

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### OF THE CALLS FOR PROPOSALS FOR GRANTS OF THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE TO EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

conducted by the National Research Foundation of Ukraine

#### **Titles of the Calls**

1. Call for Grants of the President of Ukraine to Support Research and Developments of Early Career Researchers – Doctors of Sciences (up to 40 years old inclusive).
2. Call for Grants of the President of Ukraine to Support Research and Developments of Early Career Researchers – Doctoral Students (up to 35 years old inclusive).
3. Call for Grants of the President of Ukraine to Support Research and Developments of Early Career Researchers – PhDs / Candidates of Sciences (up to 35 years old inclusive).

#### **II. Thematic areas of the Calls and duration of projects to be selected based on their results**

In order to solve urgent issues of early career researchers, to ensure their active participation in the implementation of state policy in the field of scientific and scientific and technical activities, to preserve and develop intellectual potential, competitive selections of projects for research and developments for Grants of the President of Ukraine to early career researchers are announced:

**Call 1** – for Doctors of Sciences (up to 40 years old inclusive);

**Call 2** – for Doctoral Students (up to 35 years old inclusive);

**Call 3** – for PhDs / Candidates of Sciences (up to 35 years old inclusive).

**The purpose of the Calls** is to select projects for grant support for research and developments, to solve urgent issues of early career researchers, to ensure their active participation in the implementation of state policy in the field of scientific and scientific and technical activities, to preserve and develop intellectual potential.

**The goals of the Calls** is to foster respective and impactful research and developments of early career researchers in the priority areas of the development of science and technology in Ukraine.

Competitive selections are carried out pursuant to the Procedure for competitive selection and financing of research and developments projects by the National Research Foundation of Ukraine, approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 27, 2019 No. 1170.

Awarding of annual grants of the President of Ukraine to Early Career Researchers is carried out pursuant to the "Regulations on Annual Grants of the President of Ukraine to Doctors of Science for Research and Developments" approved by the Decree of the President of Ukraine of January 26, 2026 No. 81/2026.

The Call is held in compliance with the principle of gender equality.

The requirements for the participants of the Call and the terms and conditions of the Call are formulated taking into account [the Agreement on Reforming Assessment \(CoARA\)](#)

Grants are awarded to early career researchers – citizens of Ukraine – who carry out research activities in Ukraine on a permanent basis.

Grants may be awarded both for newly planned research and developments, and for those already in progress.

**Thematic areas of the Calls** shall correspond to one of the branches of science and technology development (pursuant to Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Priority Branches of Science and Technology Development’):

- 1) national security and defense;
- 2) fundamental research on the most important issues in the development of scientific and technical, social and economic, social and political, and human potential to ensure the competitiveness of Ukraine in the world and sustainable development of society and the state;
- 3) information and communication technologies;
- 4) power industry and energy efficiency;
- 5) rational use of natural resources;
- 6) life sciences, new technology for the prevention and treatment of the most common diseases;
- 7) new substances and materials.

Grants are awarded on the basis of a competitive selection of projects for research and developments, taking into account the relevance of their thematic focus to the needs of the national economy, society, and national security and defense, in particular through the achievement of new research results meeting international standards, the development of new technologies, and the promotion of innovation in the real sector of the economy and the defense sector.

Intellectual property rights created in the course of research and developments at the expense of grants from the President of Ukraine to Doctors of Science belong to the grantee\*, except for the cases provided for in the second part of Article 11 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On State Regulation of Activities in the Field of Technology Transfer’.

Research projects whose contents constitute a state secret (pursuant to the Law of Ukraine “On State Secrets”) shall not be considered for the Call.

Implementation of projects is scheduled for 2027 and will be implemented taking into account and in accordance with the budget revenues of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (hereinafter - the Foundation or the NRFU).

*\* Definitions of certain terms used in the text of these Terms and Conditions:*

*grantee* – a winner of the call, with whom a grant support agreement has been concluded (early career researcher);

*grant support agreement* – an agreement concluded by the Foundation in its prescribed form, with a legal entity (institution, organization, institution of higher education) that undertakes to implement the research and developments set out in the research project, and with the grantee following the award of the grant (hereinafter – the Agreement);

*early career researcher* – a researcher aged up to 35 years old including who holds a higher education degree of at least the second (master's) level, or a researcher aged up to 40 years old including who holds the academic degree of Doctor of Sciences (age is determined as of the date of application submission via the Automated System «The NRFU Call for Projects»);

*application for obtaining grant support* – a document completed by the Call applicant in the form prescribed by the Foundation submitted for participation in the Call (hereinafter – the Application);

*project for research and developments* – a set of activities for implementing research and developments, a detailed description of which is provided in the Application (hereinafter – the Project).

### **III. Requirements for the Calls participants**

#### **1. Call for Grants of the President of Ukraine to Support Research and Developments of Doctors of Sciences (up to 40 years old inclusive).**

A researcher may participate in the Call if, at the time of application submission, he/she is up to and including 45 years old, holds a research degree of Doctor of Sciences (awarded or officially recognized in Ukraine), and is employed as the main place of employment at the Legal entity.

A single participant may submit no more than one Application to the Call.

A project submitted for participation in the Call shall not be simultaneously submitted to any other call for the purpose of receiving funding from budgetary funds, nor shall it be eligible if it is currently funded or has previously been funded from budgetary funds under another.

A Doctor of Sciences aged up to and including 40 years old may be awarded only one annual grant within a single year for implementing research and developments, as provided for by either the Decree of the President of Ukraine of April 9, 2002 No. 315/2002 “On Additional Measures to Support Young Scientists” or the Decree of the President of Ukraine of May 16, 2008 No. 444/2008 “On Additional Measures to Ensure the Development of the Scientific Sphere” at their discretion.

