

**Statute of the Grant Programme for SAS PhD students
full version
as follows from the amendments as amended by Amendment No. 1-6**

**Article I
Introductory provisions**

1. The Grant Programme for SAS PhD students (hereafter referred to as "the Programme") is an activity of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) aimed at supporting the SAS full time PhD students' scientific projects implemented within SAS organizations.
2. This statute regulates the basic rules of the Programme, the structure of applications, applications' submission procedure, their entry and final evaluation, their financing.

**Article II
Basic Programme rules**

1. Grant application may be submitted only by a full time PhD student studying within one of the SAS organizations.
2. Grant application submitted by a student in his/her last year of PhD study will not be evaluated.
3. PhD student may apply for a grant only as an independent researcher; grants are not intended for research collectives.
4. The grant is awarded to cover partially or fully the financial costs of a scientific project forming an integral part of the PhD student's research topic.
5. Grants shall be awarded for 1 calendar year. The grant may be awarded to the same applicant repeatedly.
6. Grant financial funds may be used only for the purpose they were approved for.
7. Within one calendar year, approximately 30 grants will be awarded at a maximum of EUR 3000 per grant or in accordance with the current decision of the SAS Presidium (hereinafter referred to as the 'SAS Presidium).
8. For each calendar year a Programme activities' timetable shall be published on the Programme's website.

**Article III
Structure and submission of project proposals**

1. Grant applications shall be submitted via the electronic system accessible through the Programme's website. The paper version of the application signed by the respective persons (the applicant, his/her supervisor, the director of the organization), will be sent by regular post to:
Office of the Slovak Academy of Sciences - Department of Education and Doctoral Studies
Štefánikova 49
814 38 Bratislava

The paper version of the application must be sent within 3 working days from the deadline for electronic application submission. To assess compliance with the deadline, the post stamp imprint on the envelope is decisive.

2. Grant applications may be submitted only by registered users with an active user account on the programme website.
3. Grant applications are submitted annually from the date of the call announcement until the final deadline for submission. Precise dates are always specified in the programme schedule for the given calendar year.
4. The date of electronic submission of the application is decisive for assessment the compliance of the deadline.
5. The grant application structure:
 - a) basic data of the researcher
 - b) brief summary of the project (annotation)
 - c) characteristics of the scientific objectives of the project
 - d) current status of the research project with references to the relevant literature
 - e) methodology of the research project implementation
 - f) project financial costs and their justification
6. The overall project scope is max. 3 x A4 format pages. The scope includes the parts of the grant application specified in Article III, paragraphs 5(b) through (f).
7. All the above parts of the application are obligatory. Incomplete application will not be evaluated.

Article IV

Evaluation of applications

1. After the deadline for the submission of applications, the applications are evaluated by the Evaluation Committee.
2. Only applications having met the formal requirements shall be evaluated:
 - a) applications submitted by eligible applicants:
 - full-time PhD student studying within the SAS organization
 - an applicant not in his/her last year of doctoral study
 - an applicant whose final report of the previous project was not evaluated as unsuccessful in the final evaluation
 - b) applications submitted through the electronic application system and their signed paper versions have been delivered to the address mentioned in Art. III, paragraph 1) of this Statute;
 - c) applications submitted before the deadline for the submission of applications
 - d) applications containing all the required parts
3. The Evaluation Committee is divided into 3 sections according to the SAS scientific sections.
4. The Committee consists of the Chairman of the Committee, the Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, organizing the activities of the individual SAS sections and other members of

the Committee responsible for sub-sections within the SAS scientific sections and for the evaluation of the grant applications.

5. The Chairman of the Committee is a member of the SAS Presidium responsible for education and doctoral study.
6. The Vice-Chairmen of the Committees are the members of the SAS Presidium for the relevant scientific sections.
7. The members of the Evaluation Committee shall be appointed by the SAS President on the basis of a proposal made by the Chairman of the Committee, approved by the SAS Presidium. The tenure of the Committee is 4 years.
8. The structure of the Evaluation Committee:
 - Chairman
 - a) Vice-Chairman of the Committee - Section 1 - Physical, Space, Earth, and Engineering Sciences
 - Member for Earth and Space Sciences
 - Member for Mathematical and Physical sciences
 - Member for the Engineering Sciences
 - b) Vice-Chairman of the Committee - Section 2 - Life, Chemical, Medical, and Environmental studies
 - Two Members for the Medical Sciences
 - Two Members for Biological and Chemical Sciences
 - Member for Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences
 - c) Vice-Chairman of the Committee - Section 3 - Social Sciences, Humanities, Arts and Culture
 - Member for Historical studies
 - Member for Humanities and Social sciences
 - Member for the Arts and Culture
9. The activities of the committee are governed by the Statute and the Rules of Procedure of the evaluation committee.
10. In the justified case, the Evaluation Committee may assign an external evaluator for the application. The external evaluator's rights and obligations are equal to the rights and obligations of a Committee member in relation to the evaluation of the application.
11. An electronic system shall be used to assess applications.
12. The evaluation consists of a verbal evaluation summarizing the strengths and weaknesses of the application, and a numerical evaluation consisting of points assigned to individual areas of the application. Applications will be evaluated in the following areas:
 1. Quality of the overview of the current state of the art – weight 30%
 2. Quality of the project formulation (scientific question – objective, methodology, feasibility of achieving the goal within 1 year) – weight 50%
 3. Budget – reality and adequacy of planned expenditures – weight 20%
13. Grant applications shall be ranked within individual subsections according to the points assigned. The Evaluation Committee shall subsequently prepare a summary list of all applications recommended for funding based on the lists from the individual subsections.

