

Statute
of the Stefan Schwarz Support Fund
for the Creation of Postdoctoral Positions at the SAS

full version

as follows from the amendments as amended by Amendment No. 1

Preamble

Doctoral studies (DS) ensure the education and continuous renewal of academic researchers. ***The Stefan Schwarz Support Fund for the Creation of Postdoctoral Positions at the SAS*** (hereinafter referred to as the Fund) creates the opportunity to employ outstanding postdoctoral fellows and postdoctoral researchers from Slovakia and abroad through a contribution to the salary fund of the organization that employs the graduate. Graduates of doctoral studies are eligible to apply if, by the date of opening of the call for applications, a maximum of 60 months have passed since the date of defence of their dissertation. This timeframe excludes any duration associated with maternity or parental leave.

The support is not primarily intended for graduates shortly after completing their PhD. During the support period, recipients are expected to transition towards independence from their dissertation supervisor by achieving milestones such as securing grants to fund research as Principal Investigators or publishing without co-authorship from their supervisor. For applicants from Slovakia, the scholarship is conditional on successfully completing international study residences of at least 6 months in total. In exceptional cases, the Council of the SAS for Education and Doctoral Studies may grant an exception to this rule. Candidates cannot be researchers who have already been awarded the IIa scientific qualification.

Article I
Candidate selection

1. The selection of candidates for the Fund is entrusted to the Council for Education and Doctoral Studies of the SAS (hereinafter referred to as the Council) as an advisory body to the Presidium of the SAS, which is composed of representatives of all three scientific sections of the SAS.
2. The Council conducts auditions in which it rigorously evaluates submitted proposals based on their alignment with the quality standards and strategic priorities of the SAS. The auditions include in-person (or videoconference) evaluation sessions for the candidates, organised by the relevant scientific section with the participation of Council members from the scientific section. Auditions are also open to graduates of DS from other research institutes and universities in Slovakia and abroad. The Council presents the audition outcomes to the Presidium of the SAS (referred to as P SAS) for formal endorsement. The competition is conducted annually, with submissions closing on June 30th each year.

Article II
Proposal for audition

1. The proposal for audition (a letter of commitment) shall be submitted by the director of the SAS organization which already employs or recruits the doctoral graduate in the manner specified in the call. The proposal for audition (a letter of commitment) constitutes Appendix No. 1 to the Statute.
2. Candidates must complete their registration in the electronic system on the Fund's website. They are requested to input all relevant data and upload the necessary documentation for proposal evaluation through this platform. After the deadline, the system will close, and it will no longer be possible to enter or modify data and documents. Proposals that fail to meet all the stipulated requirements outlined in the Statute of the Stefan Schwarz Support Fund for the creation of postdoctoral positions within the Academy of Sciences will be excluded from consideration for the current application round.
3. The required details and documents are following:
 - 3.1. name and surname of the candidate
 - 3.2. organization name
 - 3.3. CV of the candidate (The CV must include a link to the applicant's ORCID profile. The applicant should ensure their profile includes a complete list of publications, references, national and international project participation, presentations at professional events, and any patents or patent applications.)
 - 3.4. application of results
 - 3.5. study stay/residency completed
 - 3.6. a project plan for the next 3 years in a maximum of 5 400 characters. The project plan should briefly summarize:
 - research objectives
 - originality of the project
 - main methodological approaches
 - expected benefits
 - assumed sources of funding for the research
 - 3.7. degree certificate (scanned and uploaded into the electronic system)
 - 3.8. two publications of the highest quality (pdf format; for monographs only pages with relevant bibliographic data)

The documents in Articles 3.6. - 3.8. will not be generally accessible.

Article III
Proposal evaluation

1. The Council will generally select 20 candidates per year. A candidate proposal submitted under Article II of the Statute which has not yet been accepted may be resubmitted. Each proposal will be evaluated a maximum of two times.

2. Applications from candidates who are unable to attend the scientific section session, even via videoconference, for legitimate reasons, will not be accepted on the date designated for auditions.

Article IV
Financing terms

1. The P SAS shall increase the payroll from January 1 of the current year for those organizations that recruit successful candidates nominated by the Council. The payroll fund shall be increased by 1,1 times the tariff salary corresponding to grade T8 (on the special salary scale for university and research and development staff - Act No. 553/2003 Coll., as amended) and salary grade 4. The funds are assigned for the purpose of covering the functional salary of the concerned selected candidate and their personal allowance. It is required that the candidate maintains a 100% full-time employment status within the SAS organization through the duration of support from the Fund and external employment may not exceed 50% of the full-time commitment. In instances where the candidate's start date is later than January 1, the funding support will conclude on December 31 of the subsequent year.

2. In case of the termination of the employment of the selected candidate by organization during the support period, change of the employment arrangement to a reduced weekly working time below the established norm, or if the candidate opts for unpaid leave, maternity, or parental leave, the organization must promptly notify the Department of Education and Doctoral Studies and Department of State Budget Chapter Management. This notification will trigger necessary adjustments to the organization's Implementation Financing Plan (IFP), leading to a proportional reduction in salary funds.

3. Periods of maternity and parental leave, as well as continuous sick leave exceeding three months, are excluded from the calculation of the support period.

