

**THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ULAM NAWA PROGRAMME**  
**No. 9/2026 of 13 February 2026**

## **I. SCOPE OF THE CALL**

The Director of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange, acting under Article 19 paragraph 1 of the Act of 7 July 2017 on the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange, announces a Call for applications for participation in the **Ulam NAWA** Programme (hereinafter referred to as the “Programme”).

## **II. PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1. Programme Objective**

1. The Programme aims at increasing the internationalisation of Polish universities and scientific institutions. The Programme will allow outstanding scientists with at least a doctoral degree to strengthen the scientific potential of Polish higher education and research institutions by joining in their research activities, particularly research projects and didactic activity. The Programme provides opportunity to invite researchers from abroad, regardless of their age, discipline or country of origin, including Polish scientists working permanently abroad. Universities, scientific and research institutes and other authorized entities will be able to invite to Poland specialists in their priority fields, who will significantly develop the scientific research conducted by a given institution, strengthen didactic activities, or support the institution in preparing applications for research grants.
2. The Programme provides opportunity to employ foreign researchers for a period from 6 to 24 months.
3. Funding under the Programme includes remuneration for the Principal Investigator and for the Inviting Person.

### **2.2. Special track for scientists awarded in the framework of European initiatives**

The simplified track is available for applicants who, together with the Principal Investigator (holding at least PhD or equivalent degree obtained abroad):

- received the Seal of Excellence certificate (SoE) under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships programme (hereinafter referred to as “MSCA PF-EF);
- received the Accolade of Excellence certificate under MSCA4Ukraine programme.

NAWA recognizes the European certificates as a binding verification of the quality of the application. Such applications are not bound by remaining requirements for the Principal Investigator.

### **2.3. Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants are entities referred to in art. 7 par. 1 points 1, 2 and 4-7 of the Act of 20 July 2018 - Law on Higher Education and Science (institutions who will be employing the Principal Investigator).

As a result of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, natural persons who are citizens of the Russian Federation, as well as institutions and other entities based in the territory of the Russian Federation, are excluded from participation in the Programme due to the cessation of cooperation between the government of the Republic of Poland and the government of the Russian Federation under the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Science, and Education, concluded in Warsaw on 25 August 1993.

#### 2.4. Requirements for the Principal Investigator and other persons involved in the Project

1. The Principal Investigator:
  - 1) holds at least a doctoral degree or equivalent degree obtained abroad (should hold a doctoral degree at the time of application deadline. Researchers who have obtained the degree, but haven't yet received the diploma will also be considered eligible).
  - 2) is employed at a foreign university or a foreign scientific/research centre, or the last employment at a foreign university or a foreign scientific/research centre ended after 31 August 2025. Employment is not required for persons who obtained a doctoral degree after 31 August 2025;
  - 3) in the period of 3 years before the time of application deadline, hadn't worked nor studied in Poland nor had stayed in Poland continuously for longer than 3 months (work in Poland means employment in an entity with its registered office in the territory of the Republic of Poland under an employment contract or managing a research grant with affiliation to a Polish scientific institution, provided that remuneration was paid for the purpose);
  - 4) has **at least 3 achievements within 5 years before the call deadline**:
    - a) a publication in English as the main author in journals listed in one of the international databases: Scopus, Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, Arts & Humanities Citation Index, or
    - b) a peer-reviewed scientific monograph in English, or
    - c) a publication in English in peer-reviewed proceedings of an international conference included in the Computing Research and Education Association of Australasia (CORE), which have been indexed in the international database DBLP Computer Science Bibliography, or
    - d) a publication in English in peer-reviewed materials from an international conference indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection or Scopus database;
    - e) in the case of representatives of art sciences - confirmation of presenting the work in a foreign institution or academic center or receiving an award in an international competition.Applicants may demonstrate all 3 achievements under the same point (a, b, c, d or e) as well as 3 different achievements from those indicated in points a-e.
2. The Programme is open to all fields of science. Representatives of arts are eligible, provided that the activities planned in the Project are of scientific nature.
3. The Inviting Person holds a supporting role in the Project. The designated Inviting Person is a researcher from the host institution, supporting the Principal Investigator in the research-related activities and formal issues throughout the Project.

## 2.5. Obligations of the Host Institution

Within the Project, the Host Institution undertakes to implement the principles of the European Charter for Researchers, in particular:

- 1) provide for the Principal Investigator conditions to carry out the Project, including office and laboratory space and research equipment, as well as access to infrastructure enabling research and teaching (if applicable);
  - 2) ensure administrative and financial support for the activities carried out by the Principal Investigator;
  - 3) support the Principal Investigator in applying for financial resources for research in national and international competitions;
  - 4) support the Principal Investigator in obtaining all required consents, opinions, permits or other documents necessary to implement the activities planned within the Project;
- as well as
- 5) conclude a full-time employment contract with the Principal Investigator. It is possible to reduce the employment time in the course of the Project, particularly in cases related to extra funding for research granted to the Principal Investigator. In case of a part-time employment, the financing under the Programme is reduced proportionally;
  - 6) ensure that the Principal Investigator will reside in Poland during the implementation of the Project (the centre of the Principal Investigator's personal or economic interests will be Poland).

