



**eDoktorant 4.0**

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# **Doctoral candidate's COMPENDIUM**

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## 1. Introduction

Act regulating the field of higher education and science of 2018 introduced fundamental changes to doctoral training. Doctoral studies commenced before the academic year 2019/2020 shall be provided no longer than until 31 December 2024. This situation has resulted in two models of doctoral education operating simultaneously in Poland. A distinction should be made between the situation of those studying at doctoral schools and those participating in doctoral studies.

The Doctoral Student's Handbook is intended to explain the most important aspects related to the situation of doctoral candidates in Poland. It is divided into several essential parts. At the beginning, the difference between doctoral studies and doctoral schools is explained. The Authors point out issues related to the rights and duties of a doctoral candidate, as well as scholarships. Moreover, the principles of the procedures for awarding the doctoral degree are analysed in detail.

The Handbook also contains information on scientific grants, doctoral students' councils and doctoral organisations, the Polish National Association of Doctoral Candidates, the PhD Student Ombudsman, local and branch doctoral student agreements and the Council of Young Researchers. Anyone interested will also find information relating to the extramural mode and the implementation doctorate.

The Handbook takes into account the changes introduced under the Act on amending the Act - Teachers' Charter, the Act on research institutes, the Law on Higher Education and Science and some other acts. It should be emphasized that some of them will come into force from 1 October 2023.

Enjoy reading!

*Founders of the portal eDoktorant*

## 2. Doctoral schools versus doctoral studies

### Doctoral schools

Currently, doctoral education preparing for the doctoral degree takes place in a doctoral school. This is an organised form of education in at least 2 disciplines. Entities entitled to run a doctoral school are indicated in Article 198 of the Law of Higher Education and Science. No fees are charged for doctoral education. The education is carried out on the basis of a doctoral training and an individual research plan.

The regulations of the doctoral school shall establish the organisation of education to the extent not regulated by the Act, in particular: 1) the manner of appointment and change of the supervisor, supervisors or assistant supervisor; 2) the manner of documentation of the course of education; 3) the manner of conducting the mid-term evaluation; 4) the conditions for the extension of the deadline for submitting a doctoral dissertation.

The current Act that regulates the area of higher education and science does not specify the modes (full-time or part-time) of doctoral education. Presently, education takes place in doctoral schools and is free of charge.

### INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PLAN AND MID-TERM EVALUATION

The Act of 2018 introduced the obligation to prepare an individual research plan and the novelty of a mid-term evaluation.

Doctoral students, in consultation with the doctoral student supervisor(s), shall draw up an individual research plan including in particular a schedule for the preparation. The other elements of the individual research plan depend on the particular entity operating the doctoral school. It is very common for doctoral students to use a template prepared at the entity in question, which they must complete.

The statutory regulations do not address the issue of a possible revision of the individual research plan in the course of education. Therefore, the regulations of the particular doctoral school should be examined. As a rule, there are provisions in the regulations that allow the individual research plan to be changed. This is certainly an advantageous solution that should be implemented in all entities running doctoral schools.

The implementation of the plan shall be subject to mid-term evaluation in the middle of the period of education defined in the curriculum, and in the case of education lasting 6 semesters – during the fourth semester. Mid-term evaluation shall be conducted by a committee composed of three members, including at least one person holding the degree of doktor habilitowany or the title of profesor in the discipline in which the dissertation is being prepared, employed outside the entity operating the doctoral school. The supervisor and assistant supervisor shall not be members of the committee. The mid-term evaluation shall end with a positive or negative result. It is also good practice to allow a representative of the doctoral student council to take part in the mid-term evaluation as an observer.

The Act does not regulate the matter of a possible appeal against a negative mid-term evaluation. In this area, the regulations of doctoral schools very often provide for the possibility of filing an appeal or otherwise responding to a negative mid-term evaluation before a decision on removal from the register of doctoral students is issued. If it is not possible to raise objections at this stage, these should be indicated after the decision on removal from the doctoral register has been taken.