The Call participant shall not work in a foreign institution at the main place of employment.

The restrictions on participation in this Call apply to individuals subject to restrictive measures (sanctions) imposed by the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine.

Individuals to whom prohibitions have been applied by the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation, as established in clauses 1 and/or 2 of the “Restrictive Measures Applied to Authors of Projects Whose Grant Support Was Terminated by the Decision of the Scientific Council of the NRFU due to Improper Implementation of Research and Development, and Based on Results of Assessment of the Quality of Project Implementation and Publication/Dissemination of the Results”, approved by the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation of 11 January 2022, Protocol No. 2 (as amended by the decision of the Scientific Council of the NRFU (Protocol No. 33 of December 7, 2023); hereinafter – Restrictive Measures of the Foundation), shall not be eligible to participate in the Call until a decision on the removal of the established restrictions has been made.

Employees of the NRFU Directorate, members of the NRFU Scientific Council, the Scientific Committee of the National Council of Ukraine for Science and Technology Development, and members of the Call Commission for this Call shall not be eligible to participate in the Call.

The Call participant shall bear responsibility for the accuracy of information contained in the Application and in the documents attached.

The Call participant shall comply with the “Regulations on Compliance with the Principles of Research Ethics and Conflict of Interest Prevention during competitive selections, scientific and scientific-technical reviewing of projects and consideration of applications for grant support submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine”, approved by the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation of 18 December 2025, Protocol No. 36 (<https://nrfu.org.ua/about-us/ethical-principles/>).

The Call participant applying for the NRFU grant support whose activities show formal indications of cooperation with representatives of the aggressor state or temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine has the right to submit appropriate explanations and evidence demonstrating the absence of actual cooperation together with the Application for further consideration and decision by the Call Commission. Such explanations and evidence may be uploaded as a separate PDF file (or files) in the “Documents” section when submitting the Application.

The discovery of false information in the documents submitted by the participant shall constitute grounds for disqualification of the Application at any stage of the competitive selection.

## **2. Call for Grants of the President of Ukraine to Support Research and Developments of Doctoral Students (up to 35 years old inclusive).**

A researcher may participate in the Call if, at the time of application submission, he/she is up to and including 35 years old, holds a research degree of PhDs / Candidates of Sciences (awarded or officially recognized in Ukraine), is pursuing a research program within a doctoral program at the Legal entity (pursuant to the Procedure for the Training of Applicants for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Sciences in Higher Education Institutions (Research Institutions), approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 502 of March 19, 2023).

A single participant may submit no more than one Application to the Call.

A project submitted for participation in the Call shall not be simultaneously submitted to any other call for the purpose of receiving funding from budgetary funds, nor shall it be eligible if it is currently funded or has previously been funded from budgetary funds under another.

The Call participant shall not work in a foreign institution at the main place of employment.

The restrictions on participation in this Call apply to individuals subject to restrictive measures (sanctions) imposed by the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine.

Individuals to whom prohibitions have been applied by the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation, as established in clauses 1 and/or 2 of the “Restrictive Measures Applied to Authors of Projects Whose Grant Support Was Terminated by the Decision of the Scientific Council of the NRFU due to Improper Implementation of Research and Development, and Based on Results of Assessment of the Quality of Project Implementation and Publication/Dissemination of the Results”, approved by the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation of 11 January 2022, Protocol No. 2 (as amended by the decision of the Scientific Council of the NRFU (Protocol No. 33 of December 7, 2023); hereinafter – Restrictive Measures of the Foundation), shall not be eligible to participate in the Call until a decision on the removal of the established restrictions has been made.

Employees of the NRFU Directorate, members of the NRFU Scientific Council, the Scientific Committee of the National Council of Ukraine for Science and Technology Development, and members of the Call Commission for this Call shall not be eligible to participate in the Call.

The Call participant shall bear responsibility for the accuracy of information contained in the Application and in the documents attached.

The Call participant shall comply with the “Regulations on Compliance with the Principles of Research Ethics and Conflict of Interest Prevention during competitive selections, scientific and scientific-technical reviewing of projects and consideration of applications for grant support submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine”, approved by the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation of 18 December 2025, Protocol No. 36 (<https://nrfu.org.ua/about-us/ethical-principles/>).

The Call participant applying for the NRFU grant support whose activities show formal indications of cooperation with representatives of the aggressor state or temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine has the right to submit appropriate explanations and evidence demonstrating the absence of actual cooperation together with the Application for further consideration and decision by the Call Commission. Such explanations and evidence may be uploaded as a separate PDF file (or files) in the “Documents” section when submitting the Application.

The discovery of false information in the documents submitted by the participant shall constitute grounds for disqualification of the Application at any stage of the competitive selection.

### **3. Call for Grants of the President of Ukraine to Support Research and Developments of PhDs / Candidates of Sciences (up to 35 years old inclusive).**

A researcher may participate in the Call if, at the time of application submission, he/she is up to and including 35 years old, holds a research degree of PhDs / Candidates of Sciences (awarded or officially recognized in Ukraine), and is employed as the main place of employment at the Legal entity.

A single participant may submit no more than one Application to the Call.

A project submitted for participation in the Call shall not be simultaneously submitted to any other call for the purpose of receiving funding from budgetary funds, nor shall it be eligible if it is currently funded or has previously been funded from budgetary funds under another.

Employees of the NRFU Directorate, members of the NRFU Scientific Council, the Scientific Committee of the National Council of Ukraine for Science and Technology Development, and members of the Call Commission for this Call shall not be eligible to participate in the Call.

