



INFORMATION PACKAGE
Doctoral Research Projects of "Victor Babeș" University of Medicine and Pharmacy
Timișoara
COMPETITION 2019

1. Aim

To support young researchers, PhD students at the UMFVBT Doctoral School who want to develop their academic career, in order to stimulate scientific excellence in Romanian research.

2. Objectives

- Providing PhD students with the financial support required for carrying out research activities;
- Developing the capabilities of PhD students in managing research projects;
- Increasing the competitiveness of UMFVBT young researchers in national and international research funding competitions;
- Promoting innovative research with results at international standards;
- Increasing the international visibility of the UMFVBT by improving the quality and capitalization of research results.

3. General conditions for participation

- The project proposal is developed by a doctoral student named project director, supervised by his / her doctoral supervisor;
- The project director and the doctoral supervisor have joint responsibility for project management.
- A doctoral supervisor can submit only one project in this competition.
- Under this granting mechanism, a doctoral student of UMFVBT can benefit from a single doctoral grant for the entire duration of the doctorate.

4. Eligibility criteria

- a) The project director is a doctoral student of the Doctoral School of UMFVBT, enrolled in one of the first 3 years of the doctoral cycle.
- b) The project director does not benefit from another doctoral grant financed from a project with public or private financing, national or international, except for the doctoral scholarships (grants) awarded through the annual competition of the Doctoral School of UMFVBT.
- c) The PhD supervisor is a member of the UMFVBT Doctoral School and has a Hirsch index (Web of Science) ≥ 4 .
- d) The research topic is not supported by other public or private funding sources, national or international.

5. Project duration

The duration of the project is minimum 12 months and maximum 36 months.



6. Budget

The maximum funding for a project is € 30,000. For the 2019 competition, a maximum of 5 projects will be funded.

7. Eligible expenditure

- Materials, software, access to data bases and programs, reagents and consumables
- Contracts with third parties that provide services required to carry out the project
- Participation in training courses or research internships (maximum duration 3 months) in the project field (maximum 1 mobility / year)
- Participation with oral or written presentations / posters in national or international scientific events related to the project field (maximum 1 / year)

Observation.

- Audit costs will be supported by UMFVBT as financing body.

8. Ethics

Under the direction of the PhD supervisor, the project director has the obligation to ensure that the project proposal complies with the Law 206/2004 (including subsequent amendments and additions) regarding good conduct in scientific research, technological development and innovation, as well as other ethical regulations specific to the project's field.

In case of funding approval, the project director is obliged to obtain the approval of the UMFVBT Commission for Scientific Research Ethics (CSRE) for the submitted project. The original document from CSRE will be part of the project's file.

9. Procedure for submission, evaluation and selection of project proposals:

The submission of project proposals is a one-step process, using the online application platform.

The project director is requested to create an account with the identification data in order to upload the project proposal on the online dedicated platform.

The application will be written in English according to Annex 1 of the present information package.

10. Calendar of the competition

The research project proposals competition opens at 01.10 of each year and takes place as follows:

15.10 (00:00) - 01.11 (00:00) – projects submission

01.11 – 02.11 – eligibility check

02.11 – 15.12 – projects evaluation

16.12 – final results publication

03.01 – 14.12 – signing of financing contracts

11. Eligibility check

The status of PhD student in the UMFVBT Doctoral School is attested and verified automatically by entering his/her registration number.



The PhD student/project director will upload a scanned copy (pdf format) of a signed statement that he / she does not benefit from another public or private research grant with national or international financing as director / manager / responsible / coordinator and the research proposal is not financed by other public or private, national or international funding sources. The original of the non-concurrent financing statement will be part of the project's file.

The doctoral supervisor will submit a scanned copy (pdf format) of a signed statement that he / she does not benefit from another public or private research grant with national or international financing as director / manager / responsible / coordinator and the research proposal is not financed by other public or private, national or international funding sources.

The doctoral supervisor will upload a proof (pdf format) of the Hirsch index (Web of Science, Clarivate Analytics) on the online platform.

If during or after the completion of the evaluation phase, an infringement (failure to meet) of any of the eligibility criteria will be found, the project proposal will be declared non-eligible and will be excluded from the competition or from funding, and the doctoral supervisor will be banned from participating in all internal grant competitions of UMFVBT for the next three years.

12. Evaluation process

The evaluation of the research projects submitted for assessment in the competition for experienced researchers is anonymous, ensuring the confidentiality and impartiality of the evaluating experts.

The projects are evaluated by biomedical and pharmaceutical experts, who have published as main author (first, corresponding and last author) at least two ISI articles in the research field of the project evaluated.

Each evaluator undertakes to maintain confidentiality regarding the evaluated projects and to signal any incompatibility situation with the project director.

The evaluator undertakes to notify the UMFVBT if, at any time during the assessment process, it finds that one of these conditions is not satisfied or he/she is in conflict of interest. If a conflict of interest or misconduct are established or notified, the necessary measures shall be taken to replace the evaluator at fault.

Evaluation criteria:

I. Quality of the research project

The following criteria will be scored:

- Originality of the research topic
- Suitability of the proposed methodology
- Adequacy of the proposed budget
- Feasibility of the project in relation to the research plan



The following scale will be used for rating:

Rating	Score	Description
Absent	0	The criterion cannot be analyzed due to lack or incomplete information
Weak	0-10	Serious deficiencies
Satisfying	11-20	Significant deficiencies
Good	21-30	Significant improvements are required
Verygood	31-40	Minor improvements are required
Excellent	41-50	No improvements are required

Obs. In the even score situation, the tiebreaker criterion is the H index of the supervisor.

