

**FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY MECHANISM OF AND RULES FOR
SELECTING YOUNG SCIENTISTS AND POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS**

In keeping with the National Programme “Young Scientists and Post-doctoral Fellows – phase 2” (more at <https://web.mon.bg/bg/101140>) and the updated National Strategy for the Development of Scientific Research in the Republic of Bulgaria 2017-2030 (more at <http://www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=1231>) the Faculty of Philosophy at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski announces a **competition for selecting young scientists¹ and post-doctoral fellows.²**

You can apply under the programme by submitting:

- *Sample documents*
- *A research project application form*

I. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

1. [Sample statement](#) ;
2. CV;
3. *Copies of the diploma certifying successful completion of the **first** Master’s degree, and the **first** PhD degree respectively*
4. *Copy of the enrollment order (applicable to applicants who are currently enrolled as part-time doctoral students or independent doctoral students)*
5. *Copy of the employment contract (applicable to candidates appointed to the position of “assistant” or “chief assistant”).*

All application documents have to be saved in files, each named in Latin, with the applicant’s surname and first initial, followed by the name of the document (e.g. **IvanovI_Statement_Young_Res_Post-doc; IvanovI_CV; IvanovI_diploma-MA; IvanovI_diploma-MA/PhD; IvanovI_enrolment_order; IvanovI_employment_contract**).

All documents 1-4 are placed in a separate folder with a name in Latin, including the surname and initial of the first name of the applicant and “Documents” (e.g. IvanovI_ Documents).

6. *List of publications over the past 5 years.* The list of publications have to be entered in an excel file “[SAMPLE](#) – scientific results” – Publications Sheet, prepared as follows

6. List of publications:				
Please fill in the complete bibliographic data of the publications according to the model indicated in the Faculty of Philosophy manual, headings “Examples of description of cited sources in paper publications” and “Examples of description of sources cited in electronic publications” - http://phls.uni-sofia.bg/article/2341				
№	Publication:	Bibliographic description of the publications	on the topic of the PhD dissertation/Master’s thesis (Yes/No)	on a topic other than the topic of the PhD dissertation/Master's thesis (Yes/No)
1.	in a collection, a book or a monograph			
2.	in a scientific journal that is not indexed and referenced			
3.	in a scientific journal, indexed and referenced in specialised databases [1]			

¹ A “Young scientist” is a person who carries out scientific research and scientific-educational activities in a higher education institution and/or scientific organisation after acquiring their first education and qualification degree of “Master”, but not more than 10 years after its acquisition. The date of the Protocol of the State Examination Committee is considered date of the master’s degree acquisition.

² A “post-doctoral fellow” is a scientist who has acquired their first doctoral degree in Bulgaria or abroad, within 5 years of acquiring it. The scientific and educational degree of “Doctor” is considered acquired as at the day when the dissertation work is defended successfully.

The eligibility grounds for both categories of applicants must be valid not only at the time of application, but throughout the entire period of their participation after signing a contract under the programme.

4	in contemporary Bulgarian peer-reviewed scientific publications, included in the National Reference List [2]			
5	in world scientific databases [3]			

[1] Such are the scientific publications included in the following specialised databases for scientific periodicals:

CEEOL [<https://www.ceeol.com/>],

ERIH+ [<https://dbh.nsd.uib.no/publiseringskanaler/erihplus/>],

EBSCOHost [<https://www.ebsco.com/products/ebscohost-platform>],

JStore [<https://www.jstor.org/>],

PIIH [https://www.elibrary.ru/project_risc.asp].

[2] The National Reference List (NRL) of contemporary peer-reviewed Bulgarian scientific publications is maintained by the Minister of Education and Science through the National Center for Information and Documentation. <https://nrs.nacid.bg/register/search>

[3] The scientific publications included in the "world scientific databases – **SCOPUS, WEB of SCIENCE** (All Databases)"

7. *List of papers/posters presented at scientific conferences in Bulgaria and abroad over the past 5 years.* The list is entered in an excel file – "[SAMPLE](#) - scientific results", Projects sheet. Participation in projects in which the applicant has performed technical functions will not be considered. The list of project participations have to be prepared as follows

№	Project title	Funding institution and programme	Period of implementation	Project coordinator	The applicant's position in the project
1.					
2.					
3.					

8. *List of specialisations abroad over the past 5 years.* The list is entered in the excel file, Specialisations sheet. Erasmus+ mobility/exchange is not considered a specialisation. A double supervision (co-tutelle) doctorate is also not considered a specialisation. In the event that no specialisations have been conducted, "none conducted" have to be written in the first cell. It is filled in an excel file "[SAMPLE](#) - scientific results" - Specialisations sheet

№	Host University/Research Institute and Country	hematic field of the specialisation/project that was developed	riod of implementation of the specialisation	Source of funding of the specialisation	Academic supervisor/consultant of the specialisation
1.					
2.					
3.					

9. *List of papers/posters presented at scientific conferences in Bulgaria and abroad over the past 5 years.* Only participation with a prepared and presented paper or poster will be considered. The list must be entered in an excel file "[SAMPLE](#) - scientific results" - Conferences sheet. The list of conferences have to be prepared as follows

№	Conference title	Organiser	Dates (from - to)	Conference venue	Title of the presented paper/poster
1					
2					
3					

The documents 5-8 are entered in an excel file with a name in Latin which includes the applicant's surname and first initial and [SAMPLE](#) - scientific results (e.g. **IvanovI_SAMPLE – scientific results**).

