

**MUNI**

**GAMU – Research Support Programme**

**MUNI Award in Science and Humanities JUNIOR**

**2023 call**

**Masaryk University**

Žerotínovo nám. 617/9, 601 77 Brno, Czech Republic  
T: +420 549 49 1111, E: [info@muni.cz](mailto:info@muni.cz), W: [www.muni.cz](http://www.muni.cz)

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### Aim of support

The main aim of MUNI Award in Science and Humanities JUNIOR (hereinafter referred to as “MASH JUNIOR”) is to create conditions for timely achievement of research autonomy of highly promising researchers shortly after Ph.D.; acceleration of career advancement of talented scholars; easier preparation of prestigious grant proposals; enhancement of “brain circulation”.

Successful project applicants must have clear potential to succeed in the European Research Council (ERC) competition. A significant aspect of this type of grant support is the motivation of workplaces to invest in extraordinary scientific talent.

A MASH JUNIOR holder shall be **employed full-time at Masaryk University and the primary place of work performance shall be Brno. A MASH JUNIOR holder must submit an ERC grant application to the European Commission, or commence implementation of an ERC grant at MU within 2 years after the MASH JUNIOR project starts.**

A MASH JUNIOR holder is offered CZK 2 million / year for the period of 3 years (with the possibility of extension by another 2 years).

### Candidate's profile

The competition is open to internal as well as external applicants provided that the applicant's labour relation with MU did not exceed 12 of the 36 months preceding the deadline of the call (taking into account career breaks). An eligible applicant is a junior researcher who obtained the Ph.D. degree no earlier than 8 years before the deadline of the call, taking into account career breaks.

### Submitting a proposal

The proposal form in pdf including all annexes must be **entered in the Project Management Information System (PMIS) at the latest on the deadline date.** The files entered shall be submitted for evaluation. If the applicant is not affiliated with MU, the proposing person shall be the main contact person at MU for

the given application (e.g. head of the unit, project support officer etc.). The proposal is submitted when a cover sheet is approved.

**Documents** (machine readable pdf files):

- **The MASH JUNIOR form** (motivation letter, CV, brief description of the research plan)
- Declaration of the ECU of its readiness to hire the applicant and create conditions for independent research on the prescribed form\*
- Optional annex: Decision on the award of the ERC or another prestigious individual grant (for instance MSCA) / Evaluation Summary Report, or an evaluation of a highly-rated ERC application or another individual grant project

*\* The declaration shall be part of the approval process at the main ECU in the PMIS – entered as an annex of the proposal for the cover sheet approval (**by approving the cover sheet, the head of the ECU declares its readiness to hire the applicant and create conditions for independent research**).*

The application shall not contain the budget – the applicant shall obtain a predetermined amount in this competition.

The applicant shall submit all the documents in English.

Additional information and documents may be requested during the evaluation procedure (e.g. B2 form of the ERC application, detailed specification of the applicant's key requirements etc.).

## Evaluation procedure

The submitted application shall be evaluated against the following criteria:

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Weighting in %</b>
Credibility of the career plan of the applicant and significance of MASH JUNIOR award for the career plan (based on Motivation Letter)	30
Coherence and credibility of the research plan presented by the applicant (based on Research Plan)	30
Applicant's potential for research growth at Masaryk University (potential for obtaining an ERC grant) (based on CV and track-record)	40

Formal inspection shall be made by the RMU Research Office under the supervision of the Vice-rector for Research and Doctoral Studies. In this stage, the Vice-rector for Research and Doctoral Studies after consultation with selected experts from the university shall have the right to exclude applications that fail to meet the requirements for MASH JUNIOR applicants.

### 1st evaluation round

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Based on the [standardized keywords](#) specified in the proposal, the domain guarantor shall select from the [internal database](#) at least 3 evaluators for each application. Based on the evaluation reports, the domain guarantors, or an expert panel approved for the given domain by the Vice-rector for Research and Doctoral Studies shall prepare the ranking list in each domain (Life Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities, Physical Sciences and Engineering). If there are ambiguities (e.g. an extremely high or low evaluation by one evaluator), the guarantors shall ask for additional information from the evaluator concerned.

The domain guarantors in a meeting with the Vice-rector for Research and Doctoral Studies shall select candidates with the best evaluation in the respective domains, who shall be invited to the 2nd evaluation round.

## 2nd evaluation round

Invited candidates shall be interviewed by the evaluation board, whose members are: Vice-rector for Research and Doctoral Studies, domain guarantors and invited experts. The candidates present their research plan proposal. The board suggests selected candidates for MASH and MASH JUNIOR grants based on evaluation reports of the previous rounds and the interview. A larger number of MASH JUNIOR applications may be approved to the detriment of MASH, and vice versa (both calls have common allocation of funds).

The Vice-rector for Research and Doctoral Studies shall inform the MU management of the competition results in their session.

The Rector of MU decides on awarding the grants in the MASH and MASH JUNIOR competitions pursuant to the recommendation of the evaluation board.

## Funding rules

For the period of the project implementation, a MASH JUNIOR holder shall be **employed full-time at Masaryk University and the primary place of work performance shall be Brno**. GAMU financial support shall be used toward the settlement of **costs immediately related to the MASH JUNIOR holder's research plan**.

