

Candidate Profile for Applicants for the Doctoral School at The Maria Grzegorzewska University and description of the enrollment process

The offer of the Doctoral School at The Maria Grzegorzewska University is intended for individuals aiming: (i) deepen their knowledge and specialized skills, (ii) carry out an innovative research project and use it to prepare a doctoral dissertation, (iii) prepare for independent scientific, teaching, and onboarding activities in the field of social sciences. The primary goal of the program is to educate highly qualified researchers capable of independent analysis and creative synthesis of existing scientific achievements, enabling them to identify and address specific scientific problems, plan and conduct research, and effectively communicate their results within the scientific community.

The Doctoral School at The Maria Grzegorzewska University is aimed at individuals holding a professional master's degree who are interested in conducting research in pedagogy, psychology or sociological sciences. In addition, the following requirements must be met to take up studies at the Doctoral School of the Academy of Special Education:

- proficiency in English at the B2+ level, assessed during the interview;
- a declaration of prospective supervisor regarding his/her consent to exercise scientific supervision over the candidate applying for admission to the Doctoral School. The list of supervisors is announced annually by the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs and the Head of the Doctoral School.

Enrollment at the Doctoral School of The Maria Grzegorzewska University is carried out through an open competition, with the aim of selecting candidates with the highest aptitude and scientific achievements and the best prospects for graduation, including submission and defense of a high-quality doctoral dissertation. The enrollment process will be based on the following criteria:

- I. grade point average from prior studies - 10%
- II. evaluation of the candidate's prior scientific achievements - 25%
- III. evaluation of the candidate's own research project (in the field of psychology, pedagogy, sociological sciences) - 45%
- IV. result of the interview - 20%

Based on the points awarded to the candidates during the enrollment process, a ranking list of candidates admitted to the university will be compiled.

The enrollment process will take into account the candidate's grade point average from the master's studies, certified by the dean's office of the home faculty (item I). For uniform master's studies, the grade point average from all five years of study will be taken into account, while in the case of programs compliant with the Bologna system, only the grade point average of the second-cycle studies will be taken into account.

The evaluation of a candidate's scientific achievements (point II) will primarily include the number of authored or co-authored publications in scored scientific journals (both Polish and foreign), the number of published monographs or edited monographs, active participation in scientific conferences, leadership in research projects funded by home or external universities (such as: the National Science Center (NCN), the National Center for Research and Development (NCBiR), the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MNiSW)) or involvement in implementation of research projects funded by home or external universities, active membership in research circles, organizations, and scientific journals.

A key component of enrollment in the Doctoral School of The Maria Grzegorzewska University is the expert assessment of the candidate's research project and its presentation during the interview.

To participate in the enrollment process, candidates must submit a complete research project (item III) for review. The project should be structured according to the standards of social sciences and include a description of the following elements: project title; keywords; abstract in both Polish and English; project objective, research questions, and hypotheses with justification; significance of the project, including its potential impact on scientific advancement and/or society; research method (including research tools for projects with empirical studies); research procedure; selection of subjects and study implementation plan; planned data analysis methods; cost estimate; key literature. Each project will be evaluated by members of the Recruitment Committee, with the final score being the average of their evaluations. Project evaluation will be conducted in two stages. Initial evaluation will cover the following issues: (i) is the project scientific (yes/no)? (ii) does the project fit into social research in pedagogy, psychology or sociological sciences (yes/no)? (iii) was the project prepared in a thorough manner (yes/no)? Each of the evaluated projects must meet all the criteria listed above. The second stage of project evaluation includes the following criteria: (i) scientific level and methodological correctness of the project; (ii) evaluation of project novelty; (iii) impact of project implementation on the development of the scientific discipline; (iv) evaluation of the feasibility of project implementation according to the proposed assumptions. Additionally, apart from the evaluation, the strengths and weaknesses of the project will be highlighted, which can serve as a starting point for further discussion with the candidate during the interview.

During the enrollment process, an individual interview (item IV.) will be conducted with each candidate. Its scope will include (i) the candidate's prior scientific and research experience; (ii) the candidate's presentation of the research project submitted during the enrollment process; (iii) a discussion of the research project (its assumptions and implementation) and scientific plans. The part of the interview related to abstract will be conducted in English and will also serve as a language proficiency test for candidates. The linguistic aspect of this part of the interview will be evaluated by a linguist.