



## University of Warsaw – Research

The University of Warsaw is not only the largest university in Poland, but also a leading research centre in the country. Besides its 25 faculties and 4 doctoral schools, the University also comprises of 30 research units. At the UW more than 4,000 scholars work while almost 2,000 doctoral candidates receive their education. Since 2016, the University of Warsaw has the right to use the title ‘HR Excellence in Research’ awarded by the European Commission. This award confirms that the University fulfils the requirements of the European Charter for Researchers. On 22nd November 2022, following the proper renewal procedure, the University of Warsaw was acknowledged with the HR Excellence in Research logo for the further period. The award is an obligation to comply with the HR policy set in the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

According to international rankings such as the *Times Higher Education* Rankings, the QS World University Rankings, the Academic Ranking of World Universities, the UW is in the top 3% of universities in the world. Ten scientific disciplines run by the UW were ranked in the Shanghai’s Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2022, with Physics in the lead (51-75). This was the best result for this discipline among all Polish universities.

Subsidies from the Ministry of Education and Science as well as domestic and European grants are the main sources of academic research funding. Employees from the University of Warsaw have received 3,000 grants since the foundation of the National Science Centre. Among all Polish research institutions, the University of Warsaw was most successful in obtaining funds for research projects, as well as research and innovation projects from the Horizon 2020 programme. Although the programme itself formally concluded in 2020, the projects, which it included, will continue to be implemented until at least 2026. In 2022, 63 projects were still underway at the UW, including the launch of three new projects.

The most prestigious European research competitions are organised by the European Research Council. UW employees have won 28 of the 73 grants given to Polish institutions from the ERC. Winners of ERC grants are engaged in a wide range of areas that relate to, e.g. computer science, astronomy and archaeology – fields in which UW research groups maintain a well-established position in the academic world. Prof. Piotr Sankowski from the UW Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Mechanics is one of those winners. With three won ERC grants Prof. Sankowski achieved a success rarely seen in the European academic world.

In 2019, following the call of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (currently Ministry of Education and Science) entitled “Initiative of Excellence – Research University”, the University of Warsaw was granted research university status for 2020-2026. The University of Warsaw receives extra subsidy as part of the IDUB programme. This boosts the development of five priority research areas and the execution of 70 measures specified in the application.

The strategic objective of the University ensures a good position among top European research universities, as well as the international recognition. It involves continuous development and collaboration with leading world centres. The University works with 1,000 international and domestic partners, and belongs to 90 global research networks and various consortiums set up to conduct particular research projects.

The UW is a member of the 4EU+ European University Alliance selected by the European Commission for funding in the “European Universities” call for proposals, launched as part of the 2019 Erasmus+ programme. The 4EU+ universities want to enhance cooperation in research, teaching and initiatives related to the social responsibilities of science. The members of the 4EU+ European University Alliance are: Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic), the University of Copenhagen (Denmark), Heidelberg University (Germany), the University of Milan (Italy), the University of Warsaw (Poland) and the University of Geneva (Switzerland), Sorbonne University (France), and Paris-Panthéon-Assas University (France, joined the alliance on 1st July 2023). On 27th July 2022, the project of the 4EU+ Alliance One Comprehensive Research European University (1CORE) received a funding in the next “European Universities” call of the European Commission. Mainly, the project aims at developing a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary educational offer, innovative research-based education, intensified physical and virtual mobility, and a new common digital infrastructure.

UW scientists are engaged in conducting research projects within the European Knowledge and Innovation Communities: EIT Food (projects related to the food sector), EIT Climate (projects whose objective is to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change), EIT Raw Materials (projects related to raw materials), and EIT Health/EIT Health InnoStars (innovative projects in medicine and health care).

The University of Warsaw is also a member of Central European Universities – CE7 (together with the universities in Belgrade, Budapest – Eötvös Loránd University – Ljubljana, Prague, Tartu, and Zagreb). The CE7 cooperates with the League of European Research Universities (LERU), working to create the best possible conditions for the development of European science.

In partnership with the University of Oxford, the Centre for Quantum Optical Technologies was founded at the UW. The unit explores quantum phenomena, such as superpositions and entanglement, in optical and optically controlled systems, with the long-term prospects of their practical utilisation. Over the last decade, thanks to EU funding, representatives of exact and natural sciences have been equipped with laboratories facilitating research at the highest level.

In 2016, the execution of the UW multiannual development plan (2016-2027) was launched. It aims to foster research in humanities and social sciences, deepen collaboration between faculties and simplify cooperation within the social and economic environment, as well as promote international academic exchange.

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