### **Doctoral studies**

Doctoral studies are being terminated. Doctoral candidates shall continue their studies in accordance with the existing rules, however, studies commenced before the academic year 2019/2020 shall be continued until 31 December 2024 at the latest.

Doctoral studies shall currently be provided as full-time or part-time programmes and their duration shall be no less than two years and no more than four years. Full-time study shall be entirely free of charge. Part-time doctoral programmes may be provided on a fee basis. The organisation of part-time doctoral studies ensures the possibility of undertaking such studies by people who are employed.

There is no obstacle to a participant of a doctoral studies programme taking part in the recruitment of a doctoral school. It is possible to simultaneously study at the doctoral studies and at the doctoral school.



### 3. Rights and duties of doctoral students studying at a doctoral school

University employees, doctoral students and students constitute the community of the university. As such, these individuals have certain rights and responsibilities.

Doctoral students have the right to evaluate an academic teacher in terms of the fulfilment of their educational responsibilities. For this purpose, at least once a year the higher education institution should give them an opportunity to undertake it.

A doctoral student shall be entitled to rest breaks of up to 8 weeks per year.

In the case of a doctoral student who has obtained the degree of doktor as a result of graduation from a doctoral school, the period of education at that school, not exceeding four years, shall be included in the period of work on which employee entitlements depend.

In the case of a doctoral student who has not completed education at a doctoral school due to taking up of employment as an academic teacher or researcher - the period of education at this school, not exceeding 4 years, shall be included in the period of work on which employee entitlements depend, provided that they have obtained a degree of doktor.

A doctoral student may apply for 1) accommodation in a student dormitory of the higher education institution or catering in the student canteen of the higher education institution; 2) accommodation for a spouse or a child in a student dormitory of the higher education institution - under the conditions and in the mode laid down in the regulations concerning student benefits.

A child of doctoral student may attend the company day-care centre and children's club. A local government unit may grant doctoral students reductions in the fees for public municipal transport.

Doctoral students up to the age of 35 are entitled to a 51% discount when travelling by public rail transport on passenger, express and high-speed trains.

Doctoral students are also entitled to other discounts. A statutory discount is available, among other things, for entrance to state museums. Many institutions and organisations have special offers for doctoral students, which are worth taking advantage of.

Doctoral students shall have the right to form doctoral student organisations in the entity operating a doctoral school.

An employee who is not an academic teacher or researcher shall be entitled, at their request: 1) to a leave to prepare a doctoral dissertation or to prepare for the defence of a doctoral dissertation, granted in a period agreed with the employer, amounting to 28 days, which are working days for that employee within the meaning of separate regulations, and 2) to an exemption from work to defend their doctoral dissertation. For the period of leave and exemption from work, the employee shall be entitled to remuneration calculated in the same manner as for the holiday leave. It is not necessary to take the whole leave to prepare the dissertation or to prepare for the defence of the dissertation at once. It can be taken in several parts. This depends on the person's preference and individual situation.

The duties of a doctoral student in doctoral school include following the curriculum and the individual research plan, submitting the doctoral dissertation within the time specified in the individual research plan, and providing internships in the form of teaching or participation in the teaching of classes, insofar as these are foreseen in the curriculum.

A doctoral student shall be subject to disciplinary liability for any breach of the regulations applicable at the institution running the doctoral school and for any act which offends the dignity of the doctoral student. The provisions



concerning the disciplinary liability of students, as indicated in the law regulating the field of higher education and science, shall apply appropriately.

A doctoral student shall be removed from the register of doctoral students in case of:

- 1) a negative result of the mid-term evaluation;
- 2) failure to submit a doctoral dissertation within the deadline specified in the individual research plan;
- 3) opting out of further education
- 4) failure to undertake education,
- 5) infringement of the prohibition referred to in Article 200 sec. 7,
- 6) disciplinary penalty of expulsion from the doctoral school.

