

Category I - MUNI Award in Science and Humanities

OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

The aim of the MUNI Award in Science and Humanities (“MUNI Award”) is to bring new¹ excellent and successful scientists to Masaryk University and to offer them conditions to motivate them to stay and work for Masaryk University as well as to produce exceptionally high-quality scientific results on a long-term basis.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. The MUNI Award is primarily intended for ERC grantees in the “Starting” and “Consolidator” categories or grantees of other individual prestigious grants of comparable quality.
2. The MUNI Award is also intended for ERC Project applicants who have achieved an A grade in the second round of evaluation, but were not supported by the ERC for financial reasons and intend to apply for an ERC grant in the future.
3. There is also a possibility to grant a MUNI Award to an excellent researcher outside of Masaryk University who does not come under the above-mentioned categories. Such an applicant by means of his/her previous scientific career and publication activities must convince both expert boards – the MU Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and the MU International Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) – and the university management that he/she meets or surpasses the requirements for applicants in the above-mentioned categories.
4. In technologically demanding fields preference will be given to MUNI Award project proposals whose expert focus is in accordance with the equipment of facilities at Masaryk University.
5. An applicant for a MUNI Award must become a MU full time employee.

¹ MUNI AWARD is intended for applicants who have not worked for MU for more than 12 months in the last 3 years.

CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS

The call will be opened once a year by the Rector of Masaryk University and will last until the MUNI Award holder is selected. The contest will be announced and advertised in a way that meets the criteria of the common international convention.

FUNDING OF THE MUNI AWARD

A MUNI Award is an individual grant supporting one scientist (the holder of the MUNI Award) and his/her team.

The MUNI Award is financed from institutional support for the long-term development of the research organisation (hereinafter “institutional support”).

The maximum amount of support is 5 000 000 CZK for one project for up to 5 years. Regarding limited financial resources and depending on the amount of institutional support assigned we expect to award one project per year.

Eligible costs:

- Personal costs
- Consumables
- Tangible and intangible assets
- Services
- Travel costs
- Publishing costs and costs of putting research results into practice
- Additional costs or expenses
- Investments

Non-eligible costs:

- Costs that are not eligible for institutional support

Investments and necessary transfers among items of the budget are possible at any time throughout the project duration; however it is essential to consult these transfers with a corresponding economic centre.

The financial support for a calendar year will be granted to the faculty economic centre/workplace of the applicant. The costs will be covered through the faculty economic centre on the basis of the accounting documents.

Use of the grant must follow the rules of using institutional support.

The economic and administrative facilities of projects will be identical to the economic and administrative facilities at the faculty and these will also cover mutual operating costs. The principal investigator is responsible for the scientific and administrative coordination of the project.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. ERC Grant holders in the “Starting” and “Consolidator” categories or winners of other individual prestigious grants of comparable quality will present:

- A record of obtaining the ERC grant or any other prestigious individual grant.
- A CV including a summary of work experience, publication activity, teaching, involvement in research grants, etc.
- A Cover Letter including the key technical or staff requirements.

2. ERC Project applicants with a mark of A from Step 2 of the ERC evaluation process who were not funded because of the limited budget of ERC funds will present:

- Basic information about the ERC proposal, form B of the proposal and its Evaluation Summary Report.
- A CV including a summary of work experience, publication activity, teaching, involvement in research grants, etc.
- The contact information for at least three referees.
- A Cover Letter including the key technical or staff requirements.

3. Excellent scientists with outstanding subject competence and a proven track record of high-quality scientific productivity as judged by publications in high-impact peer-reviewed journals adequate to applicant a) or b) will present:

- A project in the scope of form B1 of an ERC grant.
- A CV including a summary of work experience, publication activity, teaching, involvement in research grants, etc.
- The contact information for at least three referees.
- A Cover Letter explaining the motivation of the candidate to gain the position, his/her future career plans at Masaryk University and including the key technical or staff requirements.

Additional materials may be required (the B2 form of the ERC grant application, detailed specification of the applicant's key requirements) in the process of evaluation.

