

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

by the University of Pannonia

Funded under the University Research Scholarship Program (EKÖP)

for the 2025/2026 Academic Year



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## **1. Interpretative Provisions**

- Any KDP: Refers to the Cooperative Doctoral Program of 2020, 2021 (including the National Defense Subprogram), 2023, and the Cooperative Doctoral Program under the University Research Scholarship Program.
- EKÖP: University Research Scholarship Program.
- EKÖP-KDP: Cooperative Doctoral Program under EKÖP.
- Government Decree: Government Decree No. 24/2013 (II. 5.) on National Higher Education Excellence.
- NKFI Fund: National Research, Development and Innovation Fund.
- NKFI Office: National Research, Development and Innovation Office.
- Scholarship Holder: Applicant awarded an EKÖP scholarship.
- Applicant: Person submitting an application for the EKÖP call.
- Grantor: University of Pannonia.

## **2. Purpose of the call**

**2.1.** The Ministry of Culture and Innovation, via the NKFI Office and based on Government Decree No. 24/2013 (II. 5.), provides support to the University of Pannonia to establish and operate the University Research Scholarship Program.

**2.2.** The EKÖP program aims to ensure a new generation of higher education lecturers and researchers, and to support R&D staffing needs of innovative Hungarian companies. It also involves top students in academic talent development.

**2.3.** The 2025 EKÖP scholarships support academic excellence in higher education, targeting students (BA/BSc, MA/MSc, PhD) and early-career researchers demonstrating strong research and creative output.

## **3. Legal Obligations for Higher Education Institutions**

**3.1.** Institutions with an EKÖP framework must publish scholarship calls for all levels of study defined in the Government Decree.

**3.2.** Calls must be posted on the institution's website and submitted to the NKFI Office for approval at least 30 days in advance.

**3.3.** The application and awarding process must be entirely electronic, including evaluation, decisions, contracts, and payment.

**3.4.** Institutions must organize at least one annual event for current and former scholarship holders.

**3.5.** Institutions must submit professional and financial reports by November 30 annually. These influence future EKÖP funding.

#### 4. Form and Amount of the scholarship

**4.1.** The support can be obtained through an application in the form of a scholarship, which will be transferred by the Grantor to the bank account specified by the applicant in their application.

**4.2.** According to the Government Decree, the amount of the scholarship is a minimum of **HUF 125,000/month/person** and a maximum of **HUF 250,000/month/person**. The exact scholarship amounts and the supported programs, doctoral schools, and organizational units are defined in the table found in **Appendix 1**.

**4.3.** The duration of the scholarship period may be:

Depending on the applied category, the scholarship may last for 5, 6, 7, 10, or 12 months. The scholarship period always consists of full months and—except for the 6-month scholarship—may only begin on September 1 or February 1. A 7-month scholarship may not begin in the autumn semester, and the scholarship period must not extend beyond the academic year.

**4.3.a.** For Bachelor's and Master's (undivided or divided) categories:

- 5 months (September 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026 OR February 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026)
- 10 months (September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

**4.3.b.** For Doctoral studies (applicable equally to both Doctoral I: first phase and Doctoral II: second phase):

- 5 months (September 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026)
- 7 months (February 1, 2026 – August 31, 2026)
- 12 months (September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026)

**4.3.c.** For Young Instructors and Researchers (applies equally to Young Instructor/Researcher I and II categories):

A duration of at least 6 and up to 12 months, starting between September 1, 2025 and March 1, 2026. The scholarship period must begin on the first day of a month and must end no later than August 31, 2026.

**4.4.** The scholarship relationship terminates upon the termination of the legal status forming its basis during the scholarship period, or on the last day of the semester in which the final pre-degree certificate (absolutorium) is obtained.

## **5. Eligibility Conditions and Application Categories**

Only natural persons who fully meet the following conditions may apply for this scholarship and who have not yet reached the age of 45, and who have outstanding scientific and/or professional and/or academic achievements. The rector may waive the age limit in cases of special merit.