In proceedings for the removal of a doctoral student from the register of doctoral students, in the cases referred to in point 5, the doctoral student shall be called upon to submit, within a period of not less than 30 days from the date of service of the summons, a resignation from education in another doctoral school. These provisions take into account the changes that will enter into force on 1 October 2023.

A doctoral student may be removed from the register of doctoral students in case of:

- 1) unsatisfactory progress in the preparation of their doctoral dissertation;
- 2) failure to comply with the obligations which include following the regulations of the doctoral school, carrying out their individual research plan and curriculum.

It should be emphasised that, from 1 October 2023, the restriction on the employment of doctoral students studying at doctoral schools as an academic teacher or researcher will be eliminated.

From 1 October 2023, the provisions of Article 209 sec. 1a of the Law on Higher Education and Science will also change. In view of the new wording of this

provision - a doctoral scholarship shall not be granted to a doctoral student whose education at a doctoral school involves an obligation to be employed in an entity providing a doctoral school: 1) on the basis of an employment contract; 2) with remuneration exceeding the salary of a professor.

In the event of cessation of conducting doctoral education in a given discipline, the entity operating the doctoral school shall ensure that doctoral students preparing their doctoral dissertation in that discipline may continue their education at another doctoral school in that discipline. The transfer of a doctoral student from a doctoral school in which education in a particular discipline has been discontinued to another doctoral school shall take place with his or her approval.

In the absence of a doctoral school providing education in a given discipline or lack of the doctoral student's consent, the entity operating a doctoral school where education has been discontinued shall bear the costs of the proceedings for the award of a degree of doktor in extramural mode.

In the event of the liquidation of a public higher education institution, the liquidator should ensure the possibility for doctoral students to continue their education.

#### 4. Scholarships for doctoral candidate

The amount of a monthly doctoral scholarship shall be at least: 1) 37% of a professor's salary – up to the month in which the mid-term evaluation was conducted; 2) 57% of a professor's salary – after the month in which the mid-term evaluation was conducted.

The amount of the doctoral scholarship may depend on the student's achievements. However, it may not be less than the above indicated.

A doctoral student who has a disability certificate, a certificate on the degree of disability, or a certificate referred to in Art. 5 and Art. 62 of the Act of 27 August 1997 on Vocational and Social Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons shall receive a doctoral scholarship in the amount increased by 30% of the minimum scholarship amount until the mid-term evaluation.

It is worth pointing out that doctoral students at doctoral schools are obligatorily insured - pension, disability pension and accident insurance. Sickness insurance is voluntary and is taken out at the doctoral student's request. They are covered for the duration of their doctoral scholarship. All doctoral students, both from doctoral schools and doctoral studies, are covered by health insurance if they are not covered by this insurance on other grounds. An exception to this are doctoral students who have another title to the indicated insurance or are reported to health insurance as family members.

A doctoral student who submits their doctoral dissertation earlier than the date of completion of education provided for in the curriculum shall receive the doctoral scholarship until the date of expiry of the deadline for the completion of education, but not longer than for six months.

A scholarship may be awarded to a doctoral student by a local self-government unit or by a natural person or a legal entity which is not a state or local government legal person.

In addition, the university may set up its own fund for achievement scholarships for students and research scholarships for employees and doctoral students. Doctoral students studying at doctoral schools can also apply for the Minister's scholarships for outstanding young scientists.

## **DOCTORAL STUDIES**

Doctoral students undertaking doctoral studies shall be entitled to receive material support measures. The regulations on benefits for students shall apply accordingly to doctoral students.

Doctoral students in doctoral studies are entitled to

- 1) a maintenance grant;
- 2) a scholarship for the disabled;
- 3) aid;
- 4) the rector's scholarship.

Participants of full-time doctoral studies initiated before the academic year 2019/2020 may also receive a doctoral scholarship, in an amount not less than 60% of the minimum basic remuneration of an assistant lecturer. The decision on the award of a doctoral scholarship, its duration and amount shall be taken in a higher education institution by the rector, and in a research institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, a research institute and an international research institute by the director of that institute.

