



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 approximately 30 research units. At the UW more than 4 000 scholars work while over 1 700 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 a 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, and the Academic Ranking of World Universities, the UW is in the top 3% of universities in the world. Seven scientific disciplines run by the UW were ranked in the Shanghai Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2023, with Physics as well as Mathematics in the lead (101–150).

Subsidies from the Ministry of Education and Science and domestic and European grants are the main sources of academic research funding. Employees from the University of Warsaw have received 3 020 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 2027. In 2023, 54 projects were still underway at the UW.

The most prestigious European research competitions are organised by the European Research Council. By August 2024, the ERC had awarded grants to researchers from Poland 81 times. Employees of the University of Warsaw have received 33 grants (additionally, one international researcher will carry out his project at the UW). 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 four won ERC grants, Prof. Sankowski achieved a success rarely seen in the European academic world. The last project which was awarded a Proof of Concept grant is led by Prof. Sankowski at IDEAS NCBR.

In 2019, the University of Warsaw was ranked first in the competition of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education entitled "Initiative of Excellence – Research University" (IDUB), being granted research university status for 2020–2026. The University of Warsaw receives extra subsidy as part of the IDUB programme. This boosts the execution of activities in five priority research areas and 70 measures, including, among others, programmes supporting the development of the university's staff, doctoral candidates and students.

The strategic objective of the University ensures a good position among top European research universities, as well as international recognition. It involves continuous development and collaboration

with leading world centres. The University works with over 1 000 international and domestic partners and belongs to numerous Polish and international research networks and various consortiums set up to conduct particular research projects.

The UW is a member of the 4EU+ Alliance. In June 2019, the Alliance was granted European University status in the European Commission competition “European Universities”, launched as part of the 2019 Erasmus+ programme. The 4EU+ Alliance is one of the strategic initiatives for the UW. It comprises eight European research universities: the University of Warsaw, Sorbonne University, Heidelberg University, Charles University, the University of Copenhagen, the University of Milan, the University of Geneva, and Paris-Panthéon-Assas University (as of 1st July 2023). The collaboration covers joint research, joint study programmes and educational offerings, doctoral training, joint initiatives related to innovation, technology transfer, and the social responsibility of universities. To form a common international campus, digital systems and solutions are being incorporated. The Alliance’s mission statement emphasises the responsibility of universities to seek solutions to global challenges, including social inequality, climate change and the rise of fake news.

In July 2022, the 4EU+ Alliance project received funding in the next edition of the “European Universities” call organised by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ programme. The One Comprehensive Research European University (1CORE) project envisages further deepening collaboration between partner universities, increasing virtual and physical mobility of students and staff, innovative education and the development of a common digital infrastructure.

UW academics 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), EIT Health and EIT HEI (The EIT’s HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education).

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 developing European science. These conditions are influenced, among other things, by the shape of the EU framework programmes supporting education, science and innovation.

Over the last decade, thanks to EU funding, the representatives of exact and natural sciences have been provided with well-equipped laboratories for world-class research. In 2016, the implementation of the Multiannual Programme of the University of Warsaw (2016–2027) began. It aims to reinforce the potential of the humanities and social sciences, enhance cooperation between faculties, facilitate interaction with the social and economic environment and foster international academic exchange.

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