### **5.1. Bachelor's Category**

- The applicant must have an active full-time or correspondence student status in one of the bachelor's programs listed in Appendix 1, and
- Additionally, the scholarship index for the last two completed semesters in the current bachelor's program must be at least 3.51 for STEM programs and at least 4.00 for non-STEM programs per semester. If the applicant has completed only one semester, that semester's index must be taken into account.

### **5.2. Master's Category**

- The applicant must have an active full-time or correspondence student status in one of the master's programs listed in Appendix 1, and
- Additionally, the scholarship index for the last two completed semesters in the current master's program OR in the previous bachelor's program that meets the above GPA criteria must be at least 3.51 for STEM programs and at least 4.00 for non-STEM programs per semester. If only one semester is available, that semester's index applies.
- Successful applicants must prove their active student status at the time of establishing the scholarship agreement.

### **5.3. Doctoral Category**

- The applicant must be actively enrolled in a doctoral program at one of the doctoral schools listed in Appendix 1 in either full-time or correspondence mode.

#### **5.3.1. Doctoral I Category**

- At the beginning of the scholarship period, the applicant must have active student status at one of the doctoral schools listed in Appendix 1 and be in the training and research phase (semesters 1–4), OR
- Must have applied or intend to apply for admission to a doctoral program announced for the 2025/2026 academic year at one of the doctoral schools listed in Appendix 1.

#### **5.3.2. Doctoral II Category**

- At the beginning of the scholarship period, the applicant must have active student status at one of the doctoral schools listed in Appendix 1 and be in the research and dissertation phase (semesters 5–8).
- Successful applicants must prove their active student status at the time of establishing the scholarship agreement.

#### 5.4. Young Instructor/Researcher Category<sup>1</sup>

- The applicant must be engaged in teaching and/or research activities in one of the organizational units listed in Appendix 1, and
- Must have completed doctoral coursework (absolutorium) and not yet obtained their degree, or obtained the degree within the past 5 years<sup>2</sup>, and

##### 5.4.1. Young Instructor/Researcher I

- Must be engaged in teaching and/or research activities in one of the organizational units listed in Appendix 1, AND
- Must have completed doctoral coursework or will complete it by August 31, 2025, and has not yet obtained the degree, or obtained it within the last 2 years.

##### 5.4.2. Young Instructor/Researcher II

- Must be engaged in teaching and/or research activities in one of the organizational units listed in Appendix 1, AND
- Obtained the doctoral degree within 2–5 years.
- Successful applicants must prove that between September 1, 2025 and August 31, 2026, during the scholarship period, they have an employment or other contractual relationship with the University of Pannonia for teaching or research activities.

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<sup>1</sup>**STEM programs** include fields in engineering, information technology, and natural sciences. **Non-STEM programs** include fields in humanities, economics, social sciences, and teacher training.

<sup>2</sup> According to Section 10 (2) of Government Decree 24/2013 (II. 5.) on National Higher Education Excellence, regarding the duration specified in Paragraph (1) point d), higher education institutions may exercise discretion if the conditions outlined in Section 45 (2) of Act CCIV of 2011 on National Higher Education (hereinafter: Nftv.) are met.

**5.5. The eligibility conditions must be met as of the first day of the scholarship period.** In all application categories, applicants must be able to prove the existence of the legal relationship underlying eligibility when the scholarship agreement is established.

The Government Decree does not exclude support for applicants who have submitted an admission request but have not yet started the program, nor for young instructors and researchers who do not yet have a formal legal relationship at the time of application submission.

## **6. Grounds for Exclusion**

**6.1.** An applicant is not eligible for the scholarship if:

- It is credibly proven that the applicant submitted false, misleading, or deceptive information that substantially influenced the decision at the time of application;
- The applicant fails to make the required declarations or submit necessary documents as defined in this call or as a condition for concluding the scholarship agreement, or if they withdraw a previously made declaration;
- The applicant previously received an EKÖP or EKÖP-KDP scholarship but ended the scholarship period prematurely without fulfilling the obligations;
- The applicant made or was involved in preparing the funding decision.