Doctoral students who started full-time doctoral studies before the academic year 2019/2020 may also receive an increase in their doctoral scholarship under the former rules. Doctoral students shall retain the right to the indicated benefits until the graduation, however, no longer than until the date of expiry of the doctoral studies.

Doctoral students who started full-time doctoral studies before the academic year 2019/2020 may also receive the Minister's scholarship for outstanding young scientists.

## STUDENT LOANS

A doctoral student who is under the age of 35 may apply for a student loan. The loan shall be granted only once in the period of education at the doctoral school, for no longer than four years. The provisions on loans for students are applied accordingly to doctoral students. They determine the average monthly income per person in the student's family from the year preceding the year of application, which entitles one to receive a loan. The amount of income that entitles a student to a loan in a given academic year is published by the Minister in the Public Information Bulletin on its website.

The student loan shall be paid in monthly instalments for up to 10 months of the academic year, excluding periods of leave from classes or other breaks.

Issues concerning the repayment of the loan, the suspension of repayment and its possible remission are set out in the Law on Higher Education and Science. It is worth noting that a student loan may be partially cancelled, inter alia, in the event of the outstanding graduation result.

A student loan shall be granted by a bank or a cooperative savings and loan fund, which has concluded an agreement with Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego, specifying the rules for using the funds of the Student Loan Fund.

Doctoral students who started their doctoral studies before the academic year 2019/2020 can also apply for a student loan. It should be emphasised that the loan is granted for the duration of the doctoral studies, but no longer than 4 years.

Detailed information on loans can be found on the following website:

<https://www.gov.pl/web/nauka/informacja-o-kredytach-studenckich-doktoranckich>

## 5. The proceedings for the award of a degree of doktor – new rules

The right to award a degree of doktor in the discipline shall be vested in a higher education institution, institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, research institute or international institute in the discipline in which it has a scientific category A+, A or B+. The degree of doktor may also be awarded jointly by higher education institutions, institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences, research institutes or international institutes in the discipline in which each of them has a scientific category A+, A or B+, including foreign entities authorised to award a degree of doktor in the scope of discipline in which the degree is awarded. The rules of cooperation shall be laid down in a written agreement.

In proceedings for the award of a degree of doktor, to the extent not regulated by the Law on Higher Education and Science, the provisions of the Code of Administrative Procedure shall apply accordingly.

### **A degree of doktor shall be awarded to an individual who:**

1. holds a magister or a magister inżynier degree or an equivalent degree, or has the diploma referred to in Art. 326 sec. 2 point 2 or Art. 327 sec. 2, entitling them to apply for the award of a degree of doktor in the country in the education system of which the higher education institution which issued it operates. In exceptional cases, justified by the highest quality of scientific achievements, the degree of doktor may be awarded to a person who does not meet these requirements, who completed the first-cycle programme, or who completed the third year of long-cycle programme. Such a person, after the awarding of a doctoral degree, simultaneously obtains a university degree;
2. achieved the learning outcomes for qualifications at level 8 of the Polish Qualifications Framework, where the learning outcomes in terms of the knowledge of a modern foreign language are confirmed by a certificate



or diploma confirming the knowledge of that language at B2 level or higher;

3. has at least:
  - a) 1 scientific article published in a scientific journal or in conference proceedings which, in the year of publication of the article in its final form, were included in a list drawn up in accordance with the provisions issued pursuant to Art. 267 sec. 2 point 2 (b), or
  - b) 1 scientific monograph issued by a publishing house which, in the year of publication of the monograph in its final form, was included on a list drawn up in accordance with the provisions issued pursuant to Art. 267 sec. 2 point 2 (a), or a chapter in such a monograph, or
  - c) a work of art of considerable importance;
4. presented and defended a doctoral dissertation;