## 2.6. Thematic scope of activities implemented under the Programme

Activities eligible under the Programme:

- 1) employment of the researcher from abroad in Polish higher education and science institutions;
- 2) providing support to the Principal Investigator by the Inviting Person;
- 3) creating stable conditions that enable the development of the scientific career of the Principal Investigator;
- 4) creating stable conditions for:
  - completing the first or subsequent postdoctoral internship;
  - conducting scientific research;
  - obtaining materials for research or scientific publications.As a complement to the above activities, the employment may also include conducting didactic activities.

## 2.7. Deadline and other conditions for submitting an application

### 1. Application submission deadline.

The call for applications will be open until **15 May 2026**, 3:00:00 p.m., according to the official time in Poland.

## 2. How to submit an application

In electronic form via the Agency's IT system: <https://programs.nawa.gov.pl> only.

After logging in and selecting programmes for scientists, please choose the right option for you:

- Ulam 2026
- Ulam 2026 special track – for applications under the provisions of point 2.2.

## 3. Language in which the application must be prepared

The application must be completed in English. Applications prepared in Polish will be disregarded. The language of the required attachments is specified in point 2.9. of the Call.

## 4. Maximum number of applications that an Applicant may submit

The Principal Investigator may be included in only one application submitted in the call. There is no limit to the number of applications submitted by a Host Institution, provided that each application indicates a different Principal Investigator. In the event of multiple applications submitted with the same Principal Investigator, the Agency will prioritize the most recently submitted application for assessment, disregarding the remaining applications.

### 2.8. Project implementation timeframe

#### 1. Programme implementation period

The programme will run from 1 February 2027 to 31 December 2030.

#### 2. Project implementation period (contract duration)

- 1) Earliest possible project start date - latest possible project start: 1 February 2027- 1 December 2027.
- 2) The Project may be implemented for a period of no less than 6 months and no longer than 24 months<sup>1</sup>.
- 3) In justified cases, the Project start date indicated in the application may be postponed, provided that the Project completion date does not exceed the Programme implementation period.

### 2.9. List of information and attachments required in the application

1. The application must include all information required in the application form.
2. The following documents must be attached to the application:

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<sup>1</sup> When calculating the project duration, the rules of the Polish Civil Code apply, with the last day of the month being the day preceding the expiry date determined in accordance with the rules. For example, 36 months from 1 July 2025, will expire on 30 June 2028.

- 1) Power of attorney for the person submitting the application to represent the Applicant – in Polish; the template of the power of attorney is provided in the appendix to the Call;
- 2) A scan of the document confirming that the Principal Investigator is a PhD holder – with official translation to English in cases where the original is delivered in language other than English or Polish;
- 3) Invitation of the Principal Investigator by the Host institution, signed by the Inviting Person – in English (invitation template is attached to the Call announcement);
- 4) A copy of the documents clearly confirming that the Principal Investigator worked as a researcher outside Poland under the conditions specified in the Call (a certificate from the HR department or a certificate issued by a person representing the employer's institution, with the name of the position and the period of employment) – in English;
- 5) Copies of the three required accomplishments of the Principal Investigator from the last five years (counted from the beginning of the 2021).

Attachments should be in electronic form (a scan of a document with a handwritten signature or a document with a qualified electronic signature).

#### **2.10. List of information and attachments required in the special track for scientists awarded in the framework of European initiatives**

1. The application must include all information required in the application form.
2. The following documents must be attached to the application:
  - 1) Power of attorney for the person submitting the application to represent the Applicant – in Polish; the template of the power of attorney is provided in the appendix to the Call;
  - 2) A scan of the document confirming that the Principal Investigator is a PhD holder – with official translation to English in cases where the original is delivered in language other than English or Polish;
  - 3) Invitation of the Principal Investigator by the Host institution, signed by the Inviting Person – in English (invitation template is attached to the Call announcement);
  - 4) Electronic version of the application submitted under the programme indicated in point 2.2.
  - 5) The reviews obtained as a result of the evaluation of the application submitted under the programme indicated in point 2.2.
  - 6) Electronic version of the award indicated in point 2.2.

Attachments should be in electronic form (a scan of a document with a handwritten signature or a document with a qualified electronic signature).

#### **2.11. Procedure for assessing and selecting applications for funding**

##### **1. General provisions**

Applications are subject to formal and substantive assessment in accordance with the Regulations for Institutional Programmes for Researchers (attached to the Call announcement).

##### **2. Formal assessment**

Its purpose is to determine whether the submitted application is complete and formally meets the requirements specified in the Call Announcement.

An application may be left without consideration for formal reasons also at a later stage of the assessment.

### 3. Merit-based assessment

The merit-based assessment consists of three stages:

- 1) Initial assessment of the applications is conducted by the Team of Experts. Applications that do not receive the Team of Experts' recommendation at this stage are not submitted for further assessment;
- 2) Assessment of applications by two External Reviewers;
- 3) Final assessment by the Team of Experts.