4. Should the organization fail to comply with the obligation to report changes as stipulated in paragraph 2 of this Article, it will be required to reimburse any wage funds that were improperly disbursed.

5. Organizations whose candidates are selected by the Council and successfully recruited are required to augment the monthly salary of these candidates by a personal bonus equivalent to no less than one-third of the growth in the organization's payroll fund, as stipulated in paragraph 1 of this Article.

6. If, during the funding period from the Stefan Schwarz Support Fund designated for creating postdoctoral positions within the SAS, an employee transitions to another organization within the SAS (hereinafter referred to as the "new organization") while maintaining the required weekly working hours, and the new organization offers suitable conditions for the project, all associated rights and obligations pertaining to the utilization of the funding will be transferred to the new organization. Any modifications to the support framework require prior approval through a resolution by the P SAS.
7. The initial support period is set for two years, with an option for a one-year extension. To request an extension, an application on the designated form must be submitted three months prior to the conclusion of the current support period from the Fund. It is essential that the justification for the extension request is detailed and comprehensive. In evaluating the extension request, the Council will place specific emphasis on the quality of the applicant's deliverables produced during the support period. This includes metrics such as the impact and quality of scientific publications, monographs, patent applications, and other relevant outputs pertinent to the scientific discipline (major collaborations, conferences of informatics societies, exhibitions, etc.). When evaluating the outputs, the Council retains the option to obtain additional insights from external experts if needed.

Article V Final report

1. Beneficiaries are required to submit a comprehensive final report using the prescribed template available on the Fund's website within one month following the conclusion of the Fund's support period. The extension requests pursuant to Article IV, paragraph 7 shall replace the final report after 2 years of support. The final report after the 3rd year of project implementation summarizes the results only from the third year of the project. The evaluation of the reports will be conducted by the Chairperson of the Council, in conjunction with the scientific sections of the SAS. This assessment will focus on the scientific rigor of the reports and their alignment with the initial project proposal. The final report form constitutes Appendix No. 2 to the Statute.

Article VI Final provisions

1. This Statute was approved by the Presidium of the Slovak Academy of Sciences at its meeting on February 14, 2025.
2. It enters into force on the day following its publication on the SAS website.
3. The Statute of the Stefan Schwarz Support Fund for the Creation of Postdoctoral Positions at the Slovak Academy of Sciences of August 10, 2023, as amended, is hereby repealed.
4. Amendment No. 1 to the Statute was approved by the Presidium of SAV by Resolution No. 330 at its meeting on May 14, 2026. Amendment No. 1 to the Statute enters into force on the date of its issuance and takes effect on the day following the date of its publication on the SAS website.

The English translation of the Statute has been provided for reference only. Discrepancies in meaning may occur and the English translations are non-binding. In case of any ambiguity between the language versions, the Slovak language shall prevail.

In Bratislava, May 14, 2026

Mgr. Martin Venhart, DrSc.
President of SAS

Letter of Commitment of the Host Organisation

[Headed paper, address of the Host Organisation]

Department of Education and Doctoral Studies
Office of the Slovak Academy of Sciences
Stefanikova 49
814 38 Bratislava 1
Slovak Republic

[Full name of host organisation] confirms that the proposed research project [insert project title] for the duration of [number of months] is feasible to be developed at this organisation.

[Full name of the host organisation] guarantees that the applicant, [name and surname of the applicant], will be employed for the entire duration of [his/her] the project.

[Full name of the host organisation] will provide the necessary administrative support, as well as adequate laboratory space and infrastructure required for the successful completion of the project, including use of existing equipment within the organisation, shared facilities and expertise as required for the successful completion of the project.

[Full name of the host organisation] is prepared to support the project under the circumstances set out in the above mentioned project proposal, including the financial administration and reporting.

[Full name of the host organisation] will notify all conflicts of interest which may arise after the submission of the aforementioned project proposal. All details provided in the project proposal and in any supporting documentation are true and complete and no information is false or misleading.

In....., on.....

Your sincerely,

.....
Titles, name, surname of the Authorized Representative
Stamp of the Host Organisation

Note: scanned signed document will be uploaded in the online system. Original document will be sent to above mentioned address in envelope with note „Stefan Schwarz Support Fund “.

Štefan Schwarz Support Fund

Final report

Final report structure:

1. Name and Surname of the Applicant
2. Organization name
3. A list of published publications (broken down into structure being used in the Organization's Activity Report). In case of journal publications, the journal impact factor shall be stated. In case of contributions or publications accepted for printed publishing, the Applicant enters into the system a scanned document of their acceptance by the editors or publisher. Conference abstracts are listed in point 6.
4. List of responses to publications
5. Applicant's participation in local or foreign projects
6. Applicant's appearances at professional events and conferences
7. List of patents and patent applications filed/obtained by the applicant

Points 3-7 come from the period during the receiving support from the Štefan Schwarz Fund and are outputs of the project.

8. Summary of results obtained during the receiving support from the Štefan Schwarz Fund and evaluation of the proposed project research objectives' fulfilment (max. 6000 characters)

9. Premium quality publication published as a project output.

Points 1-8 are part of one document

Date, Name and signature of the Applicant and the Director of the Institute