*The scientific supervision of the preparation of the doctoral dissertation shall be provided by a supervisor or supervisors or by a supervisor and an assistant supervisor. According to legal definition the doctoral dissertation demonstrates the candidate's general theoretical knowledge in a discipline (or disciplines) and the ability to conduct research or artistic work independently. The subject matter of the doctoral dissertation shall be an original solution to a scientific problem or in terms of the application of results of own scientific research in the economic or social sphere, or an original artistic achievement. The doctoral dissertation may be also a written dissertation, including a scientific monograph; a collection of published and thematically related scientific articles; design, construction, technological, implementation or artistic work; as well as an independent and separate part of a collective work. The doctoral dissertation shall include an abstract in English, whereas a doctoral dissertation prepared in a foreign language – an abstract in Polish. In the case when the dissertation is not in written form, its description in Polish and English shall be attached. No later than 30 days before the scheduled date of dissertation defence, the entity awarding a degree of doktor shall make a written doctoral dissertation, together with a summary, or a description of a dissertation which is not a written dissertation, as well as reviews, available in the Bulletin of Public Information on its website. In the case of a doctoral dissertation the subject of which is confidential, only reviews shall be made available, with the exception of such confidential content. If the dissertation is in written*

*form, the entity awarding a degree of doktor shall verify the doctoral dissertation before the defence using the Uniform Anti-Plagiarism System.*

5. met other requirements set by the entity awarding a degree of doktor.

The proceedings for the award of a degree of doktor shall be initiated at the request of a person who satisfies the requirements set out in Art. 186 sec. 1 points 1-3 or sec. 2. The application shall be accompanied by a doctoral dissertation with a positive opinion of the supervisor or supervisors.

In the proceedings for the award of the degree of doktor, 3 reviewers shall be appointed from among persons who are not employees of the entity awarding a degree of doktor and the higher education institution, institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, research institute, international institute, Centrum Łukasiewicz or Łukasiewicz Network institute, in which the person applying for the degree of doktor is employed. Reviewers shall review the doctoral dissertation within 2 months of its provision. The specific requirements for supervisors and reviewers are set out in the Act. In order to be allowed to defend a doctoral dissertation, a person must receive positive reviews from at least two reviewers. The decision on refusal to allow a person to defend their dissertation shall be subject to a complaint to the Council of Scientific Excellence.

The proceedings for the award of a degree of doktor may be conducted by a commission appointed by the body conducting the proceedings.

The senate or scientific council shall determine the mode of awarding a degree of doktor, in particular:

- 1) the manner of appointment and change of the supervisor, supervisors or assistant supervisor;
- 2) the rules for determining the amount of the fee for the proceedings for the award of a degree of doktor in extramural mode as well as for granting exemption from this fee;

- 3) the mode of submission of the doctoral dissertation;
- 4) the mode of appointment of the commission referred to in sec. 1 and the scope of its activities;
- 5) the manner of appointment of reviewers;
- 6) the method of verification of learning outcomes for qualifications at level 8 of the Polish Qualifications Framework in the case of persons applying for a degree of doktor in extramural mode;
- 7) the manner of verification of compliance with the requirement referred to in Art. 186 sec. 1 point 3 (a) and (b) in case of multi-author publications.

The senate or scientific council may specify the other requirements or additional conditions for acceptance for defence.

The defence of the doctoral dissertation may be conducted away from the premises of the of the doctoral institution by means of electronic communication, ensuring in particular:

- 1) real-time transmission of the defence between its participants,
- 2) multilateral real-time communication in which the participants may speak during the course of the defence (while maintaining the necessary security rules).

Regarding the costs of proceedings for the award of a degree of doktor, it should be pointed out that a fee shall not be charged in a university, an institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, a research institute or an international institute to an applicant for a doctoral degree who has submitted a dissertation prepared as part of training in a doctoral school conducted: 1) by that entity or 2) by that entity jointly with another entity or with other entities, pursuant to Article 198 sec. 5 of the Law on Higher Education and Science (provision in the version in force from 1 October 2023). For those who started their doctoral studies before the academic year 2019/2020, this provision shall apply accordingly. In the case of an academic teacher or researcher, the costs of the proceedings shall be covered by the university, PAN institute, research

institute or international institute employing them. In other cases, a fee for the proceedings shall be paid. It should be pointed out, however, that in justified cases, the rector, the director of a PAN institute, the director of a research institute or the director of an international institute may waive the fee in whole or in part. The amount of the fee cannot exceed the costs of the proceedings, including in particular the costs of the remuneration of the supervisor(s), assistant supervisor(s) and reviewers.