All the documents will be requested in English.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF PROJECTS

The MUNI Award applications will be evaluated by three criteria:

1. Scientific excellence of the project proposal (40 %)
2. Previous scientific career and professional results of the applicant (50 %)
3. Host faculty/university department preparedness for accepting the MUNI Award holder and providing him/her with optimal conditions for his/her work (10 %)

The MUNI Award holder selection process will have four rounds:

1. Formal control of the MUNI Award application completeness

Formal control will be carried out by the Research Office of Masaryk University Rectorate under the supervision of the Vice-rector for Research. The Vice-rector for Research after consultation with selected experts at the University has the right to exclude applications which do not meet the definitions listed in points 1 – 3 subsection "Selection Criteria". The reason for the elimination of the application will be announced.

2. Evaluation of the MUNI Award application by the Science Advisory Board

Project proposals will be evaluated individually by the 8-member panel board consisting of SAB members[1]. This panel will review each project according to these criteria: 1. scientific excellence of project proposal and 2. previous scientific career and professional results of the applicant. After the individual review, a meeting of SAB members follows with the participation of the Vice-rector for Research. The aim of the meeting is to choose proposals which may be awarded and to agree on proposals for which funding is not recommended. The reason for excluding a project will be announced.

3. Evaluation of conditions for the MUNI Award holder's activity at Masaryk University

Applications proposed by the SAB panel board for further assessment will be submitted to Deans, university department directors and potential host facility directors in case they express an interest in a particular applicant to work for them. They also have the right to decline the application and not to proceed to further negotiation. The reason for excluding will be announced.

In the case the faculty /university department expresses an interest in a particular applicant the director of the host facility will prepare a “Declaration of host facility on preparedness to accept the MUNI Award holder” (hereinafter “Declaration”) signed by the Dean of the hosting faculty or the director of the hosting university department. The declaration will contain information about the applicant’s requirements, promise of tenure track and professorship. The promise will be fulfilled after the evaluation after the third year of the grant’s realisation.

4. Final selection of project proposals for the MUNI Award nominated by the SAB, interview organisation and the ISAB recommendation to the Rector of Masaryk University

The SAB panel board and the Vice-rector for Research will take under advisement the results of the previous evaluation of project proposals (points 2 and 3) and according to technical and financial possibilities a maximum number of applicants will be established. Selected applicants will be invited for an interview. The Research Office of Masaryk University Rectorate will arrange these interviews according to international conventions. In rare cases carrying out the interview through a video-conference is possible. Information on the previous process of selecting candidates including interview outcomes will be submitted to the members of the ISAB[2]. The ISAB will undertake the final selection of candidates and recommend the winner and a substitute to the Rector of Masaryk University. Negotiation with the MUNI Award winner will be initiated. Means of negotiation is fully in competence of host faculty or university department. The management of Masaryk University could be asked for cooperation in justified cases. In case of unsuccessful negotiations with the MUNI Award winner negotiation with the substitute will begin.

The granting of the final MUNI Award is fully in the authority of the Rector of Masaryk University.

PROJECT REPORTS AND EVALUATION

One year after beginning of the project realisation the MUNI Award holder will submit a list or brief description of project results to the members of the Science Advisory Board and the Vice-rector for Research, they will evaluate the progress of early stages of activity of the MUNI Award winner at Masaryk University and the results will be passed on to the university management.

After the third year of the project realisation there will be detailed evaluation of the project. The MUNI Award holder will submit a project progress report which will be evaluated by SAB and ISAB

(MU International Scientific Advisory Board) members. In case of serious deficiencies in the project realisation the financing of the project may be stopped through a decision of the Rector of MU.

Other progress reports will not be required. A list of project results will be submitted every year to the SAB members and the Vice-rector for Research.

After a five-year period of the MUNI Award holder working at Masaryk University there will be a comprehensive evaluation of project results based on a final report. The evaluation results will be passed on to Masaryk university management.

A part of the final evaluation will be a public lecture on the conclusion of project results and the holder's notion of his/her further activity at the university.