

"CONTRACT" - STRATEGY FOR RESEARCH AND DOCTORAL STUDIES (2022-2027)

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

The contract is a strategic document based on the Internal Research and Doctoral Evaluation (IRDE) carried out at Masaryk University (MU) in 2022. The content of the contract is linked to recommendations obtained from the IRDE, to MU's priorities and shared values, or to the faculty/institute's own strategies in research and doctoral studies. With this document, the faculty or university institute enters into an agreement with the Rector of MU and undertakes to implement the strategy for research and doctoral studies.

The contract contains the faculty's mission and a more detailed description of the implementation of the main goals by which the faculty wants to fulfill the individual strategies. Complementary materials are

- Annex 1: An overview of objectives in the form of a table to serve as an action plan; and
- Annex 2. Strategy, a presentation that summarizes the IRDE's recommendations and shared values in research for the MU management.

1. MISSION AND MAIN OBJECTIVES

The mission of the Faculty of Medicine of Masaryk University (MED MU) is **to educate** new generations of doctors and health professionals, **share** their best knowledge and skills and actively **participate** in the development of research and scientific knowledge.

We are building **quality facilities, state-of-the-art infrastructure, a stimulating environment and a transparent personnel policy** that will motivate both junior researchers and established scientists and clinicians. We see human resource management as key to the dynamic development of the faculty.

Our goal is for MED MU to be **a successful and internationally recognized institution with excellent research, a clearly defined strong social role and a strongly rooted academic culture.** To become a place attractive for career, study and life.

We want to continue to be a sought-after partner for cooperation with the academic, medical, industrial and public administration sectors. We strive to be a place of innovation in medical education, research and development. Our research activities reflect **the latest trends, pursue societal interests and respect ethical research principles.**

In the future, we will continue to support activities related to **the translation of basic research results into clinical practice** and the **establishment of foreign research collaborations.** Direct **support for grant activities** and the involvement of the widest possible number of academic staff in grant activities is crucial.

We perceive doctoral students as full-fledged young researchers and doctoral studies as one of the **pillars of the faculty's scientific research activities.** Therefore, we will continue to strive for the development of doctoral studies, with an emphasis on the **quality of supervisors and applicants, the cultivation of scientific integrity, the improvement of the socio-economic status** of our doctoral students and their involvement in scientific research structures of a local and global nature.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAIN OBJECTIVES

- 1. Linking the research activities of the faculty and medical facilities and supporting interdisciplinarity:** building the Brno research area, cooperation on excellent science, support for basic and applied research, and joint research strategy.
Obstacles: different missions of MED MU and medical facilities
Benchmark: Medical University of Vienna, Semmelweis Center for Translational Medicine, SPARK Global
- 2. Support and further development of applied research:** Individualized support, education, scouting of promising topics and results
Benchmark: SPARK Global, konsorcium CREATIC (Fraunhofer IZI, Universität Leipzig, University of Copenhagen), Semmelweis Center for Translational Medicine
- 3. Support for Open Science and Data Management:** Education, Individualized Support
Benchmark: konsorcium CREATIC (Fraunhofer IZI, Universität Leipzig, University of Copenhagen)
- 4. Development of infrastructure for Precision Medicine:** construction of a preclinical center and a centralized biobank, connection to the scientific infrastructure of the campus
Obstacles: funding of a project to build a preclinical centre, low level of awareness
Benchmark: konsorcium CREATIC (Fraunhofer IZI, Universität Leipzig, University of Copenhagen)
- 5. Research evaluation:** evaluation of research activities of departments, strategic evaluation of research groups
Obstacles: organizational demands of the evaluation of 75 workplaces and 28 research groups
Benchmark: University of Lodz, Semmelweis Center for Translational Medicine, Vienna Biocenter
- 6. Innovative research topics of dissertations:** centralized listing of topics of supervisors with a supporting research program
Benchmark: Vienna Biocenter, SPARK Global, konsorcium CREATIC (Fraunhofer IZI, Universität Leipzig, University of Copenhagen)
- 7. Improving the socio-economic situation of doctoral students:** internal support mechanisms (publication fund, internships abroad, internal grant schemes, integration into project teams), active dialogue with doctoral students (doctoral student platform, HR Award working groups)
Obstacles: postponement of the amendment to the Higher Education Act, possibility of multi-source funding of scholarships – income of doctoral students
Benchmark: organizace ORPHEUS, Vienna Biocenter, Medical University of Vienna
- 8. Reorganization of the Ph.D. school:** establishment of the Ph.D. School Board, Thesis Advisory Committee in all DSPs, mentoring in all DSPs
Benchmark: Vienna Biocenter, Semmelweis Center for Translational Medicine, organizace ORPHEUS

9. **Internationalization of Ph.D. schools:** foreign supervisors, members of doctoral boards, opponents of dissertations, increase in the number of foreign doctoral students in English doctoral studies
Benchmark: Vienna Biocenter, organizace ORPHEUS, konsorcium CREATIC (Fraunhofer IZI, Universität Leipzig, University of Copenhagen)
10. **Clinical Ph.D. concept:** conditions for reconciling doctoral studies with employment in clinics of healthcare facilities
Obstacles: different missions of MED MU and medical facilities
Benchmark: Medical University of Vienna
11. **Quality of doctoral studies, prevention of academic failure:** progress report of the dissertation project after the 2nd year of study (prevention of the risk of failure of studies), Thesis Advisory Committee in all DSPs, mentoring in all DSPs, systematic work with supervisors
Obstacles: organizational demands of the progress report for about 100 students/year, lack of mentors
Benchmark: Medical University Lodz, Semmelweis Center for Translational Medicine, Vienna Biocenter, organizace ORPHEUS
12. **Monitoring of the application, relevance of the study offer and career paths of Ph.D. graduates:** offboarding questionnaire, creation of an alumni network
Obstacles: low return rate of offboarding questionnaire
Benchmark: DocEnhance project, ORPHEUS

All recommendations from the internal research evaluation and doctoral studies formulated by ISAB MED MUNI, as well as the implementation plan, including goals and specific measures for the further development of research and doctoral studies at MED MU in 2023-2027, are available online at [Internal Research and Doctoral Studies Evaluation | Faculty of Medicine Masaryk University | MED MUNI](#).