The Call participant shall not work in a foreign institution at the main place of employment.

The restrictions on participation in this Call apply to individuals subject to restrictive measures (sanctions) imposed by the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine.

Individuals to whom prohibitions have been applied by the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation, as established in clauses 1 and/or 2 of the “Restrictive Measures Applied to Authors of Projects Whose Grant Support Was Terminated by the Decision of the Scientific Council of the NRFU due to Improper Implementation of Research and Development, and Based on Results of Assessment of the Quality of Project Implementation and Publication/Dissemination of the Results”, approved by the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation of 11 January 2022, Protocol No. 2 (as

amended by the decision of the Scientific Council of the NRFU (Protocol No. 33 of December 7, 2023); hereinafter – Restrictive Measures of the Foundation), shall not be eligible to participate in the Call until a decision on the removal of the established restrictions has been made.

The Call participant shall bear responsibility for the accuracy of information contained in the Application and in the documents attached.

The Call participant shall comply with the “Regulations on Compliance with the Principles of Research Ethics and Conflict of Interest Prevention during competitive selections, scientific and scientific-technical reviewing of projects and consideration of applications for grant support submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine”, approved by the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation of 18 December 2025, Protocol No. 36 (<https://nrfu.org.ua/about-us/ethical-principles/>).

The Call participant applying for the NRFU grant support whose activities show formal indications of cooperation with representatives of the aggressor state or temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine has the right to submit appropriate explanations and evidence demonstrating the absence of actual cooperation together with the Application for further consideration and decision by the Call Commission. Such explanations and evidence may be uploaded as a separate PDF file (or files) in the “Documents” section when submitting the Application.

The discovery of false information in the documents submitted by the participant shall constitute grounds for disqualification of the Application at any stage of the competitive selection.

#### **IV. Peculiarities of project implementation**

A project is to be implemented within one stage over eight months (approximately **from April 2027 to November 2027, inclusive**).

During the implementation of the project, the grantee shall not work in foreign institutions with monetary remuneration (compensation) and at this period shall not receive salary or any other payments from grant funds of the Foundation. In the event of such circumstances, the Legal entity shall inform the Foundation of the terms and conditions of such work.

The fact that the project is funded under the NRFU Call by grant funds of the President of Ukraine, the project number and the title **shall be indicated in all** publications, official statements, media information, social networks, other open sources and during presentations at research events for the purpose of presenting the research results. Publications that do not include such information shall not be submitted by the grantee and shall not be taken into account by the Scientific Council of the Foundation when reporting on the results of the project implementation.

Grantees are encouraged to take all available measures to promote the project and the results obtained to the general public.

The Grantee and the Legal entity shall submit to the Foundation within the deadlines specified in the Agreement and using the prescribed forms, the following reporting documentation:

- final report on the results of the project for research and developments, in the form determined by the Grantor, in electronic form and in one bound paper copy;
- financial report on the use of budgetary funds, in electronic format and in one paper copy;
- other documentation provided for in the Agreement.

Unused and/or saved grant funds shall be returned to the Foundation's registration account in accordance with the procedures and deadlines prescribed by the Agreement.

The Foundation exercises control over the implementation of grant support agreements.

For violation of the terms and conditions of the grant support agreement, enforcement measures shall be applied to the grantee in accordance with applicable legislation.

In the event of a material change in circumstances that may lead to non-fulfillment of the terms and conditions of the grant support agreement, in order to ensure the implementation of the project, such agreement may be amended prior to the completion of the interim stage of project implementation specified in the grant support agreement with respect to the terms and conditions required for its performance, within the approved budget estimate. The decision to amend the terms and conditions required for project implementation shall be made by the Scientific Council of the Foundation at the initiative of the grantee. The grantee shall submit to the Foundation proposals for amending the grant support agreement, together with justification and supporting documents. The Foundation shall review the proposals and provide the grantee with a response containing the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation no later than 20 working days from the date of receipt of the proposals. If the Scientific Council of the Foundation adopts a positive decision, a supplementary agreement shall be concluded with the grantee and the partner(s) (if any) to amend the terms and conditions for project implementation.

Grounds for a decision to terminate grant support may include:

- a reasoned conclusion by the respective Scientific Council of the Foundation section regarding a breach of material terms and conditions of the grant support agreement;
- a reasoned conclusion by the respective Scientific Council of the Foundation section regarding the grantee's inability to implement the project;
- a reasoned conclusion by the respective Scientific Council of the Foundation section regarding the loss of relevance of the expected project results due to scientific, technological, or economic reasons;
- a decision of the respective Scientific Council of the Foundation section concerning the misuse of funds by the grantee, made on the basis of a respective notice from the state financial control authority following the results of financial control activities carried out with the grantee.

In the event that the Foundation identifies a breach of material terms and conditions of the grant support agreement by the grantee, the Scientific Council of the Foundation shall adopt a decision to terminate the grant support and to require the grantee to return the funds, specifying the deadline for repayment in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement.

In the event that the Foundation identifies indications of misuse of funds by the grantee in the course of project implementation, the Directorate of the Foundation shall inform the state financial control authority thereof for the purpose of taking such information into account when planning and/or conducting state financial control measures.

If the fact of misuse of funds by the grantee in the course of project implementation is established, the amount of funds used not for their intended purpose shall be returned to the Foundation pursuant to the procedure established by law.

