



Call for applications for the STER programme – Internationalization of Doctoral Schools at the Krakow School of Interdisciplinary PhD Studies

Call No. 1/2021 of June 14,2021

the current epidemiological situation raises hope that in the third quarter of 2021 it will be possible to start the implementation of the NAWA-STER program awarded to the Krakow School of Interdisciplinary PhD Studies (KISD) for the years 2021-2023. The aim of this program is the internationalization of PhD schools. This internationalization includes the aspect of utmost importance to us: by offering KISD PhD students - as this program is dedicated exclusively to them - internships to be realized at selected research institutions abroad. It should be remembered that the STER program covers ONLY flat-rate travelling expenses (depending on the travelled distance) and flat rate living costs which include meals and accommodation (in monthly rates and depending on the length of stay: 12000 PLN monthly for the OECD member countries, 8000 PLN monthly for the countries outside of the OECD). The STER program does not fund research costs, access to research equipment, training fees, participation in conferences etc. Detailed information can be found on the NAWA webpage. <https://nawa.gov.pl/institucje/ster-umiedzynarodowienie-szkol-doktorskich>

The grant beneficiaries/scholarship holders shall be selected in the first and next call of the STER program by way of an open competition. To take part in the competition, KISD PhD students are required to submit an application approved by their supervisors to the KISD Secretary Office by July 9 (Friday), 2 p.m. o'clock. The application should include:

1. information about the place of an intended stay (research center, research group etc.), its dates and duration,
2. short (2 pages maximum) description of research plans to be executed in the research center. The description should include:
 - a) plan of the visit with the description of research subject matter and its goals – which must be directly related to the PhD dissertation of a candidate – including a justification for the duration of the stay,
 - b) impact of the visit on collaboration with the selected host institution – whether it is a continuation of a scientific collaboration related to the realization of the existing projects or an activity that will result in establishing a new collaboration in the near future;
 - c) can the visit be documented with joint publications or conference talks – this applies especially to longer stays;



d) can the visit be interpreted as an “introduction” to individual applications for grants that would allow a PhD student to conduct research in an international collaboration, e.g. within the NAWA-Bekker scholarships, National Science Centre grants – Preludium or Miniatura, a co-tutelle program etc.

e) will the visit, or possibly next visits, provide a PhD student with an opportunity to work on his/her dissertation in a more formalized mode by way of international cooperation agreements, e.g. under the guidance of two supervisors or in the form of a dual degree program. This is of crucial importance for the final settlement of the project from the point of view of its so-called hard deliverables.

3. VERY IMPORTANT – an invitation from a foreign host institution confirming the acceptance of a given candidate in the period defined in Point 1 – this applies particularly to the lack of possible demands of co-financing the research or lack of formal and organizational obstacles connected with the pandemic.

Within the first call only applications for internships lasting up to 3 months or preferably shorter will be examined. Pursuant to the application approved by NAWA and in accordance with the awarded financial resources, we can cover approximately 15 internships lasting up to 30-35 months in total in the current calendar year. The current call shall be concluded before the holiday break at IFJ PAN (July 16, 2021) and the next call shall be announced at the beginning of September.

We encourage all persons applying for the scholarships within the STER program to carefully read the requirements specified in the program’s terms and conditions, including in particular the documents to be submitted by the program beneficiaries before and after the trip, especially the documents to be collected at the host institution.

We wish you all success with your applications. Effective participation in the STER program may constitute a very important step in your scientific career where international collaboration connected with conducting research at foreign institutions, the so-called mobility, plays a significant and often essential role in its progress.