A person who has been awarded a doctoral or degree shall receive a doctoral diploma and a copy of that diploma. At the request of that person, a copy of the diploma shall be issued in English, French, Spanish, German, Russian or Latin. Where necessary, doctoral diplomas as well as their duplicates and copies intended for legal transactions with foreign countries shall be authenticated at the request of the person concerned by the Director of NAWA - in the case of degrees conferred by universities, the President of PAN - in the case of degrees conferred by PAN institutes and by international institutes, or the minister supervising a research institute - in the case of degrees conferred by research institutes. A fee is charged for the authentication.

The decision on the refusal to award the degree of doktor may be appealed to the Council of Scientific Excellence.

## 6. Doctoral proceedings - old rules

Doctoral proceedings initiated and not completed before the entry into force of the Law on Higher Education and Science shall be carried out in accordance with the rules that applied before the amendments came into force.

## 7. Grant programmes and competitions

Doctoral candidates are entitled to apply for scientific and research grants. In particular, competitions of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange, the National Science Centre, the Ministry of Education and Science and the National Centre for Research and Development should be mentioned.

You can find more information about academic and research grants by visiting the **GRANTS** section.



## 8. Doctoral student councils and organisations

The Doctoral Student Council gives its opinion on many acts related to the functioning of the university. Let us point to the criteria for periodic evaluation for particular groups of employees and types of positions, as well as the procedure and the entity carrying out periodic evaluation, or the curriculum of the doctoral school.

What is more, the regulations of doctoral school shall require agreement with the doctoral student council. If, within 3 months of the adoption of the regulations, the senate or the scientific council and the doctoral student council fail to reach an agreement on their content, the regulations shall enter into force by way of a resolution of the senate or the scientific council, adopted by a majority of at least 2/3 of the votes of the statutory members of these bodies. Doctoral students shall be members of the collective bodies of a higher education institution. Students and doctoral students shall constitute not less than 20% of the membership of the senate of a public university-type higher education institution. The numbers of students and doctoral students shall be proportional to their respective numbers in a higher education institution. Provided that each of these groups shall be represented by at least one representative. The mode of election and the duration of membership of the senate shall be determined by a regulation of the doctoral student council. Having their representatives is very important given that the tasks of the senate include, among other things, determining the curricula of doctoral schools.

Doctoral students are also members of the electoral college of a public university. As in the case of representation in the senate, students and doctoral students shall constitute not less than 20% of the membership of that body. The numbers of students and doctoral students shall be determined in proportion to the size of those two groups in the higher education institution. Provided that each of these groups shall be represented by at least one representative. The procedure for the appointment of doctoral students to the electoral college

and the duration of their membership of the college shall be laid down in the regulations of the doctoral student council.

Doctoral students also have a very important role to play in the appointment of a person in a leadership position whose responsibilities include doctoral student affairs. The appointment of such a person requires the agreement of the doctoral students' council. Failure by the self-government to take a position within the time limit specified in the statutes shall be considered as agreement.

As far as the activities of doctoral student organisations are concerned, it is significant to have financial resources to implement scientific, research and integration projects for the academic community. In accordance with the Act regulating the area of higher education and science, a higher education institution may allocate funds for the implementation of the activities of the students' organisations and associations existing in the institution that associate exclusively students or students, doctoral students and employees of the institution. These entities shall submit a report to the higher education institution on the use of the funds received in a given academic year.

## 9. Polish National Association of Doctoral Candidates

Polish National Association of Doctoral Candidates (KRD) is a representative body of the higher education sector which represents all doctoral candidates in the Republic of Poland. It is composed of representatives of doctoral student self-government organisations. This organisation shall have the right to voice opinions and submit proposals in matters relating to doctoral students as a whole, including the right to express opinions on draft legislative acts relating to them.

