



Preludium BIS NSC – information for doctoral students



One of the competitions implemented by the National Science Center (hereinafter: “NSC”) is Preludium BIS (hereinafter: “Competition”). This Competition is aimed at entities operating doctoral schools, and its purpose is to support the education of doctoral students. Implementation of the Preludium BIS Competition makes it possible to finance a scientific project carried out by a doctoral student of a doctoral school as part of the doctoral dissertation being prepared.

The applicant in the Competition is the entity running the doctoral school. However, the manager of a project implemented as part of the Competition can only be a person who meets all the requirements specified for a supervisor in Article 190 of the Law on Higher Education and Science (i.e., Journal of Laws of 2023, item 742, as amended, hereinafter: “PSWiN”). This person is to act as a supervisor of a doctoral student who will then carry out a scientific project financed with funds from the Competition. It is worth noting at this point that one of the differences between the Preludium Competition and the Preludium BIS Competition is that in the Preludium BIS Competition it is possible to plan funding provided for the project manager in the amount of up to PLN 40,000.

The applicant in the Competition may apply for funding for a research project lasting 36 or 48 months. This project must be planned in accordance with the period of education provided at the respective doctoral school. It is worth noting at this point that, in accordance with Article 201 section 1 of the PSWiN, such education may last from six to eight semesters.

A doctoral student carrying out a research project financed with funds from the from the Preludium BIS is required not only to carry out the Individual Research Plan and obligations under the regulations of the respective doctoral school and education program, but also to complete a foreign research internship of 3 to 6 months. This internship is funded by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange. Such an obligation is indicated directly in the conditions for entering the Competition ([uchwala43_2023-zal1_ang.pdf \(ncn.gov.pl\)](#)).

The first edition of the Competition was announced in 2019. Since then, a number of significant changes have been made to it. As an example, it can be pointed out that when submitting an application during the 1st edition of the Competition, Applicants could plan in the project budget funds for research in the amount of up to PLN 180,000, the cost of a doctoral scholarship received by a doctoral student of the doctoral school and indirect costs in the maximum amount of 20%. In the 3rd, 4th and 5th editions of the project announced in 2021-2023, on the other hand, there was a possibility to apply for a much higher amount of funds for research - as much as PLN 300,000.



Since the 3rd edition, the possibility of changing the doctoral student implementing the project once has also been introduced. It is also worth noting that in the 5th edition, the requirement to obtain a doctoral degree as a result of project implementation was removed. At the same time, it should be noted that the total amount of the Competition budget provided by NSC is clearly decreasing year by year - from PLN 160 million in 2019 to PLN 25 million in 2023. In previous editions of the Competition, NSC has funded a total of 360 scientific projects.

One of the doctoral students pursuing a scientific project under Preludium BIS is Paula Felczak, a doctoral student at the Doctoral School of the West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin. The doctoral student carries out her research in the Department of Catalytic and Sorption Materials Engineering at the Faculty of Chemical Technology and Engineering at this University.

The doctoral student actively participated in the project "Doctoral Schools are Our Future - popularization of knowledge about the system of doctoral education". This is because she took an active part in the interview for the Preludium BIS Competition carried out as part of this project. Her research interests are mainly in the area of photocatalytic processes.

The doctoral student is currently pursuing a research project "Photocatalytic conversion of siloxanes" under the Preludium BIS. As Paula Felczak points out:

The aim of the project implementation is to grasp the issue of photocatalytic removal of siloxanes from biogas. This is an important issue, since waste biogas obtained from wastewater treatment plants or municipal landfills, among others, and used to power generators in power generation units, contains organosiloxanes. Organosilicone compounds reduce the efficiency of energy recovery from biogas, because during biogas combustion there are side reactions in which silicates and silica are formed. The accumulation of these by-products inside the generating system in practice can lead to serious and costly failures, so it is necessary to remove siloxanes from biogas before it enters the generating system.



Paula Anna Felczak



More information about the Preludium BIS Competition can be found on the National Science Center website: [PRELUDIUM BIS 5 \(ncn.gov.pl\)](https://ncn.gov.pl).



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Published:
12.06.2024