The Scientific Council of the Foundation considers scientific pseudo-conferences (including congresses, symposia, workshops, etc.) and the respective publications (conference proceedings, abstracts, etc.) to be unacceptable forms of dissemination of the Project implementers' research results if they are organized or published by commercial non-academic entities whose primary activity consists in conducting such events and issuing such publications on a paid and remote basis. Such events and publications merely imitate research events and academic publications and constitute a distortion of research platforms intended for substantive scholarly discussion; they discredit researchers and the projects supported by the Foundation. Therefore, the Scientific Council of the Foundation does not allow their inclusion in research project reports and will not consider such conferences/publications as indicators of the fulfillment of the technical assignment and the project implementation schedule. The Scientific Council of the Foundation recommends that project implementers present the results of their research at events and in publications organized by institutions of higher education, research institutions, and specialized professional research associations (in the respective field of science).

Information on the results of the project implementation, as well as the final report on its implementation and the report on the use of budgetary funds within the framework of the project, is published in accordance with the established procedure on the official website of the Foundation, except for the cases provided for by the Law of Ukraine "On State Secrets".

## **V. Criteria for the numerical assessment of projects, indicating the order of priority and weight coefficients of individual criteria**

Project selection is carried out in accordance with the procedure established in the Procedure for Scientific and Scientific and Technical Reviewing of Projects and Consideration of Applications for Grant Support Submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine.

Projects are assessed by independent reviewers according to the system and criteria approved by the Scientific Council of the NRFU.

Each Project is assessed according to the following criteria with the respective weight coefficients:

- quality of the planned research and its relevance to the thematic areas of the Call;
- significance of the Project for the further development of research / engineering / technology / society (according to the Project focus)
- quality and feasibility of the proposed Project implementation plan.

Each criterion includes several assessment sub-criteria with their own weight coefficients.

Assessment for each criterion and sub-criterion is carried out by a reviewer using a 5-point scale, with mandatory justification provided.

The score for a criterion is calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of the scores for its sub-criterion.

The total score for the Project is calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of the scores for all criteria, multiplied by 20.

During the evaluation of the Project, a 5-point scale with the following score values is used for each criterion:

0 – Poor	The project does not meet the criterion or cannot be assessed due to the absence or incompleteness of information required by this criterion
1 – Unsatisfactory	The information on the criterion being assessed is presented inadequately or contains critical deficiencies
2 – Satisfactory	Overall, the project meets the criterion, but there are significant deficiencies
3 – Good	The project meets the criterion, but there are some deficiencies
4 – Very good	The project meets the criterion very well, although improvements are possible
5 – Excellent	The project meets the criterion in full

To assess the project in this Call the following criteria, weight coefficients and form are used:

Assessment criteria	Assessment scale	Weight coefficient
<p>1. Quality of the planned research and relevance to the thematic area of the Call This section involves the assessment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the quality of the justification for the research project and its focus on addressing a respective research issue;</li> <li>- the clarity in formulating the project's goal and objectives, and their alignment with the current level of research achievements;</li> <li>- the novelty of the research idea;</li> <li>- the originality of the research hypothesis;</li> <li>- the correctness of the selection of methodology and research methods for testing the research hypothesis.</li> </ul>	From 0 to 5 The score for a component is calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of the scores for its criteria.	0,3
1.1. Quality of the justification for the research issue: whether the current state of research and the issue requiring solution are described adequately and with respective references.	0-5	0,25
1.2. Relevance and novelty of research ideas (including interdisciplinary aspects, if the research is of a multidisciplinary nature).	0-5	0,25
1.3. Clarity and relevance of the formulated research goal and objectives.	0-5	0,25

1.4. Feasibility of the proposed research approaches and methods, and their alignment with the project's goal and objectives	0-5	0,25
2. Significance of the project for the further development of research / engineering / technology / society (according to the Project's focus) This section involves assessing the clarity and justification of the prospects for the further application of the research results aimed at advancing research and new technologies, and addressing societal issues. The completeness and potential effectiveness of the dissemination of the research results are also taken into account.	From 0 to 5 The score for a component is calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of the scores for its criteria.	0,3
2.1. Potential significance of the expected results and the generation of new knowledge (in comparison with the best global achievements) in addressing the specified research issue, development of new approaches and technologies, and/or their relevance to solving current practical research / technical / societal challenges.	0-5	0,4
2.2. Effectiveness and appropriateness of the planned dissemination and utilization of the research results (expected peer-reviewed publications, presentations at international research events, dissemination of research results among the public, etc.).	0-5	0,3
2.3. Prospects for continuing research on the specified issue in the future.	0-5	0,3
3. Quality and feasibility of the proposed Project implementation plan This section involves assessing the justification of the work plan and the clarity of intermediate objectives, their logical sequence; the clarity of the description of planned tasks, indicating specific results that can be verified; and the consistency of task complexity with the proposed timeline.	From 0 to 5 The score for a component is calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of the scores for its criteria.	0,4
3.1. Justification of the work plan, the methodology for its implementation, the alignment of the timeframe with the complexity of the defined stage and tasks, and their logical sequence.	0-5	0,3

3.2. Consistency of task complexity with their respective timelines.	0-5	0,2
3.3. Correctness of the construction of the logical and structural scheme of the research.	0-5	0,2
3.4. Quality of the PI's (Call participant's) publications within the five years.	0-5	0,3

For the evaluation of the Project under this Call, the following criteria, weighting coefficients, and evaluation form shall apply:

Assessment Criteria	Assessment scale	Weight coefficient
<p>1. Quality of the proposed research and its relevance to the Call topic</p> <p>This section assesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the quality of the justification of the research project and its focus on addressing a respective research issue;</li> <li>- the clarity of the formulation of the objectives and tasks and their correspondence to the current state of scientific knowledge;</li> <li>- the novelty of the scientific idea;</li> <li>- the originality of the scientific hypothesis;</li> <li>- the appropriateness of the selected methodology and research methods for testing the scientific hypothesis.</li> </ul>	<p>From 0 to 5</p> <p>The points for each component are calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of the points assigned to the criteria.</p>	0,3
1.1. Quality of justification of the scientific problem: whether the current state of research and the problem to be addressed are adequately described with appropriate references.	0-5	0,25
1.2. Relevance and novelty of scientific ideas (including from an interdisciplinary perspective, where the research has a multidisciplinary character).	0-5	0,25