### **In its statutory activity, the KRD has the right, in particular, to**

- represent and promote the doctoral student community and its educational, social, economic and cultural needs,
- express opinions and submitting proposals in matters relating to doctoral students in general, including giving opinions on legislative projects,
- protect the rights and interests of doctoral candidates in Poland and of Polish doctoral candidates abroad,
- ensure the quality of doctoral student education,
- support and promote doctoral student self-government,
- create and promote attitudes among doctoral candidates aimed at active cooperation in the development of civil society,
- identify and remove barriers to the scientific, cultural and sporting development of doctoral candidates,
- improve the knowledge, skills and social competences of doctoral candidates through informational, scientific and cultural activities in the areas of higher education and science, education, upbringing and physical culture,
- support the mobility of doctoral candidates,
- undertake activities promoting science.

**Detailed information is available at:**

[www.krd.edu.pl](http://www.krd.edu.pl)

## 10. PhD Student Ombudsman

Within the Polish National Association of Doctoral Candidates there is a PhD Student Ombudsman. It is a body which guards doctoral students' rights, investigates signals of suspected violations of doctoral students' rights and intervenes when such violations are detected.

Among the Ombudsman's activities, the following can be distinguished: undertaking mediation and explanatory actions in individual cases, monitoring and supporting the observance of doctoral students' rights, preparing and issuing reports and recommendations on problems with the observance of doctoral students' rights, organising information campaigns. It should be pointed out that legal assistance from the PhD Student Ombudsman is free of charge.

**Contact:**

[rzecznik@krd.edu.pl](mailto:rzecznik@krd.edu.pl)

## 11. Branch and local doctoral agreements

In Poland, there are local and branch agreements of doctoral students. Among the branch agreements, the following should be pointed out:

- Doctoral Forum of Polish Universities - DFUP,
- All-Poland Alliance of Doctoral Students at the Academies of Physical Education - OPD AWF,
- Agreement of Doctoral Students of the Humanities and Social Sciences - PDNHIS,
- Agreement of Doctoral Students of Universities of Natural Sciences - PDUP,
- Agreement of Doctoral Students of Universities of Technology - PDUT,
- Council of Doctoral Students Self-Government of the Polish Academy of Sciences - RSD PAN,
- Doctoral Forum of Medical Universities - DFUM.
- Local doctoral student agreements are:
  - Lublin Doctoral Students' Agreement,
  - Łódź Doctoral Students' Agreement,
  - Cracow Association of University Doctoral Students - PDUK.
  - Wrocław Association of Doctoral Students - PDUW,
  - Poznań Association of Doctoral Students - PPD,
  - Silesian Association of Doctoral Students - ŚPD,
  - Tri-City Association of Doctoral Students - TPD,
  - Warsaw Association of Doctoral Students - WPD.

Read more:

<https://krd.edu.pl/o-nas/porozumienia/>

## 12. Council of Young Researchers

The Council of Young Researchers is an advisory body to the Minister of Science and Education, promoting solutions to support the career development of young researchers in Poland.

The tasks of this body include:

- identifying the existing and future barriers to career development of young scientists,
- preparing recommendations on instruments supporting the career of young scientists,
- familiarising young scientists with mechanisms of financing science,
- supporting relations of young scientists with representatives of business communities and institutions implementing innovative solutions in science,
- implementing the provisions of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct on the recruitment of researchers in scientific institutions.

Read more:

<http://rmn.org.pl/>



### 13. Extramural mode

According to the Law on Higher Education and Science, it is possible to prepare a doctoral dissertation also in an extramural mode.

A person applying for a degree of doktor in extramural mode shall submit an application for the appointment of a supervisor or supervisors before the commencement of the proceedings. The supervisor(s) shall draw up an opinion on the dissertation prepared in the extramural mode within 2 months of its submission for this purpose.

