

Regulations

Nicolaus Copernicus Polish-German Research Award (Copernicus Award)

The Nicolaus Copernicus Polish-German Research Award (Copernicus Award) is donated by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Foundation for Polish Science (FNP). It awards outstanding achievements in German-Polish research cooperation in all fields of science and the humanities.

General Provisions

1. As a rule, the award is conferred every two years jointly to two researchers, one in Germany and one in Poland. The researchers are expected to have rendered outstanding services to German-Polish research cooperation by bringing together complementary skills, expertise, and resources in order to jointly address research problems. The results of such cooperation should be of significant relevance for the respective research community and have future potential to open up new perspectives in the respective research field or also beyond.
2. Researchers may receive the award only once.
3. The selection criteria for the award winners are academic excellence of joint achievements and success in Polish-German cooperation, both relevant to the respective research field.

Contest Procedure

§ 1

1. All active members of the Polish academic community holding a doctoral degree, employed by institutions, the statutory purposes of which include conducting research, and all active members of the German academic community with a doctoral degree working at universities or other research institutions are authorized to nominate candidates for the Copernicus Award.
2. They shall be made aware of the award as well as contest procedures including the deadline for nominations by public announcements.
3. Nominations shall be submitted in English alternately to the DFG or the FNP by the closing date. Only electronic nominations will be accepted. Nominations submitted after the closing date shall not be considered.
4. Each nomination shall refer to a couple of two researchers, one in Germany, one in Poland (described thereof as the candidates).
5. Self-nominations shall be considered.
6. The candidates:

- should hold a doctoral degree,
 - should be engaged in ongoing research projects,
 - should be employed by research institutions,
 - should not hold management positions that conflict with their research activities.
7. Nominations may be withdrawn on the basis of a written request.

§ 2

1. Nominations should contain the following:
 - Acknowledgement of the clearly defined, joint academic achievement of the two candidates,
 - A list of up to ten publications based on verifiable joint research in support of the achievement,
 - One independent third-party letter of support for the nominated couple of candidates; in case of self-nomination – two of such letters are required,
 - Curricula vitae for each candidate.
2. The head offices of the DFG and the FNP shall conduct a formal examination of all nominations and only the candidates who successfully pass this stage shall receive the status of the nominees.
3. The jury evaluates the merit of nominations in a two-stage procedure.
4. In the first stage the jury shall conduct the initial evaluation of all valid nominations, i.e. assessment of consistency with the objectives of the Copernicus Award and the significance and uniqueness of the joint achievement of the nominees and create a short-list.
5. In the second stage the head offices of the DFG and the FNP appoint at least three external reviewers to evaluate in further detail the academic excellence and relevance of the joint achievement of the nominees on the short-list.

§ 3

1. The jury will decide on who shall be the laureates.
2. The decisions of the jury are final and unappealable.
3. Upon request of the jury, the DFG and the FNP may decide not to grant the award.
4. The DFG and the FNP will safeguard standards of good academic practice and academic integrity of the candidates throughout the entire evaluation process, according to their respective regulations and procedures.

§ 4

1. The DFG shall notify the laureate from Germany and the FNP shall notify the laureate from Poland of the contest results. The DFG and the FNP shall publish a list of laureates on their websites and disseminate this information by means of other media.

2. The award ceremony shall take place alternately in Germany and in Poland. It shall be held in a ceremonial setting, appropriate to the occasion.
3. The list of participants is to be determined by the organizing side, which also pays for the costs of the ceremony.

Provisions governing Work of the Jury

§ 5

1. The jury consists of long-term jury members and associate jury members.
2. Of the eight long-term jury members, four jury members shall be representatives of the German academic community, appointed by the Executive Committee of the DFG, and four jury members shall be representatives of the Polish academic community, appointed by the Management Board of the FNP. The term of office for the long-term jury members is four years. Members are limited to serving two terms.
3. The long-term jury members elect a jury chairperson among their members. The position of the chairperson shall rotate between a German and a Polish representative. The chairperson has the right to vote.
4. In order to cover all fields of science and the humanities represented by the candidates in the given contest, up to two associate jury members may be appointed jointly by the Management Board of the FNP and the Executive Board of the DFG.
5. All jury members, irrespective whether long-term or associate, have the same rights and obligations in the contest procedure, as described in §2 - §3
6. The DFG and the FNP cover the costs of the jury meetings in the alternate way, i.e. when one is organized in Germany, costs shall be on the DFG side, while when organized in Poland, costs shall be on the FNP side. These costs include: travel and hotel costs of all jury members, venue and catering.

Provisions governing financing the Award

§ 6

1. The award sum is jointly raised by the DFG and the FNP in equal shares.
2. The award-money for each of the two researchers is 100 000 EUR.
3. The laureate from Poland shall receive the award-money in Polish Zloty, calculated in accordance with the National Bank of Poland average exchange rate in effect on the date the bank transfer is effected.

§ 7

1. The Copernicus Award should be used for the purpose of further advancing Polish-German research cooperation.

2. The laureates shall be responsible for balancing accounts with the DFG and the FNP respectively. The use of the award money follows the regulations for project funding of the DFG and the FNP respectively.
3. The subsidy part of the award shall be utilized within three years after it has been received. If it has not been used up after three years, the laureates may apply to the DFG and the FNP for an extension of grant duration, without increasing the amount of funds.
4. Laureates are required to conduct research and teaching activities, as well as activities aimed at increasing the public understanding of research, until the subsidy portion of the award has been used up and accounted for.
5. Funds utilized in contravention of the agreement shall be returned with statutory interest.
6. Upon occurrence of circumstances that may impact proper implementation of the subsidy, the DFG or the FNP shall be notified by the laureates or by entities employing the laureates.
7. The subsidy may be cancelled or suspended, if the laureates violate obligations undertaken, good academic practice, or tarnish the good name of the DFG or the FNP.

Final Provisions

§ 8

1. The DFG and the FNP agree that the official name of the award shall refer to a Latin language version as “Nicolaus Copernicus”.
2. The DFG and the FNP shall not assert any rights to the results of work funded by the award and shall not be responsible for their consequences or interpretations.
3. The names of individuals submitting nominations and the recommendations to the DFG and the FNP shall be deemed confidential. However, the DFG and the FNP reserve the right to publish an alphabetical list of advisers, experts, reviewers and individuals cooperating on the implementation of all of their programmes.
4. Detailed principles concerning the use, reporting, withdrawal or suspension of the award money shall be defined by the DFG and the FNP in separate documents, according to their autonomous internal regulations. Principles adopted by the DFG will concern the laureate from Germany and FNP regulations the laureate from Poland, respectively.