1.3. Clarity and relevance of the stated research objectives and tasks.	0-5	0,25
1.4. Feasibility of the proposed research approaches and methods and their alignment with the project objectives and tasks.	0-5	0,25
<p>2. Significance of the project for the further development of science / engineering / technologies / society (in accordance with the project's focus)</p> <p>This section evaluates the clarity and substantiation of the prospects for further application of the research results aimed at advancing science and new technologies and addressing societal challenges. The completeness and potential effectiveness of dissemination of the research results are also taken into account.</p>	<p>From 0 to 5</p> <p>The points for each component are calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of the points assigned to the criteria.</p>	0,3
2.1. Potential importance of the expected results and the generation of new knowledge (in comparison with leading international achievements) in addressing the defined scientific problem, the development of new approaches and technologies, and/or their significance for solving respective practical scientific, technical, or societal issues.	0-5	0,4
2.2. Effectiveness and appropriateness of the planned means of dissemination and/or use of the research results (expected peer-reviewed publications, presentations at international scientific events, dissemination of research results to the wider public, etc.).	0-5	0,3
2.3. Prospects for the continuation of research on the defined problem in the future.	0-5	0,3
<p>3. Quality and feasibility of the proposed project implementation plan</p> <p>This section assesses the soundness of the work plan and the clarity of interim objectives, their logical sequence; the clarity of the description of planned tasks with specification of concrete, verifiable results; and the consistency between the complexity of the tasks and their timeframes.</p>	<p>From 0 to 5</p> <p>The points for each component are calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of the points assigned to the criteria.</p>	0,4

3.1. Soundness of the work plan and implementation methodology, alignment of timeframes with the complexity of the defined stages and tasks, and their logical sequence.	0-5	0,3
3.2. Consistency between the complexity of the tasks and their timeframes.	0-5	0,2
3.3. Adequacy of the logical and structural framework of the research.	0-5	0,2
3.4. Quality of the PI (applicant's) scientific publications over the last five years.	0-5	0,3

### Algorithm for calculating the final numerical score of the Applications

The coordinators analyse the set of reviewers' assessments received for the Project and report the results at the Panel meeting. For each Project, a discrepancy indicator **R** is calculated based on the scores **S1, S2, and S3** assigned by the three reviewers:

$$R = \frac{SD}{S} \cdot 100\%,$$

where **S** is the arithmetic mean of the scores assigned, i.e.,

$$S = \frac{S_1 + S_2 + S_3}{3},$$

**SD** is the standard deviation:

$$SD = \sqrt{\frac{(S_1 - S)^2 + (S_2 - S)^2 + (S_3 - S)^2}{3}}.$$

1. If the discrepancy indicator R does not exceed the critical value of 20%, the final numerical score of the Application is determined as the arithmetic mean S of the reviewers' scores.
2. If the discrepancy indicator R exceeds the critical value of 20%, then:
  - a) each Panel member ( $j = 1, \dots, N$ , where  $N$  is the number of Panel members) assesses the justification level  $k_{ij}$  of each reviewers' score  $S_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, 3$ , on a scale from 0 (poor) to 2 (good);
  - b) the final numerical score of the Application is calculated as the weighted mean of the reviewers' scores:

$$S = S_1 \beta_1 + S_2 \beta_2 + S_3 \beta_3,$$

where

$$\beta_i = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^N k_{ij}}{\sum_{l=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^N k_{lj}}, \quad i = 1, 2, 3.$$

## **VI. Date and venue of the Calls**

The Calls to Doctors of Sciences (up to 45 years old inclusive), Doctoral Students (up to 35 years old inclusive), Doctors of Philosophy (PhDs) /Candidates of Sciences (up to 35 years old inclusive) will be held from **31 January 2026 to 15 July 2026 (tentatively)**.

**Venue:** Kyiv city, Borysa Hrinchenka Street, 1

## **VII. Procedure for submission, registration, and preliminary review of the Applications**

Applications for participation in the Calls shall be submitted in Ukrainian and English in electronic form prescribed by the Foundation. Together with the Application, the applicant shall submit a Letter of Guarantee from the legal entity undertaking to implement the research and developments set out in the project.

The Applications for participation in the Calls shall be submitted exclusively in electronic form via the official website of the Foundation (<https://grants.nrfu.org.ua>) using the Automated System “The NRFU Call for Projects”.

To participate in the Call, an applicant shall submit an Application for grant support (in Ukrainian and English), certified with a qualified electronic signature of the applicant, as well as the documents submitted by the applicant together with the Application.

Registration of the Applications for participation in the Call is carried out automatically in the Automated System “The NRFU Call for Projects”.

The Directorate of the Foundation within the framework of providing organisational support for the conduct and organisation of the Calls by the Foundation, shall verify the submitted Applications for compliance with formal requirements the next working day after the deadline for submitting the Applications.

Such verification is carried out in two stages: preliminary and final. The preliminary verification is conducted within 10 working days from the deadline for submitting the Applications.

If, during the preliminary verification, it is found that the documents submitted by the Call participant lack information required under the Call terms and conditions, the Directorate of the Foundation shall notify the Call participant, by electronic means of communication, of the need to provide the clarified information within three working days from the date of notification.