**6.2.** An application is not eligible for support if its implementation, method, or result:

- Constitutes a crime or calls for committing a crime;
- Violates fundamental human or constitutional rights;
- Harms the dignity of the nation, national, ethnic, linguistic, or other minorities, or any other nation, and violates basic societal interests, including public order, public morals, and the protection of families and minors.

**6.3.** In the case of simultaneous awards of EKÖP, EKÖP-KDP, and the TDK scholarships provided by the Foundation for the University of Pannonia, the scholarship holder may only accept one scholarship of their choice.

## **7. Application Process**

**7.1.** The total funding available for scholarships in the 2025/2026 academic year is planned at HUF 65,263,898.

7.2. Submitted applications will be evaluated and scored by experts appointed by the rector, following the criteria defined in this call. Based on the ranked scores, the rector will decide on the awarding of scholarships no later than August 10, 2025.

7.3. The rector may deviate from the ranking established by the expert evaluation for professional reasons (e.g., alignment with the institution's strategic goals – Institutional Development Plan, priority disciplines, or priority research topics).

7.4. The final funding decisions will be published on the institution's website.

7.5. The Grantor is responsible for evaluating, approving, or rejecting the final professional reports submitted by the scholarship holders.

## 8. Scholarship Period

8.1. The scholarship period is defined in Section 4.3 of this call.

8.2. A selected applicant may, at their own risk, begin implementing the project earlier than the official decision date. However, the official length and start/end dates of the scholarship period as defined in the application remain unchanged.

## 9. Submission of Applications

9.1. Applications must be submitted between May 30, 2025, and June 16, 2025.

9.2. The scholarship is an individual grant and may only be applied for individually.

9.3. EKÖP applications for the 2025/2026 academic year must be submitted exclusively through the online platform: [moodle oi.uni-pannon.hu](https://moodle oi.uni-pannon.hu)

9.4. Applicants may apply in two categories simultaneously if their academic status will change between the first and second semesters (e.g., from master's to doctoral program).

## 10. Mandatory Commitments

10.1. The applicant, regardless of category, commits to:

- Conducting research during the scholarship period under the supervision of a mentor<sup>3</sup> (or independently in the case of the Young Instructor/Researcher category), and making the results of their scientific research and development work accessible to the Grantor during the scholarship period;

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<sup>3</sup> A person with a teaching or research employment relationship, or another legal relationship involving work, who conducts teaching or research activities in the scientific field defined in the scholarship research plan. If needed, the Scientific Students' Associations (TDK) networks of higher education institutions can assist in selecting a supervisor. Their contact information is available at: <https://otdk.hu/intezmenyi-tdk/tdt-tisztsegviselok/>

- Participating in the institutional EKÖP conference;
- Presenting the results of their research activity conducted during the scholarship period at an internal EKÖP event and at one additional (domestic or international) conference or other professional event;
- Contributing to student academic support, university recruitment, or talent development within the higher education institution;
- Promoting the results of their research activities to the broader public.

#### **10.2. In the Bachelor's category:**

- The applicant must prepare a Scientific Students' Association (TDK) paper related to their research plan during the scholarship period and present it at a TDK conference organized by any higher education institution<sup>4</sup>.

#### **10.3. In the Master's category:**

- The applicant must prepare a TDK paper related to their research plan during the scholarship period and present it at a TDK conference organized by any higher education institution<sup>4</sup>;
- If, during the scholarship period, the applicant makes use of the opportunity provided under Section 53 (3a) of the Higher Education Act (Nftv.) and participates in doctoral preparatory studies alongside the final academic year of their master's program, they must also commit to:
  - Completing at least four doctoral credits per semester;
  - Applying to a doctoral program;
  - Completing the doctoral entrance exam.

