

Directive of the Academic Council of the ASCR

The Rules for Granting a “Josef Dobrovský Fellowship” to Foreign Researchers

The Academic Council of the ASCR approved the “Josef Dobrovský Fellowship” (hereinafter referred to as “JDF”) at its 23rd session on 4 November 2014.

The tasks of Czech science and of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ASCR) in particular include the protection and development of the cultural heritage of the Czech lands and the dissemination of information about it both in this country and abroad. The Academic Council of the ASCR therefore approved the JDF in effort to support the research in Czech studies, the spreading of the Czech cultural heritage and its deeper knowledge in the world.

The English designation “fellowship” is used in view of the fact that the activity is directed to foreign scientists. The fellowship is named after Josef Dobrovský in order to pay homage to the internationally acknowledged Czech philologist, historian and the founder of Slavic studies.

The objective of the fellowship is to support “Czech studies” in both national and territorial delimitation by means of the financing of short-term study stays of foreign researchers at the Institutes of the ASCR.

The fellowship is intended for young researchers (usually aged up to 35) who need to study the Czech historical, cultural, language, geographic or natural characteristics in the Czech Republic.

A researcher who is awarded the JDF will be granted a financial subsidy through the relevant Institute of the ASCR securing his or her short-time study stay focused on the investigation of an approved scientific project.

The granting of a JDF must comply with the following rules:

1. The JDF will always be awarded based on a tender. The number of JDFs and the amount of the financial subsidy to be awarded will be always determined according to the budget of the ASCR for the given year, which is why the number of JDFs may vary from year to year.
2. A JDF awarded to a person entitles him or her to a short-term study stay of 15–45 days at a Institute of the ASCR and a financial subsidy intended for the coverage of the justified costs incurred from the investigation of the project, particularly of the accommodation, the food allowance and the domestic travel costs (including for example a visit to an archive, library or locality, but not the costs of travel to the Czech Republic and back). The length of the study stay and the amount of the financial subsidy will always be listed in the decision on the granting of the JDF. The amounts of the financial subsidy differ based on the length of the study stay.
3. The JDF belongs to the agenda of the member of the Academy Council of the ASCR responsible for the coordination of the international cooperation conception. The administrative support is ensured by the Science Support Division of the ASCR Head Office.

4. The applications for the JDF are filed by the directors of ASCR Institutes following its discussion in the Institute's council and with its recommendation. If more candidates are proposed by a single Institute, their order must be specified.
5. The application for a JDF to be awarded which is filed by an ASCR Institute must contain the requisites listed in the application form provided as Appendix 1 to this directive, particularly:
 - the researcher's project,
 - the researcher's professional CV,
 - the statement of the recipient ASCR Institute,
 - the researcher's agreement with the conditions listed in the application.
6. The deadlines for submitting the applications are 28 February and 31 August of each year. The JDF applications will be assessed and evaluated biannually, in March and September.
7. Support through the JDF may be granted up to two times to a single researcher.
8. The applications will be assessed by a five-member expert commission consisting of members of the Academic Council of the ASCR and of the Council for Sciences of the ASCR. The Academic Council of the ASCR appoints the members of the selection commission upon the proposal of the Academic Council of the ASCR member responsible for the coordination of the foreign cooperation conception.
9. Based on the decision of the President of the ASCR, the institutional means of the Institute whose selected candidate is awarded a JDF will be increased in accordance with this decision.
10. The decision on the granting of a JDF will stipulate the conditions under which the fellowship is awarded, especially the extent of the short-term study stay and the amount of the financial subsidy provided.
11. The Institute at which the researcher is to have the study stay will conclude a contract with them, based on which the financial subsidy will be paid out during the study stay for which the JDF was awarded.
12. The Institute is obliged to use the provided financial subsidy exclusively for the specified purpose, registering the incomes and expenditures incurred in connection with the researcher's stay in accordance with the legal regulations. The accommodation of the researcher needs to be secured on an adequate level, if possible preferentially in an accommodation facility of the ASCR. The Institute is obliged to provide the researcher with optimal conditions for his or her work, especially as regards technical equipment, the use of library and collection funds, the establishment of contacts with other scientific and cultural institutions, and such like.
13. Both the researcher and the ASCR Institute, as the recipients of a JDF, are obliged to include the information that the publication came into existence with the support of the ASCR in all publications created based on the JDF. These publications must be searchable in the Information System of Research, Experimental Development and Innovations (IS VaVal) and, at the same time, in the database of the Automated Outcome Registration System (ASEP).

14. The director of the Institute is obliged to inform the relevant vice president of the ASCR and the member of the Academic Council of the ASCR responsible for the coordination of the foreign cooperation conception in writing via the Science Support Division of the Head Office of the ASCR about any change influencing the provision of the JDF, stating measures that will ensure the fulfilment of the objectives of the JDF.
15. In the event of the early conclusion of the provision of a JDF or not fully drawing upon it, the ASCR Institute in question is obliged to return the remaining financial means. The inspection of the fulfilment of the given conditions of drawing the JDF and the inspection of drawing the financial subsidy in accordance with this directive will be ensured by the relevant vice president of the ASCR.
16. The provision of support from a JDF may be ended before the expiration of the stipulated time period under the following circumstances:
 - based on a well-founded application of the bearer of JDF along with a statement of the director of the Institute in question,
 - based on an announcement of the director of the Institute in question that the bearer of JDF does not sufficiently fulfil the approved project,
 - based on a discretionary decision of the President of the ASCR if he or she discovers that the bearer of JDF or their Institute do not abide by the stipulated conditions of the provision of JDF support.
17. Within one month after the regular conclusion of a JDF, the director of the Institute in question provides the Report about Project Implementation and its Results prepared by the researcher and the Report on the Contributions of the Project Implementation to the Institute. The reports must be filed in the forms provided as Appendices 2 and 3 to this directive. If the obligation to provide the above-mentioned reports is violated, all the applications from this Institute will be rejected in the following rounds of the tender.
18. The researcher provides the required information in the Application and Project Investigation and Results Report that form Appendices 1 and 2 of this directive in Czech or English. All the applications and reports required by this directive are sent by the directors of the ASCR Institutes in writing to the address: Kancelář AV ČR, Odbor podpory vědy, Národní 3, 117 20 Praha 1 and also electronically to the address opv@kav.cas.cz.
19. This directive takes effect as of 4 November 2014. This directive supersedes the Public Letter of ASCR Academy Council Member No. 5/2006 concerning the Granting of Extraordinary Subsidies of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic to Foreign Czech Studies Scientists.

Appendices:

1. Application for Financial Support
2. Report about Project Implementation and its Results
3. Report on the Contributions of the Project Implementation to the Institute