An amendment to the Act has introduced new entitlements for extramural applicants for a doctoral degree. Applicants who have been assigned a supervisor or supervisors or a supervisor and an assistant supervisor may apply for scholarships awarded by local government units and scholarships for scientific or sport performance awarded by a natural person or a legal entity that is not a state or local government legal person.

What is important is that the senate or the scientific council shall determine, by resolution, the conditions for the use of the research and IT infrastructure of an entity awarding a degree of doktor by persons preparing their dissertation in the extramural mode.

A person who applies for the award of a degree of doktor by extramural mode shall pay a fee for the conduct of the proceedings. The amount of the fee may not, however, exceed the costs of the proceedings, taking into account in particular the remuneration of the supervisor or assistant supervisor and reviewers. As indicated above in the case of an academic teacher or researcher, the costs of the proceedings are borne by the university, PAN institute, research institute or international institute employing them. Moreover, in justified cases, the rector, the director of a PAN institute, the director of a research institute or the director of an international institute may waive the fee in whole or in part.

*Implementation doctorate I* – which supports the preparation of doctoral dissertations by doctoral candidates conducting research activities other than those specified below.

*Implementation doctorate II* – Artificial Intelligence and quantum technologies – which supports the preparation of doctoral dissertations by doctoral candidates conducting research on the use of artificial intelligence and quantum technologies in technological or social processes, including those related to cybersecurity.

*Implementation doctorate III* – metrology – which supports the preparation of doctoral dissertations by doctoral candidates carrying out research on the use of metrology in technological and social processes, including those related to the development of digital technologies and cutting-edge technologies in the areas of health, the environment, energy and advanced measurement techniques.

Among the benefits for the doctoral candidate of participating in the programme are:

- double remuneration - a scholarship from the Ministry of Education and Science and a salary for working in a particular company,
- a higher salary in the future,
- more expert support.

It is also of great benefit to entities in the socio-economic environment and universities.

Read more:

<https://studia.gov.pl/doktoranci/doktoraty-wdrozeniowe/>

<https://www.gov.pl/web/edukacja-i-nauka/projekt-doktorat-wdrozeniowy>

<https://www.gov.pl/web/edukacja-i-nauka/projekt-doktorat-wdrozeniowy>

## 15. Summary

The Doctoral Student's Handbook explains the most substantial issues relating to both doctoral candidates from doctoral schools and doctoral studies.

We also encourage you to make use of the information contained in the tabs:

- NEWS, where you will find information on doctoral student matters related to both academic and personal development.
- Grants, where current grant programmes are published. They are directed at those starting out in their research careers as well as those who already have more experience in conducting research projects.
- Conferences, where the list of conferences organized in Poland is presented in a clear way (sorted by scientific fields).
- Traineeship offers, which include a list of current trainee recruitments, structured by scientific field.
- Future doctoral candidate with information for final-year students who are planning to start their research careers at doctoral schools.
- Announcements where information essential for doctoral and final-year students has been published.
- FAQ, where the most frequently asked questions with answers have been published.
- TRAINING COURSES, where information on current training courses and workshops are published.
- DOCTORAL CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES, where information important to doctoral candidates with disabilities has been published.
- PhD Students from abroad, where information important for foreign doctoral candidates has been published.
- Science popularisation, where you will find information for science popularisers.

Doctoral greetings

*Founders of the eDoktorant portal*

The Doctoral Student's Handbook was prepared on the basis of:

- Act of 20 July 2018 The Law on Higher Education and Science,
- Act of 3 July 2018 Regulations introducing the Act - Law on Higher Education and Science,
- Social and health insurance for doctoral candidates - a guide from the Social Insurance Institution,
- Announcement of the Minister of Education and Science of 26 April 2023 on the establishment of the programme entitled 'Implementation Doctorate 2023' and the call for applications,
- Guide to the Higher Education and Science System,
- Information from the website [www.krd.edu.pl](http://www.krd.edu.pl),
- Information from the website [www.nauka.gov.pl](http://www.nauka.gov.pl),
- Information from the website [www.rmnm.org.pl](http://www.rmnm.org.pl).