#### **10.4. In the Doctoral category:**

- The applicant must conduct additional research<sup>5</sup> beyond the requirements of their doctoral studies;

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<sup>4</sup> In the case of a parallel application as specified in Section 9.4, the mandatory commitments must be fulfilled once during the combined scholarship period.

<sup>5</sup> The research funded under the scholarship may be related to the research work required by doctoral studies, but it must constitute additional research activity that is clearly distinguishable from the doctoral program requirements.

- Publish or have accepted for publication<sup>6</sup> at least one scientific article.<sup>7</sup>

#### **10.5. In the Young Instructor/Researcher category:**

- Publish or have accepted for publication at least one scientific article.

### **11. Evaluation Criteria**

The evaluation criteria are defined by category in the appendices:

- Evaluation criteria for the Bachelor's and Master's categories
- Evaluation criteria for Doctoral I and Doctoral II categories
- Evaluation criteria for Young Instructor/Researcher I and II categories

### **12. Required Documents**

All mandatory documents must be completed in the format provided. No modifications, deletions, or additions are allowed in the designated fields of the provided templates.

- Application Form completed in full, in Hungarian or English.
- Research Plan, which must include the research topic, the aim of the research, a general problem statement related to the research topic, and the applicant's personal motivation for choosing the topic (in Hungarian or English).
- Applicant Declaration, completed in full, in Hungarian or English.
- Letter of Intent from the Dean of the host Faculty, either digitally signed, or printed, hand-signed, scanned, and submitted in PDF format.

For applicants in the Bachelor's and Master's categories, the following additional document is mandatory:

- Scholarship Index Certificate<sup>8</sup> printed from the NEPTUN student information system, certified by the Directorate of Education, with a separate certificate issued for each semester, in Hungarian.

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<sup>6</sup> Publications related to the research activity undertaken in the supported research plan may include domestic and international journal submissions, in Hungarian or foreign languages: articles, monographs, books, and book chapters. Conference proceedings and other published studies, including those in print and electronic journals, are also acceptable.

<sup>7</sup> As proof of publication, a publisher's or editor's confirmation of acceptance for publication, or a publisher's statement, is acceptable if the work is not published by the end of the scholarship period.

<sup>8</sup> To be calculated in accordance with Section 85 (4) of the Student Requirements System of the University of Pannonia

Requirements for Documents with Handwritten or Electronic Signatures:

- a) The declaration must bear a qualified certificate-based electronic signature with at least enhanced security, or
- b) The declaration must be certified via the e-Paper service using Ügyfélkapu+/DÁP, or
- c) A scanned version of a printed and hand-signed document is also acceptable.

### **13. Responsibilities of the Supervisor**

**13.1.** The supervisor is responsible for providing professional support during the scholarship period to help implement the research plan, maintaining regular contact with the scholarship holder, and preparing a consultation sheet. The supervisor must also prepare a professional evaluation as part of the final report.

**13.2.** The supervisor must hold at least one personal or online consultation per month with the scholarship holder to support their research. A consultation sheet, co-signed by the scholarship holder, must be completed for each session and submitted with the final report.

**13.3.** Supervisors are not entitled to remuneration under the EKÖP framework.

### **14. Use of the Scholarship and Reporting Obligations**

**14.1.** The full amount of the scholarship may be used freely without the obligation to submit a financial report.

**14.2.** The scholarship holder must submit a detailed final professional report to the Grantor within 10 calendar days after the end of the scholarship period, describing how the mandatory commitments and the tasks outlined in the research plan were fulfilled.

**14.3.** The Grantor will evaluate the final report no later than October 31, 2026.

### **15. Method of Scholarship Financing**

**15.1.** The Grantor will enter into a contract (hereinafter: Scholarship Agreement) with the scholarship recipients, stipulating the conditions and regulations for the disbursement of the scholarship. Payments will only begin after the contract is signed. A condition for signing the Scholarship Agreement is that the recipient must possess a tax identification number.