The structure of grant application

A. General information

1. Project title (maximum 200 characters)
2. Acronym
3. Abstract (maximum 200 words)
4. Project director (personal data)
5. Keywords (maximum 5)

B. Project director (scientific biography)

1. CV short format (maximum 2 pages)
2. Proof (pdf format) of Hirsch index (Web of Science, Clarivate Analytics) ≥ 4 of PhD supervisor
3. Scanned copy (pdf format) of the signed and dated statement of the PhD student that he / she does not benefit from another public or private research grant with national or international financing as director / manager / responsible / coordinator and the research proposal is not financed by other public or private, national or international funding sources.
4. Scanned copy (pdf format) of the signed and dated statement of the PhD supervisor that he / she does not benefit from another public or private research grant with national or international financing as director / manager / responsible / coordinator and the research proposal is not financed by other public or private, national or international funding sources.

C. Description of the research project

1. Scientific background (maximum 1 page)
2. Novelty/impact of the proposed topic (maximum 1/2 page)
3. Objectives (maximum 1/2 pages)
4. Methodology (maximum 2 pages)
5. Budget (maximum 1 page)
6. References (maximum 1 page)



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The archive of the project (to be kept for auditing / control for 10 years)

Includes the following documents:

- the statements (scanned, signed and dated, pdf format) of non-financing from other, national or international sources of funding (non-concurrent financing statement).
- the research project submitted for assessment
- procurement and delivery contracts for materials, software licenses, access to databases and software, reagents and laboratory consumables used for the project implementation
- certificates of attendance in scientific events and specialization / training courses
- scientific articles published as a result of the project



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ANNEX 1 – Funding application (to be filled out in English)

A. General Information (to be filled out directly on the online platform)

1. Project Title (200 characters max):

2. Project acronym:

3. Abstract (200 words max):

4. Project leader (personal information):

Name (last name):

Previous names (if any):

Surname (first name):

Telephone:

E-mail address:

5. Key words (max 5)

B. Project leader (to be filled out directly on the online platform)

1. Project leader's short CV (2 pages)

2. Pdf proof of an H index value (Web of Science, Clarivate Analytics) ≥ 4 of the PhD supervisor

3. Signed pdf declaration to confirm that the applicant is not a project leader or key person in another grant funded from public or private sources and that the proposed research topic is not currently being funded as part of other public or private, national or international granting mechanisms.

4. Signed pdf declaration to confirm that the PhD supervisor is not a project leader or key person in another grant funded from public or private sources and that the proposed research topic is not currently being funded as part of other public or private, national or international granting mechanisms.

C. Description of the research project (to be filled out in the online platform; any tables and/or figures are to be attached individually in the platform if needed)

1. Scientific background (1 page)

The scientific rationale should be presented, highlighting the scientific importance of the topic in the context of current knowledge in the field, together with any limitations of the current approaches.

2. Novelty/impact of the proposed topic (1/2 page)



There will be presented the elements of originality and innovation that the proposed project brings to the field, with respect to the current knowledge on the topic and related to previous projects of the applicant.

3. Objectives (1/2 page)

The specific objectives (aims) of the project will be presented in a concise manner.

4. Methodology (2 pages)

A detailed presentation of the methodology is needed, highlighting possible milestones. This section should present: (1) the methods and instruments used; (2) a work plan with timelines describing the project planning in order to reach the proposed objectives; (3) potential risks and alternative approaches to overcome them; (4) deliverables; (5) preliminary data if available.

5. Budget (1 page)

The budget breakdown by type of expenses should be detailed and justified.

Budget breakdown (in euros, for the entire project; not all budget categories are mandatory)

Budget category (expenses)	Total budget
Logistics	
Third party services	
Participation to research courses or trainings	
Participation to scientific meetings	
TOTAL	

6. References (max. 1 page)



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ANNEX 2 – Selection criteria for evaluators (reviewers)

The proposals will be evaluated by experts in the bio-medical and pharmaceutical fields. In order to qualify as an evaluator, the expert must be main author (first, corresponding or last author) of at least two research papers published in IF journals on the topic of the project to be evaluated. All evaluators are national or international experts, independent of UMFVBT.



ANNEX 4 – Evaluation sheet

The evaluation of all proposals will be done in English.

Evaluation criteria:

I. The score for the scientific quality of the project leader will be calculated after filling in the relevant data in the online platform.

II. The score for the quality of the research project will include:

II.1. Originality of the proposed topic, importance and difficulty of the problem, and the potential to advance knowledge in the field and to influence the direction of thinking and action.

II.2. Objectives

Please comment on the relevance and description of the objectives, and if these can be fulfilled through the proposed methodology.

II.3. Feasibility of the proposed methods

Please comment on the relevance of the proposed methods, study design, work plan and resources. Are there any potential problems and alternative methods described? Are there any deliverables mentioned, especially related to the publication in international journals?

The existence of preliminary data that supports the feasibility of the proposal represents a strong point of the application and should represent up to 50% of the score given by the reviewer for this section.

II.4. Proposed budget, feasibility of the proposal as it relates with the research plan and the experience of the project leader.

Please evaluate if the budget is adequate and suggest any corrections if necessary. Please comment on the concordance between the proposed budget and the work plan, travelling and proposed infrastructure purchases.

There will be five scores, one for each category, with the following scoring range:

Grade	Score	Description
Absent	0	This criterion cannot be scored because of lack of or incomplete information
Weak	0-10	Severe deficiencies
Satisfactory	11-20	Significant deficiencies
Good	21-30	Significant improvements are necessary
Very good	31-40	Minor improvements are necessary
Excellent	41-50	No improvements are necessary

Obs. In the even score situation, the tiebreaker criterion is the H index of the supervisor.