November 2019	1 January 2020
1 – 30 September 2020	1 October – 15 November 2020	15 November 2020	1 January 2021
In subsequent years according to the same schedule.			

## 6. Definition of grant support beneficiaries

Financial support will be awarded to smaller, clearly defined and compact teams led by a member of TUL academic staff (Group A) or a TUL researcher (Group C)<sup>1</sup> who was awarded the Ph.D. degree or its equivalent 7 years ago at maximum. With persons taking care of an underage child, the period demonstrably spent on maternity and parental leave shall not be counted into this limit. With persons who have undergone a long-term illness, the period of sick leave shall not be counted into this limit.

Each member of the research team of the proposed project may be a member of a maximum of one proposed or ongoing GP RISING-STARS project<sup>2</sup> or GP RISING-STARS project.

## 7. Financial and time limits for grant support applications

The maximum amount of support for one project per year is CZK 800 000.-. The maximum duration of the project is 3 years.

## 8. Requirements for grant support applications

The grant application for a project (hereinafter referred to as "the project") shall contain the following information:

- a) The application for grant support (abstract, project rationale, applicant's CV) is processed in English.
- b) Basic information about the project (name, abstract, project duration).
- c) Information on the principal investigator and members of the research team (planned project hours, personnel costs).
- d) Project budget over the whole period of its duration and detailed justification for funds drawing in the first year of the project.
- e) Description and justification of the project proposal (motivation, description of the current state of knowledge, objectives of the project, justification of their originality, methods used to achieve the objectives, controllable project schedule including material and time milestones, controllable outputs and project results).
- f) Data on research experience and previous scientific results of the applicant: h-index, total number of results published in journals monitored in the WoS, total number of citations of all results of the applicant and the research team, results in RIV created by the applicant and the research team which were the subject to evaluation of pillar II (until 2016) or subject to evaluation for excellence within Module 2 of the M17+ methodology (since 2017) including the final evaluation.

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<sup>1</sup> See TUL Internal Wage Regulation (see [zde](#))

<sup>2</sup> Information about GP RISING-STARS are stated at <https://www.tul.cz/gp>.

- g) Data on the completion or the plan to complete a post-doctoral internship in a country other than where the project applicant earned a Ph.D. degree in the total length of at least 180 days. This internship can be split into two shorter ones.
- h) Plan for preparing and sending grant applications (project proposals) to national (GAČR - Junior) grant competitions and international (ERC) providers.
- i) Information on the workplace and possible supporting statement of the head of the workplace and the leadership of the faculty.
- j) If the researcher has unsuccessfully proposed project applications with similar research focus to get support in the grant calls of other providers (e.g. GAČR, ERC, etc.) over the past two years, they shall submit the previous project applications and their evaluation.

Applications are submitted via the online portal at <https://www.tul.cz/gp> within the deadline for receiving grant support applications listed in section 5. The statement of support of the head of the workplace and the dean of the faculty according to point i) shall be sent electronically. Documents relating to point j) shall be uploaded as an annex to the application.

## 9. Evaluation criteria for grant support applications

Grant support applications will be evaluated by the GPAB (Grant Program Advisory Board) TUL according to the following criteria:

- a) Project proposal quality (from 0 to 25 points can be obtained in total).
  - i) The preliminary research part of the project demonstrates the importance of the project in international comparison (0 to 5 points).
  - ii) Project objectives are clearly defined. Furthermore, the project application must clearly document that the project objectives are genuine, open and ambitious issues corresponding to the current state of knowledge at international level (0 to 5 points).
  - iii) The methods used to achieve the objectives are clearly defined and described in detail (0 to 5 points).
  - iv) The project solution procedure, in terms of timing and subject matter, is defined in clearly stated and controllable milestones (0 to 5 points).
  - v) Project outputs and results are controllable and are at international level in the given field (0 to 5 points).
- b) Quality and previous results of the applicant and members of the research team. 0 to 20 points can be obtained for this criterion in total. All projects will be ranked according to the following 4 evaluation parameters:
  - i) The applicant's h-Index

- ii) The total number of results published in the journals monitored by WoS by the applicant and the research team over the past 5 years, weighted by the magazine's quartile stated in WoS. (Q1 weight 1.00, Q2 weight 0.75, Q3 weight 0.5, Q4 weight 0.25)
- iii) The number of citations of all results of the applicant and the research team.
- iv) Number of results in RIV created by the applicant and the research team, which were the subject of evaluation pillar II (until 2016) or subject to evaluation for excellence within Module 1 of the M17 + methodology (since 2017) weighted by the final grade. (mark 1 weight 1.00, mark 2 weight 0.75, mark 3 weight 0.5, mark 4 weight 0.25, mark 5 weight 0.00)

For each evaluation parameter i) through iv), the best project receives 5 points and the other 4 projects gradually 4, 3, 2 and 1 point.

- c) Bonus for grant application approval will be prior participation and positive evaluation of content-comparable projects proposals with national grant support providers in the field of basic research, even though no financial support for these projects had been granted. Bonus is possible in the range from 0 to 5 points. Points are allocated to projects by GPAB.
- d) Bonus for grant application approval will be a statement by the Dean of the Faculty or the Director of the Higher Education Institute that the project falls within the strategic R&D directions in the field of basic research of the faculty and/or institute. Bonus is possible in the range of 0 to 5 points. Project points are awarded by the Dean of the Faculty or the Director of the Higher Education Institute.