**15.2.** The scholarship recipient acknowledges that, according to Annex 1, Sections 4.12.1.c), 4.12.2., and 4.12.3. of Act CXVII of 1995 on Personal Income Tax, the scholarship paid to them is considered tax-exempt income under Hungarian law.

**15.3.** In order to receive the scholarship, the applicant must hold a bank account with a financial institution in Hungary no later than the date of signing the Scholarship Agreement and maintain it until the end of the scholarship period.

## **16. Formal Review and Correction of Applications**

**16.1.** The acceptance and formal verification of applications are carried out by the Grantor.

**16.2.** The Grantor will notify the applicant by the seventh day after receipt of the application whether it has been accepted for substantive evaluation or rejected without review. In the case of rejection without review, the reason and the method of appeal will be provided.

If multiple applications are submitted by the same applicant under this call, only the first submitted application will be evaluated; any subsequent ones will be automatically rejected regardless of the outcome of the earlier application.

**16.3.** No correction is allowed, and the application will be rejected without substantive review if:

- The applicant does not meet the requirements specified in Section 5;
- The application is illegible or contains false or misleading information.

**16.4.** If, during the formal review, the Grantor finds that the application is incomplete but the deficiencies can be corrected, the applicant will be notified once by email (to the address provided in the application form) and requested to submit the missing or corrected documents. The notification will include a list of deficiencies and how to correct them, along with a deadline of no more than 5 working days from the date of the notification.

**16.5.** An application is invalid if:

- The applicant fails to correct the deficiencies within the specified timeframe or in the specified manner. In such cases, the Grantor will declare the application invalid and notify the applicant electronically, indicating the reason for the invalidity and rejection without further review.

**16.6.** The Grantor will inform applicants of the outcome of the formal review by no later than July 1, 2025.

## **17. Evaluation Process**

**17.1.** Upon request, the Grantor provides applicants electronic access to the evaluation results while maintaining the anonymity of the evaluators.

**17.2.** Applications are assessed by faculty expert committees. The evaluation criteria for each application category are defined in this call. Experts score the submitted applications and complete their evaluations by the deadline set in this call. The scoring must take into account the scientific discipline and specific characteristics of the faculty and doctoral school. The scores must reflect values important to the faculty.

No deviations are allowed from the principles set out in the call or from the maximum points assignable per category.

Each faculty submits a signed list of proposed rankings and funding recommendations, including a reserve list, based on their allocated budget.

The institutional ranking is finalized by an Operational Committee appointed by the rector based on the submitted scores, rankings, and reserve list proposals.

## **18. Withdrawal, Suspension, Termination of the Scholarship, Other Provisions**

### **18.1. Withdrawal**

If the applicant or scholarship holder wishes to withdraw, they must notify the Grantor in writing without delay. From the first day of the month in which the withdrawal is declared, they are no longer eligible for the scholarship. If payments were already made, the scholarship holder must return the ineligible amount within 30 days without further notice.

They must also submit a final professional report within 30 days of the withdrawal notice. If the report is not submitted or is not accepted (including the reason for withdrawal), the Grantor may recommend disqualification from future applications for three years. Any unduly used funds must be repaid by the scholarship holder.

### **18.2. Suspension**

If a serious reason such as prolonged illness, pregnancy, childbirth, extended travel abroad, or another justified cause prevents the continuation of the original project—or if the student takes a passive semester—they may request to suspend the scholarship relationship for 2 to 5 full months.

The suspension request, modified research plan, and supporting documents must be submitted to the rector. During the suspension period, the scholarship holder is not entitled to payment. If payments were already made for the suspension period, the amount must be returned within 30 days. The duration of suspension does not extend the scholarship period.