After the deadline for submitting the clarified information, the Directorate of the Foundation shall, within 10 working days, conduct the final verification of the documents submitted by the Call participant for compliance with the formal requirements, taking into account such information.

The Directorate of the Foundation shall notify the respective Call applicant in electronic form of the rejection of the Applications on formal grounds within three working days after the deadline of the final verification period for compliance with formal requirements.

To conduct the Call, a Section of the Scientific Council of the Foundation shall, within 10 working days from the date of publication of the Call announcement on the official website of the Foundation, select at its meeting, by open voting, a Call Commission from among recognised researchers in the respective field (with their consent), consisting of no fewer than seven members.

Members of the Call Commission shall not be members of the governing bodies of the Foundation, nor participants in this Call.

The Call Commission shall carry out its activities pursuant to the Procedure for Conducting Scientific and Scientific and Technical Reviewing of Projects and Consideration of Applications for Grant Support Submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine ([procedure for conducting reviewing 25.11.pdf](#)), taking into account the Regulations on Compliance with the Principles of Research Ethics and Conflict of Interest Prevention during competitive selections, scientific and scientific and technical reviewing of projects, and consideration of applications for grant support submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (<https://nrfu.org.ua/about-us/ethical-principles/>).

Within 10 working days from the date of completion of the final verification of the Applications for compliance with formal requirements by the Directorate of the Foundation, the Call Commission shall conduct a preliminary review of the Applications for compliance with the Call terms and conditions, in particular the criteria determined by the Scientific Council of the Foundation, and identify inaccurate information in the documents submitted by Call the participant.

Non-compliance of the documents submitted by a Call participant with the Call terms and conditions, in particular the project selection criteria determined by the Scientific Council of the Foundation, or the discovery of false or inaccurate information in the documents submitted by the Call participant, shall constitute grounds for withdrawal of the Application from consideration following its preliminary review.

The discovery of false or inaccurate information in the documents submitted by the Call participant shall constitute grounds for withdrawal of the Application from consideration at any stage of the competitive selection process.

Based on the results of the preliminary review of the Applications for compliance with the Call terms and conditions, in particular the criteria determined by the Scientific Council of the Foundation, and in the event that false or inaccurate information is detected in the documents submitted by a Call participant, the Call Commission shall approve a list of Applications to be removed from consideration.

The Directorate of the Foundation shall notify the respective Call participant in electronic form of the decision of the Call Commission to remove the Application from consideration on the grounds of non-compliance with the Call terms and conditions, in particular the project selection criteria determined by the Scientific Council of the Foundation, or due to the detection of false or inaccurate information in the documents submitted by the Call participant, no later than three working days after such decision is adopted.

## **VIII. Deadlines for submission and review of Applications, conduct of scientific and scientific and technical review of projects, and announcement of the Calls results**

The date and time for the start of submission of the Applications for participation in the Calls to Doctors of Sciences (up to 45 years old inclusive), Doctoral Students (up to 35 years old inclusive),

Doctors of Philosophy (PhDs) / Candidates of Sciences (up to 35 years old inclusive): **31 January 2026, 00:01 (Kyiv time)**.

The deadline for submission of Applications: **1 March 2026, 23:59 (Kyiv time)**.

The conduct of scientific and scientific and technical review and the announcement of the results of all Calls: **by 15 July 2026 (tentatively)**.

Decisions on the rejection of a research and developments project and the submitted Application on formal grounds, on the approval of the list of Applications removed from consideration, on the formation of the ranking list, and on the list of successful projects shall not be subject to appeal.

## **IX. Information on the methods of submitting documents for participation in the Calls and on the procedure for withdrawal of an Application by a Call participant before the submission deadline**

To submit an Application, a Call participant shall complete the procedure of preliminary registration in the Automated System “NRFU Project Call”. Identification of the person submitting the Application is carried out during registration through the use of a qualified electronic signature.

A Call participant has the right to withdraw an Application before the expiry of the submission deadline, by notifying the Foundation via email at: [support@nrfu.org.ua](mailto:support@nrfu.org.ua).

## **X. Total funding amount for projects to be selected as a result of the Calls**

### **1. Call for research projects for obtaining grants of the President of Ukraine to Doctors of Science (up to 40 years old inclusive) for research and developments**

The total funding amount of the Call is **UAH 3,500.0 thousand**, in accordance with budget revenues and taking into account the risk of possible redistribution of funds and the risks related to the imposition of martial law in Ukraine: **7 grants of UAH 500.0 thousand each**.

### **2. Call for research projects for obtaining grants of the President of Ukraine to Doctoral Students (up to 35 years old inclusive) for research and developments**

The total funding amount of the Call is UAH 8,000.0 thousand, in accordance with budget revenues and taking into account the risk of possible redistribution of funds and the risks related to the imposition of martial law in Ukraine: 20 grants of UAH 400.0 thousand each.

### **3. Call for research projects for obtaining grants of the President of Ukraine to Doctors of Philosophy (PhDs) / Candidates of Sciences (up to 35 years old inclusive) for research and developments**

The total funding amount of the Call is **UAH 15,000.0 thousand**, in accordance with budget revenues and taking into account the risk of possible redistribution of funds and the risks related to the imposition of martial law in Ukraine: **50 grants of UAH 300.0 thousand each**.

Funding of projects shall be carried out through phased transfers of funds by the Foundation from its registration account to the account of the Legal Entity pursuant to the concluded Agreement, the Project Cost Estimate, the Calendar Plan for the implementation of the research (developments), the Project Financing Schedule for the implementation of the research (developments), and the Terms of Reference for the implementation of the research (developments), within the limits of the funding actually received by the Foundation.