## 10. Eligible costs and rules for managing grant resources

- 10.1. Grant funds allocated may only be used to cover eligible costs of the project selected for support in GP RISING-STARS TUL. For grant purposes, recognized costs are those that are eligible for institutional support for the research organization's long-term conceptual development and are justified and accountable. (The eligible costs of institutional support for the long-term conceptual development of the research organization are set out in the document [Výzva pro vysoké školy k podání žádosti o poskytnutí dotace na dlouhodobý koncepční rozvoj výzkumné organizace na základě zhodnocení jí dosažených výsledků.](#))
- 10.2. The project researcher, who is also the budget executive under the Rector's Directive on Internal Control System, is responsible for the use of the provided grant funds, their proper and efficient use. The funds allocated to the project are drawn on the basis of the internal project number provided by the Accounting Department.
- 10.3. The course of the project and the drawing of grant support is under the ongoing control of the GPAB TUL. If the project's solution digresses significantly from the objectives and expected results, the project's time schedule or the drawing of funds stated in the grant application, GPAB TUL is entitled to command the investigator to stop the subject matter investigation and further drawing of the project funds. Unused project funds will be settled under point 10.7.
- 10.4. As significant diversion from the project is considered to be:

- a) The specified project time and subject-matter milestones are not met.
  - b) Grant support is used in a different way than stated in the project budget justification for the given year.
  - c) Planned publication results are not met.
- 10.5. In the event of significant digression from the project plan, the project investigator is excluded from all GP TUL grant calls for the next three years.
- 10.6. The project investigator may transfer unused project funds up to 5% of the awarded grant support to the Fund of Purpose-oriented Resources.
- 10.7. The investigator is obliged to return the unused grant funds of the project back to the GP RISING-STARS account by 31 December of the given year at the latest.

## **11. Method of continuous and final control and project evaluation**

- 11.1. The progress of the project subject matter investigation is under the ongoing control of the GPAB.
- 11.2. The project investigator is obliged to submit a grant application to the competition in the basic research by the national (GAČR - Junior) or international (ERC) provider.
- 11.3. The project investigator is required to present the following information to the GPAB at a personal interview twice a year:
- a) progress of project work,
  - b) achieved results,
  - c) justify any changes in the subject matter investigation of the project,
  - d) an overview of the financial drawing of the project grant,
  - e) justify any changes in the drawing of the grant,
  - f) proposal for further investigation of the project and utilization of grant funds,
  - g) provide information on submitted grant applications within the competition in the basic research of the national (GAČR - Junior) or international (ERC) provider.
  - h) Provide information on the plan or course of the post-doctoral internship.
- 11.4. If the project investigator had not completed a postdoctoral internship in a country other than the Ph.D. degree was awarded in the length of at least 180 days prior to the start of the project, they are obliged to complete the internship during the course of the project period.
- 11.5. The project investigator is obliged to annually present the progress of the work and the results achieved at a public lecture in front of the TUL academic community.
- 11.6. During the project solution, the investigator makes interim reports on the course of the project through the online portal at <https://www.tul.cz/gp>. Unless the Rector specifies otherwise, the dates for submitting interim project reports in GP RISING-STARS are set at 31 January of the given calendar year.

- 11.7. After completing the project, the investigator prepares the final report on the project through the online application at <https://www.tul.cz/gp>. Unless the Rector specifies otherwise, the deadlines for submitting the final project reports in GP RISING-STARS are set at 31 January of the given calendar year.
- 11.8. Extracts from analytical accounts (VEMA) of ongoing projects are an integral part of interim and final reports.
- 11.9. Interim and final reports are subject to evaluation by at least two external evaluators who are nominated for each project by GPAB TUL.
- 11.10. The final evaluation of interim and final reports shall be:
  - a) met with honours,
  - b) met,
  - c) met with reservations,
  - d) not fulfilled.
- 11.11. If two applications for grant support (GAČR – Junior or ERC) were not sent by the applicant during the project implementation or the planned publication outputs were not met, the final evaluation of the final report shall be “not fulfilled”.
- 11.12. If the project applicant gets the GAČR – Junior or ERC project, the project is terminated. The final evaluation of the final report of the project shall be “fulfilled” or “fulfilled with honours”.
- 11.13. If the interim project report is evaluated as “not fulfilled”, the project and drawing of funds shall be terminated by the Rector. The Rector may decide on the return of the funds due to violations of the rules on the management of grant funds.
- 11.14. If the interim or final project report is evaluated “not fulfilled”, the project investigator is excluded from all subsequent calls of all GP TUL for the following three years.

## **12. Transitional and final provisions**

The Vice-Rector for Science, Research and Foreign Affairs monitors and evaluates compliance with this Directive.

The Vice-Rector for Science, Research and Foreign Affairs and the Legal Department are responsible for interpreting the provisions of this Directive

This Directive shall become valid on the date of its approval and effective on the date of its publication.