

Guidelines

Copernicus Award

With the Copernicus Award, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) and the Foundation for Polish Science (Fundacja na Rzecz Nauki Polskiej, FNP) honour researchers who have made outstanding and lasting contributions to German-Polish research cooperation, especially in the joint promotion of young researchers.

I. Objective

The Copernicus Award is conferred every two years to two researchers, one in Germany and one in Poland, for outstanding achievements in German-Polish scientific cooperation, in particular in promoting young researchers. It is awarded jointly by the DFG and the FNP. In exceptional cases, German-Polish research teams may also be taken into consideration. Each laureate may use his or her funds of €25,000 for any research project, in accordance with the funding programmes of both the DFG and the FNP. Preferably, funds should be used to further intensify the joint promotion of young researchers.

II. Nomination Requirements

To be considered for nomination by the DFG, candidates must hold a doctorate, be actively involved in research at a German or Polish university or research institution and be under 65 years of age. Only nominations submitted by a third party will be considered by the jury. The award is open to all scientific disciplines.

Researchers may receive the award only once.

Scientists who hold a doctorate and work at a German university or research institution, or at a German-Polish research institution, are eligible to submit nominations to the DFG.

III. Nominations

Nominations must be received by the call deadline, which will be announced by the DFG and the FNP. Nominations should contain the following documents:

1. Personal details (name, date of birth, current position) of both candidates and appraisal of their achievements (with regard to German-Polish scientific cooperation and joint promotion of young researchers), written in English.
2. Curricular vitae in tabular form, preferably with photographs.
3. Lists of publications.
4. Two independent letters of reference in English for each candidate.

Nominations can only be considered by the jury if all documents listed above are submitted to the DFG Head Office.

Nominations should be submitted both in print (eight copies, stapled and hole-punched) and in electronic form on CD-ROM - preferably in PDF format (or RTF) without any read, copy, or print protection.

IV. Selection

Nominations from Germany will be collated, checked for completeness and formal accordance with nomination requirements, and sent to the jury by the DFG Head Office. Nominations from Poland will be processed by the FNP office in the same manner.

The jury consists of six researchers, three of whom are working in Germany and three in Poland. Members will be appointed for a three-year term of office by the DFG (German representatives) and the FNP (Polish representatives). The German members of the jury will be appointed by the DFG's Joint Committee. The jury's decision is final and is not subject to appeal.

The official award ceremony will be held alternately in Poland and in Germany.