10. *Application form* The file name includes the applicant's surname, first initial, and Application_form (e.g. **IvanovI_FF_ Application_form**).

The documents are sent to Mrs. Irena Cheresharova's email address at cheresharova@phls.uni-sofia.bg

Within 24 hours of sending the documents to the above email address, the applicants will receive a reference number, which will also certify their successful receipt.

II. EVALUATION OF THE RECEIVED PROPOSALS AND SELECTION

A Faculty Committee, elected by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy, Protocol №15 of 19.07.2022, approved by the Academic Council of Sofia University, Protocol № 17 of 19.08.2022 And appointed with Order of Rector of Sofia University № RD-19-280 of 22.08.2022 evaluates the submitted applications.

THE SELECTION OF APPLICANTS GOES THROUGH THREE STAGES:

1. **FIRST STAGE:** eligibility check of applicants.

1.1. Eligibility of the applicants for participation in the competition in the categories of “young scientist” and “post-doctoral fellow”.

1.2. Review of the received documents.

The review of the received documents is carried out by the representatives of the doctoral students - members of the Committee. Based on the results of the review, the Committee makes a decision on the applicants' eligibility.

The applicants who do not meet some of the specified requirements for administrative compliance are sent a notice of termination of the application procedure. This termination is not subject to appeal.

2. **SECOND STAGE** – evaluation of the research results and the proposal for participation in the project applied for

2.1. Evaluation of the scientific research results of the applicants for the past 5 years according to the announced criteria. The evaluation according to these criteria is carried out by the representatives of the doctoral students - members of the Committee. Based on the evaluation data, the Committee ranks the candidates according to these criteria.

Criteria for evaluating the scientific results

	Criterion	Points
1	Defended first PhD thesis.	10
2	Defended first Master's dissertation.	5
3	Publications on the topic of the PhD dissertation or Master's thesis over the past five years.	5 points per publication
4	Publications on topics other than the topic of the PhD dissertation/Master's thesis over the past five years.	3 points per publication
5	Participation in research projects funded by EU operational programmes or other national and international scientific institutions over the past five years	3 points per project
6	Participation in research projects of the Faculty of Philosophy, funded by the Scientific Research Fund at Sofia University over the past five years.	3 points per project
7	Specialisations abroad over the past five years (excluding Erasmus+ mobility)	5 points
8	Participation in scientific conferences with a paper/poster over the past five years	3 points

The results of the specified criteria form 10% of the assessment of the applicants' scientific potential.

2.2. Evaluation of the proposal for participation in the project applied for according to the criteria prepared by the Committee. The evaluation is carried out by the habilitated academics - members of the Committee according to the attached expert evaluation card. The authorised representatives in the Committee decide on the evaluation of each candidate by a simple majority.

Applicants whose proposals are not prepared according to the attached sample forms will not be evaluated.

Criteria for evaluating the proposal for participation in an announced current project:

№	CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF A RESEARCH PROJECT	Evaluated from ... to ...
1	Awareness of the scientific research on the topic of the project and relevance of the proposed research	from 0 to 6 p.
2	Motivation	from 0 to 4 p.
2.1	Knowledge and skills	from 0 to 2 p.
	Abilities to write a scientific text	from 0 to 2 p.
3	Scientific effect (impact)	from 0 to 6 p.
3.1	New knowledge	from 0 to 2 p.
3.2	Expected results and scientific contributions	from 0 to 2 p.
3.3	Applicability of results	from 0 to 2 p.
4	Contribution to the applicant's scientific development	from 0 to 4 p.
	TOTAL	from 0 to 20 p.

The result of the expert evaluation of a proposal for participation in the project applied for forms 90% of the assessment of the scientific potential of the applicants.

All proposals which receive an evaluation of no less than 15 points will be admitted to the third stage of evaluation. All applicants who have successfully passed the second stage of the procedure will receive personal messages about this along with an invitation to participate in the third and final stage - an interview according to a fixed schedule.

All applicants who have not successfully passed the 15-point threshold at their proposal evaluation, will receive a personal message with the result of the competition. Upon request, which can be submitted within 7 days of the date of notification, applicants can receive the expert evaluation card concerning the evaluation of their project proposal. This information will be provided within 24 hours of the request.

3. **THIRD STAGE:** interview.

During the interview, applicants have to demonstrate knowledge and skills to work on the project they are applying for and answer questions from the habilitated academics - members of the Committee. Their performance will be evaluated on the following scale:

1. Very poor performance – 1 point
2. Poor performance – 2 points
3. Good performance – 3 points
4. Very good performance – 4 points
5. Excellent performance – 5 points

Based on the results of the three stages of the selection, the Committee ranks the applicants for young scientist and and post-doctoral fellow positions and proposes to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy to vote for their approval. After the decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy, the approved candidates are proposed for appointment on an employment contract for a period of no less than 6 (six) months.

III. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS

The results of the competition are published on the website of the Faculty of Philosophy after its completion. The information is disclosed under the incoming reference number received in the process of application.