Annual budget: CZK 2 million / calendar year<sup>1</sup>

Duration of funding: 3 years (with the possibility of extension by another 2 years – a follow-up project)

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<sup>1</sup> If the employment starts or is terminated during the year, the amount shall be proportionately adjusted.

### Eligible costs

- Personnel costs (wages, bonuses, agreements to complete a job (DPP) and agreements to perform work (DPČ) of persons directly involved in the research activities necessary for the research plan investigation)
- Scholarships
- Consumables
- Investment
- Low-value tangible and intangible assets
- Services
- Local and international travel
- Publication and application costs
- Additional costs or expenses (projects **may** include a share in common operating costs corresponding to the Joint Operating Costs (JOC) coefficient for the given economic unit in the year concerned in accordance with MU Instruction for determining the proportion of administrative overheads and system of applying overheads to projects, as amended)

### Ineligible costs

- Costs not eligible for institutional support toward long-term conceptual development (e.g. refreshments)

The drawdown of funds must comply with the rules for the drawdown of funds of institutional support. The grant shall be provided as non-investment funds. Each ECU shall arrange an exchange for investment individually. Purchase of investment and necessary transfers among the respective items of the eligible costs are possible after the consultation with the relevant finance office of the ECU.

The amount that has not been spent in the given year may be transferred to the Special Purpose Fund (SPF) in the **maximum amount of 5%** of the funds awarded for the year concerned. It applies that if the funds in the SPF are not spent in the following year, the beneficiary is obliged to return the funds not used. **The SPF cannot be created in the last year of the project investigation.**

The approved financial support shall be allocated to a specific economic unit in the form of an adjusted schedule of institutional support in accordance with the Budget Implementation Schedule submitted by the investigator.

The economic and administrative resources of the projects shall be identical to the economic and administrative resources of the units where the researcher and his/her team work (now or in the future), and these units shall also bear common operating costs of the project. Both the **professional and administrative coordination** of the project shall be the responsibility of the MASH JUNIOR grantee.

## Project implementation, interim and final report

The project is implemented in two stages (months 1 to 24; and 25 to 36).

The investigator shall submit the Budget Implementation Schedule before the start of the project.

The **interim report / final report** must be entered in the Project Management Information System (PMIS) always within **60 days after the end of the relevant stage**.

The interim report (in Czech or English) contains a list and a brief description of the achieved results and the updated Budget Implementation Schedule. The interim report is assessed by the Vice-rector for Research and Doctoral Studies and the GAMU guarantor for the domain concerned. Interim and final report forms are accessible in the [IS](#).

**A MASH JUNIOR holder shall submit an ERC grant application to the European Commission, or commence implementation of an ERC grant at MU within 2 years after the MASH JUNIOR project starts.** In case the requirement for submitting an ERC grant application in the first two years cannot be met (grade C in one of the previous calls), this shall be mentioned in the interim report and the grantee shall submit the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) and a plan for a repeated submission of an ERC proposal.

In case of serious shortcomings in the performance of the project, as ascertained on the basis of the interim report, the project funding may be suspended by a decision of the Rector of MU.

In case the MASH JUNIOR grantee wishes to apply for the project extension by another 2 years (a follow-up project), he/she may submit a proposal for extension in the last (or next-to-last) year of the implementation (depending on the times of project implementation and GAMU calls). The proposal shall be submitted within the framework of the current MASH JUNIOR competition call.

The consent of the ECU head is necessary for the proposal to be included into the evaluation process.

The follow-up project commencement is contingent on a successful completion of the original project.

The successful completion means:

- approval of the final report by the board composed of the guarantors and Vice-rector for Research and Doctoral Studies.

If the MASH JUNIOR grantee applies for the follow-up project, the board composed of the guarantors and Vice-rector for Research and Doctoral Studies shall issue a recommendation or rejection as part of the evaluation of the final report.

The final decision on supporting the follow-up project shall be made in the process of evaluation of proposals submitted in the current call.

The main criterion for the decision to award the follow-up grant is the benefit of continuing financial support from GAMU for further outstanding career development of the grantee (e.g. another ERC grant application in case of a favourable evaluation of the previous one), further details to be published in the current call.

If the follow-up project grant is awarded, the MASH JUNIOR grantee shall prepare the final report for the follow-up project. The **final report** including an approved cover sheet must be entered in the PMIS within **60 days after the completion of the follow-up project**. An interim report is not submitted.

The project completion (after the 3rd year; or the 5th year in the case of a follow-up project) shall include a final public lecture in which the grantee shall summarize the main results of his/her engagement at MU so far, and outline the idea of further career at the university (the final lecture is part of the GAMU final conference which is held in the last quarter of each calendar year).

## **Links and documents for download**

[GAMU website](#)

[IS Document Server](#)

[PMIS](#)

[Directive](#)

[Application Form](#)

[host declaration](#)

[Interim Report](#)

[Final Report](#)

## **Contact details**

Grants Office  
RMU Research Office  
Žerotínovo nám. 9  
Brno 601 77

Iveta Daňhelová  
[danhelova@rect.muni.cz](mailto:danhelova@rect.muni.cz)  
+420 549 49 3864