The project shall be implemented within a single stage.

**Expenditures of the Grant Recipient related to the implementation of the project shall include exclusively personnel costs, including mandatory payroll-related contributions.** At the same time, for this Call, the Grant Recipient shall not be subject to the limitations established by the Scientific Council of the Foundation regarding the maximum monthly remuneration applicable under other projects receiving grant support from the Foundation.

Taxation of the funds received as a grant shall be carried out in accordance with applicable legislation, and the Legal Entity shall act as the tax agent of the Grant Recipient.

Funds transferred by the Foundation to the registration account of the Legal Entity for project financing may be used exclusively for the conduct of the research and developments. No other expenditures may be financed from the grant funds.

The terms and procedure for financing projects depend on the amount of budget allocations provided in the State Budget of Ukraine for the respective year to finance the activities of the Foundation.

Unused and saved amounts of funds shall be subject to return to the registration account of the Foundation in the manner and within the time limits established by the Agreement.

## **XI. Number of experts conducting scientific and scientific-technical evaluation of a project**

The Scientific Project Call includes the conduct of an independent and objective scientific and scientific-technical evaluation of such projects with the involvement of 3 experts (Ukrainian and/or foreign researchers, subject to their consent) pursuant to the Procedure for Conducting Scientific and Scientific-Technical Expert Evaluation of Projects and Reviewing Applications for Grant Support Submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine, approved by the decision of the Foundation's Scientific Council on 30 October 2025 (Protocol No. 30).

Persons who are participants in this Call cannot be involved in the scientific and scientific-technical evaluation of projects under this Call.

## **XII. Grounds for rejection of an Application on formal grounds**

The Directorate of the Foundation, as part of ensuring organisational support for the conduct and administration of Calls by the Foundation, shall, starting from the next working day after the deadline for application submission, verify the submitted Applications for compliance with formal requirements.

Such verification shall be carried out in two stages: preliminary and final. The preliminary verification shall be conducted within 10 working days from the date of expiry of the application submission deadline.

If, during the preliminary verification, it is established that the documents submitted by a Call participant lack information required under the Call terms and conditions, the Directorate of the Foundation shall notify the Call participant, by electronic means of communication, of the need to submit the clarified information within three working days from the date of notification.

After the deadline for submission of the clarified information, the Directorate of the Foundation shall, within 10 working days, conduct the final verification of the documents submitted by the Call participant for compliance with formal requirements, taking into account such information.

Grounds for rejection of an Application on formal grounds:

- Non-compliance of the submitted Application with the form established by the Foundation; Absence of documents required under the Call terms and conditions, including the Guarantee Letter of the Legal Entity;
- Absence or incomplete provision of information in the documents submitted by the Call participant as required under the Call terms and conditions;
- Non-compliance of the information provided in the Application with the requirements specified in the Call terms and conditions;
- Non-compliance of the Call participant with the requirements, including age requirements, established in the Regulations on the Procedure for Awarding Annual Grants of the President of Ukraine to Support Research and Development of Young Scientists, approved by the Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 81/2026 of 26 January 2026;
- Submission of documents for participation in the Call that do not comply with the procedure or form established by the Call terms and conditions, or failure to comply with document formatting requirements established by law.
- Violation of the requirement concerning the restriction on participation in this Call by individuals to whom restrictive measures (sanctions) of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine have been applied;
- Violation of the requirement regarding the established prohibition on participation in the Call until the Scientific Council of the Foundation adopts an appropriate decision on the submitted information and respective documents in respect of persons who were authors of and signed the final report on the implementation of projects to which clauses 1 and/or 2 of the Foundation's Restrictive Measures were applied.

The Directorate of the Foundation shall notify the respective Call participant in electronic form of the rejection of Applications on formal grounds within three working days after the expiry of the period for the final verification of Applications for compliance with formal requirements.

### **XIII. Criteria for the preliminary selection of projects (including compliance with the purpose, subject matter, and terms and conditions of the Call)**

The preliminary review of Applications for compliance with the purpose, subject matter, and terms and conditions of the Call, as well as with the selection criteria determined by the Scientific Council of the Foundation, shall be carried out by the Call Commission.

Grounds for removal of an Application from consideration based on the results of its preliminary review by the Call Commission:

- non-compliance of the submitted project with the purpose, subject matter, or Terms and Conditions of the Call;
- violation of the provisions of the REGULATIONS
- on Compliance with the Principles of Research Ethics and Conflict of Interest Prevention during competitive selections, scientific and scientific-technical reviewing of projects and consideration of applications for grant support submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine, approved by the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation of 18 December 2025, Protocol No. 36 (<https://nrfu.org.ua/en/about-us/ethical-principles/>).

Non-compliance of the documents submitted by the Call participant with the terms and conditions of the Call, including the project selection criteria determined by the Scientific Council of the Foundation, as well as the identification of false or unreliable information in the documents submitted by the Call participant, shall constitute grounds for removal of the Application from consideration based on the results of its preliminary review.

Identification of false or unreliable information in the documents submitted by the Call participant shall constitute grounds for removal of the Application from consideration at any stage of the competitive selection process.

#### **XIV. List of documents to be submitted by the Call participant together with the Application**

Documents to be submitted by the Call participant together with the Application via the Automated System “NRFU Project Call” (electronic version):

1. Consent of the Call participant to implement the project (confirmation in the Foundation’s electronic system using a qualified electronic signature through the participant’s personal account).
2. Guarantee letter of the Legal Entity confirming its obligation to ensure the conduct of the research and developments activities envisaged by the research project, as well as confirmation that the Application materials do not contain information constituting a state secret (in accordance with the Law of Ukraine “On State Secrets”), and the provision of other mandatory information as required by a decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation, in accordance with the approved [form](#) (scanned copy).