14. The SAS Presidium decides on the proposal by a resolution. The decision will be published on the Programme's website and all applicants will be informed as well as the statutory representatives of the relevant SAS organizations.
15. It is not possible to appeal against the SAS Presidium decision.

Article V Funding

1. Grant may be awarded up to a maximum of EUR 3000 per calendar year.
2. Grant funds will be transferred by the SAS Office to the relevant host organization within category 630 (current expenditure). Organization is obliged to provide grant funds available to the grant holder in full height.
3. Funds shall be transferred to the host organization in the first quarter of the calendar year in which the project is being implemented.
4. The grant funds may be used to cover current expenditure on goods, services, travel and conference expenses, or expenditure associated with the publication of project results in journals.
5. Grants may not be used to cover indirect costs (overheads), capital expenditure and the remuneration of the project investigator.

Article VI Implementation and completion of projects

1. The grant holder implements the project within the organization being his/her doctoral study workplace within the doctoral study programme, if needed in cooperation with another organization to the extent necessary.
2. The grant holder is authorized to implement the project in another organization (domestic or foreign, e.g. through an internship) in length of max. 3 months.
3. The grant holder is required to implement the project in accordance with the approved application. The grant holder is authorized to make the necessary changes to the project in such a way as to ensure the effectiveness, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the project, while maintaining the meaning, purpose and objectives of the project.
4. In the outputs that were (co-) financed by the grant, it is necessary to state the acknowledgement, respectively identifying the grant title as follows: stating the scheme title (The Grant Programme for the SAS PhD students) and project number. Grant acknowledgment can be listed in the outputs along with the basic grant scheme the PhD student is integrated in (e.g. VEGA, APVV, etc.).
5. Projects will be duly terminated by 31 December of the calendar year.
6. Early termination of project shall take place in the following cases:
 - a) the grant holder commences maternity and/or parental leave,
 - b) the grant holder will be on long-term sickness absence (longer than 3 months),
 - c) the grant holder interrupts the doctoral study for period longer than 3 months,

- d) the grant holder will terminate the doctoral study earlier,
 - e) in case of the force majeure.
7. The grant holder or statutory representative of the host organization is obliged to inform the Department of Education and Doctoral Studies in writing without delay on the reasons for early project termination stated here-above. The Department shall oversee the settlement of liabilities between the organization and the SAS Office.
 8. The organization is obliged to return unused funds in the amount of more than EUR 20 to the central budget of the SAS in case of premature and proper completion of the project. Unspent funds in a lower amount remain in the organization's budget as non-purpose.

Article VII

Final evaluation of projects

1. The grant holder submits a final report at the end of the project.
2. The final report shall be submitted by 31 January of the following calendar year.
3. The final report shall be submitted via the electronic system, the signed paper version shall be sent by post to the address mentioned in Art. III, paragraph. 1 of this Statute.
4. The final report is submitted within a maximum length of 1 x A4 page.
5. The final report shall include a description of the objectives achieved, the justification of any deviations from the original grant application, the list of outputs with the grant identification and the financial statement of the grant.
6. Copies of the project outputs, or other documents related to the outputs are submitted as attachments to the final report.
7. The final report is evaluated by the relevant Evaluation Committee member. Based on its assessment, the Evaluation Committee shall approve or reject the final report or require its revision.

Article VIII

Final provisions

1. This Statute shall enter into force on the date of its approval by the SAS Presidium and becomes effective as of the date of its publication.
2. Amendment No. 1 to the Statute of the Grant Programme for SAS PhD students was approved by the SAS Presidium at its meeting on May 9, 2019. This amendment shall enter into force on the date of its issuance and into effect on the day following the date of its publication on the SAS website.
3. Amendment No. 2 to the Statute of the Grant Programme for SAS PhD students was approved by the SAS Presidium at its meeting on February 13, 2020. This amendment shall enter into force on the date of its issuance and into effect on the day following the date of its publication on the SAS website.
4. Amendment No. 3 to the Statute of the Grant Programme for SAS PhD students was approved by the SAS Presidium at its meeting on August 6, 2020. This amendment shall

enter into force on the date of its issuance and into effect on the day following the date of its publication on the SAS website.

5. Amendment No. 4 to the Statute of the Grant Programme for SAS PhD students was approved by the SAS Presidium at its meeting on September 9, 2021. This amendment shall enter into force on the date of its issuance and into effect on the day following the date of its publication on the SAS website.
6. Amendment No. 5 to the Statute of the Grant Programme for SAS PhD students was approved by the SAS Presidium at its meeting on August 14, 2025. This amendment shall enter into force on the date of its issuance and into effect on the day following the date of its publication on the SAS website.
7. Amendment No. 6 to the Statute of the Grant Programme for SAS PhD students was approved by the SAS Presidium at its meeting on May 14, 2026. This amendment shall enter into force on the date of its issuance and into 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