Criteria for merit-based assessment	Initial Assessment Team of Experts	External Reviewers (average ratings)	Team of Experts
<b>1. The Principal Investigator's scientific or academic career and scientific achievements to date</b> <i>– To what extent are the Principal Investigator's scientific achievements internationally recognizable and outstanding in the context of a given discipline and stage of the researcher's career?</i>	20	10	-
<b>2. Justification for the selection of the Host institution as the place of project implementation</b> <i>– To what extent is the Host institution suited to the planned Project?</i> <i>– Assessment of the proposed support for the Principal Investigator and the prospects of the scientific development of the Investigator at the Host institution</i> <i>– Assessment of the benefits the Host institution will enjoy by attracting a Principal Investigator.</i>	-	5	15
<b>3. Scientific or technological quality of the Project - scope and method of implementation of planned activities</b> <i>What is the scientific quality of the Project, taking into account:</i> <i>– Novelty of the topics addressed</i> <i>– innovative nature of the research hypothesis</i> <i>– research tools and methods</i> <i>– planned results of the Project</i> <i>– potential risks and contingency plan</i>	-	20	20
<b>4. Impact of the stay at the Host Institution on the Principal Investigator's scientific career</b>	-	5	5

Criteria for merit-based assessment	Initial Assessment Team of Experts	External Reviewers (average ratings)	Team of Experts
<i>To what extent can the implementation of the Project impact the development of the Principal Investigator's career?</i>			
<b>TOTAL:</b>	20	40	40
<b>Maximum points</b>			100

Polish citizens may constitute up to 10% of the Principal Investigators under the Programme.

## 2.12. Total Programme allocation of funds

The amount of funds allocated for the implementation of the Programme is **PLN 22 million**. The Agency reserves the right to change the amount of the funds, as well as not to use the full allocation.

## 2.13. Project budget under NAWA financing

1. The Applicant may plan expenses in the Project budget for:
  - 1) the remuneration of the Principal Investigator in the **maximum amount of PLN 17, 000 per month in case of full-time employment**,
  - 2) the remuneration of the Inviting Person in the form of **a task allowance** in the maximum amount of PLN 1,200 per month.
2. Remuneration amounts include employer costs (gross gross).
3. The project is settled on the basis of actual expenses incurred.
4. During the project implementation stage, the Beneficiaries have the right to use the amount allocated for the Principal Investigator's remuneration without dividing it into months. However, the amount of the monthly remuneration must comply with the principles of rationality, economy, and efficiency, be consistent with the internal regulations of the Beneficiary (the employing institution) and with the other eligibility conditions specified in the Call documentation. Taking into account the continuity of the Principal Investigator's work, the monthly remuneration in the course of the Project should be at a similar level and should not raise doubts as to the rationality of the expenditure incurred.
5. The list of ineligible expenses is available in the Regulations for Institutional Programmes for Researchers.
6. The maximum amount of funding for a project is **PLN 436, 800**
7. Payment scheme in the Programme: A
8. Reporting scheme in the Programme: A

## 2.14. Additional information

1. A condition for signing a Project funding agreement with the Agency is that the Principal Investigator does not undertake employment in Poland between the time of submitting the

application and the time of receiving the Director's decision or the planned date of announcement of results. Employment in Poland is understood as employment at an entity based in Poland under an employment contract or managing a research grant with an affiliation with a Polish entity, provided that remuneration is paid for the work. The condition does not apply to scientists awarded in the framework of European initiatives applying under the special track as per point 2.2.

2. Principal Investigator is expected to be fully relocated to Poland and employed full-time within the Beneficiary's unit.
3. The timeframe for presenting scientific or artistic achievements of the Principal Investigator may be extended by the time spent on maternity leave, leave on the terms of maternity leave, paternity leave, parental leave, or childcare leave, granted on the terms specified in the Act of 26 June 1974, Labor Code, as well as periods of receiving maternity or parental benefits, or periods of receiving sickness or rehabilitation benefits due to incapacity for work, including one caused by an illness requiring medical rehabilitation. Alternatively, in case of women, timeframe for presenting scientific or artistic achievements may be extended by 18 months for each child born or adopted. The candidate may choose the more favorable method of indicating breaks in her academic career. The above should be communicated to the Agency in the application. The information will be processed by the Agency in order to decide if the timeframe for presenting achievements may be extended.
4. The Agency reserves the right to cancel or shorten the Call, in particular in the event of significant changes in legal provisions affecting the implementation of the Call, force majeure events or in other justified cases.

#### 2.14. Planned date of announcement of the results

The results are scheduled to be announced by 30 November 2026.

#### 2.15. Source of financing for the Programme

National funds.

### III. APPENDICES

- 1) Regulations of Institutional Programmes for Researchers;
- 2) Beneficiary Agreement template;
- 3) Power of attorney template for submitting an application;
- 4) Template of the invitation of the Principal Investigator issued by the Inviting Person;
- 5) Application template.

### IV. CONTACT

For additional information, please contact us (working days, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.):

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