The guarantee letter shall be submitted signed by the head of the Legal Entity or by the person acting in that capacity.

3. Certificate of employment of the Call participant, which shall indicate that he/she is employed at the Legal Entity (institution, organization, higher education institution) **as the main place of employment** (scanned copy).

**IMPORTANT FOR CALLS 1 AND 3:** the certificate shall contain the phrase **“as the main place of employment”**.

**For CALL 2: a certificate of enrollment in doctoral studies** together with the respective extract from the order of the Legal Entity (institution, organization, higher education institution) on admission to doctoral studies (submitted as a single file, scanned copy).

4. Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the Call participant in the approved form (scanned copies in Ukrainian and English).
5. Project timeline (scanned copies in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#)), Terms of Reference / Technical Specification (scanned copies in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#)), and Project budget estimate (scanned copy; template in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#)).
6. Explanations and evidence confirming the absence of collaboration with representatives of the aggressor state (if applicable).

Documents to be submitted by the Call winner to the Foundation in hard copy (originals certified by signatures and seals) upon conclusion of the grant support agreement:

1. Grant Support Agreement with annexes.

2. Guarantee letter of the Legal Entity confirming its obligation to ensure the conduct of the research and developments activities envisaged by the research project, in accordance with the approved [form](#).
3. Certificate of employment of the Call participant, which shall indicate that he/she is employed at the **Legal Entity** (institution, organization, higher education institution) **as the main place of employment** (scanned copy). **IMPORTANT FOR CALLS 1 AND 3:** the certificate shall contain the phrase ***“as the main place of employment”***.
4. For CALL 2: a certificate of enrollment in doctoral studies together with the respective extract from the order of the Legal Entity (institution, organization, higher education institution) on admission to doctoral studies (submitted as a single file, scanned copy).
5. Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the Call participant in the approved form (template in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#)).
6. Informed consent of the Call participant in the [form](#) prescribed by the Foundation.

## **XV. Information on the procedure for granting grant support**

Proposals for awarding grants are formed by the Foundation based on the results of the annual competition of projects by young researchers for the implementation of research and developments, in the form of a ranked list of projects. This list includes the names (surname, first name, patronymic, if applicable) and year of birth of young researchers acting as project scientific supervisors, their academic degree, academic title (if any), and place of employment (study) at the time of submission of the Application, as well as the results of the numerical evaluation of each project.

Based on the proposals for awarding grants approved and submitted by the Foundation to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (hereinafter – the Ministry) by 1 August 2026, the Ministry submits for consideration by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine a draft act of the President of Ukraine on the award of grants by 1 October 2026.

Grants to young researchers are awarded by the President of Ukraine upon submission by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Information on the awarding of grants is published through the media.

Following the awarding of a grant, an appropriate agreement in the form established by the Foundation is concluded between the Foundation, the grant recipient, and the Legal Entity that has undertaken to ensure the conduct of the research and developments envisaged by the research project.

If, after the awarding of a grant, the grant recipient and/or the Legal Entity (enterprise, institution, organization, or higher education institution) that has undertaken to ensure the conduct of the research and developments envisaged by the research project refuses to conclude the respective agreement, the grant shall not be provided.

A change in the grantee's place of employment (study) indicated in the Application shall not prevent the conclusion of an agreement between the Foundation, the grant recipient, and the Legal Entity (enterprise, institution, organization, or higher education institution) that has undertaken to ensure the conduct of the research and developments envisaged by the research project.

The funds granted to the grant recipient shall be transferred in stages, in installments specified in the agreement, to the account of the Legal Entity ensuring the conduct of the research and developments.

Taxation of the funds received in the form of a grant shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure established by law.

Each year, the Foundation informs the Office of the President of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, and the Ministry of the results of the research and developments for which grant support was provided.

## XVI. Contact information

For information related to the conduct of the competitive selection and submission of projects, please contact:

Subject of the inquiry	Contacts
Questions regarding the submission of projects to the Call for Grants of the President of Ukraine to Support Research and Developments of Early Career Researchers – Doctors of Sciences (up to 40 years old inclusive).	Grant Support Division <a href="mailto:GP_1@nrfu.org.ua">GP_1@nrfu.org.ua</a>
Questions regarding the submission of projects to the Call for Grants of the President of Ukraine to Support Research and Developments of Early Career Researchers – Doctoral Students (up to 35 years old inclusive).	Grant Support Division <a href="mailto:GP_2@nrfu.org.ua">GP_2@nrfu.org.ua</a>
Questions regarding the submission of projects to the Call for Grants of the President of Ukraine to Support Research and Developments of Early Career Researchers – PhDs / Candidates of Sciences (up to 35 years old inclusive).	Grant Support Division <a href="mailto:GP_3@nrfu.org.ua">GP_3@nrfu.org.ua</a>

**Information hotline:** +38 (044) 298 16 29

For technical support and issues related to the submission of applications via the NRFU electronic system, please contact: [support@nrfu.org.ua](mailto:support@nrfu.org.ua)

General inquiries email: [nrfu@nrfu.org.ua](mailto:nrfu@nrfu.org.ua)

**Note:** These communication channels operate exclusively during working hours.

**Website:** <https://nrfu.org.ua/en/>

**Postal address:** Borysa Hrinchenka Street, 1, Kyiv, 01001, Ukraine

## XVII. Annexes

1. Application Form (links for Calls 1, 2, and 3 in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#)).
2. Guidelines for completing the Application Form ([download](#)).
3. Template Grant Agreement ([download](#))
4. Letter of Guarantee ([link](#)).