### **18.3. Termination of Scholarship Relationship**

- **18.3.1. Due to Non-Compliance:**

If the scholarship holder fails to meet the contract obligations, the Grantor may withdraw support and reclaim previous payments. The relationship ends on the day the withdrawal decision is communicated in writing. A final report must be submitted within 30 days.

- **18.3.2. Termination of Eligibility:**

If the legal relationship (e.g. student or employment status) that underpins the scholarship ends, the scholarship and payments terminate. From the first day of the month in which eligibility ends, the scholarship holder is no longer entitled to payment and must return any disbursed funds. A final report must be submitted within 30 days.

#### **18.4. Change of Institution, Faculty, or Program**

Changing institutions, faculties, or programs during the scholarship period is not allowed (except for vertical transitions as described in Section 9.4). If a change occurs, the scholarship ends on the date the internal decision becomes final. A final report must be submitted within 30 days of this date.

#### **19. Accounting for Institutional Support**

The accounting obligations of the higher education institution are governed by the provisions of the grant document issued to the institution by the National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFI Office).

#### **20. Publicity**

In all communications and publications, the scholarship holder must indicate the name of the University Research Scholarship Programme (EKÖP), the Ministry of Culture and Innovation, and the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund. Where the format of the communication allows, the official graphic logo of the Fund must also be displayed. The logo can be downloaded from: [www.nkfi.gov.hu](http://www.nkfi.gov.hu)

#### **21. Other Conditions**

By signing the relevant declarations, both the applicant and the supervisor consent to the processing of their personal data by the Grantor, the Ministry of Culture and Innovation, and the National Research, Development and Innovation Office, as specified in the declarations.

#### **22. Complaint Handling**

**22.1.** No appeal or legal remedy may be submitted to any other body against the funding decision.

**22.2.** If the applicant wishes to submit a complaint regarding the procedure, they may do so within 5 working days following notification, including a detailed justification, addressed to the EKÖP Committee.

**22.3.** Complaints may be submitted:

- By post to the mailing address of the University of Pannonia:  
*University of Pannonia, 8200 Veszprém, Egyetem utca 10.*
- Or digitally via email to: *ekop@uni-pannon.hu*

**22.4.** The complaint must include:

- a. The name and address of the complainant;
- b. The application form and research plan concerned by the complaint;
- c. The specific decision or omission being challenged;
- d. A clear statement of the facts supporting the complaint;
- e. The signature of the complainant.

**22.5.** If the complaint is found to be justified, the rector of the University of Pannonia will decide on the matter based on the recommendation of the EKÖP Committee. The complainant will be informed of the action taken in response to the complaint within 3 working days.

### **23. Further Information**

**23.1.** This Call for Applications and its appendices together constitute the full application documentation and contain all conditions required for submission.

**23.2.** The complete application package can be downloaded at: <https://uni-pannon.hu/ekop>

**23.3.** Applicants may request further information about the call via the following contact:

*ekop@uni-pannon.hu*

*+36 88 623 - 776*

## **Appendices**

- 1. Supported Programs, Doctoral Schools, and Organizational Units**
- 2. Research Plan**
- 3. Application Form**
- 4. Applicant Declaration**
- 5. Supervisor Declaration**
- 6. Evaluation Criteria**
- 7. EKÖP\_Host Faculty Letter of Intent**

1. Appendix 1: Supported Programs and Organizational Units

Category	Program/Organizational Unit	Monthly Scholarship Amount
Bachelor's	Any bachelor's program offered in 2024/2025 per OSAP or listed for 2025/2026 in admission guide	<i>HUF 125 000</i>
Master's	Any master's program offered in 2024/2025 per OSAP or listed for 2025/2026 in admission guide	<i>HUF 125 000</i>
Doctoral (I & II)	Any of the five doctoral schools at the University of Pannonia	<i>HUF 150 000</i>
Young Instructor/Researcher (I & II)	Any unit listed in the official organizational chart of the university	<i>HUF 200 000</i>