
FAQ

We have prepared a list of frequently asked questions to help you with the proposal preparation. Should you have any other questions or comments, [contact us](#).

1. How do I apply?

Application, including all required documents, must be submitted in English through the application form which will be available [via the Application Section](#) along with the Guide for applicants.

Applications submitted by any other means will not be considered. No reminders will be sent by Charles University regarding missing documents; the applicant is responsible for timely submission and completeness of their application.

2. What are the eligibility criteria for applicants?

The following eligibility criteria for researchers apply to the Charleston program:

Employment at CU: Applicants must not be Charles University employees as of the call closing date (June 1, 2026).

Mobility rule: Applicants must have not resided in the Czech Republic for more than 12 months in the 36-months prior to the call deadline. Please see question 4 below for more information.

Doctorate degree: Applicants must have successfully defended their doctoral thesis by the call closing date (June 1, 2026), but do not necessarily need to have been awarded the PhD degree at that time.

Research experience: Applicants must be no more than 8 years post-award of their (first) doctoral degree. This limit may be extended for the following reasons: maternity leave, paternity leave, compulsory national service, time spent outside of research, long-term sick leave, seeking asylum, natural disasters, or clinical training.

For eligibility criteria related to the project, supervisor, and others, you can find further details in the Guide for applicants, soon available [in the Application Section](#).

3. What is the latest date by which the eligibility criteria must be fulfilled for the application?

The eligibility criteria must be fulfilled by the call for applicants deadline (June 1, 2026). Applications that do not meet these criteria by the deadline will be deemed ineligible for evaluation.

4. What is the mobility rule for applicants?

Researcher cannot have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the Czech Republic for more than 12 months in the 36-months prior to the call deadline.

Example 1: Eligible applicant

A researcher who resided in France from June 2023 to December 2025 and then in the Czech Republic from January 2026 is eligible. This researcher has only spent 5 months in the Czech Republic within the 36-month period, and thus meets the mobility rule.

Example 2: Eligible applicant

A researcher who worked in the Czech Republic from June 2023 to the end of November 2023 (6 months) and again from January 2025 to March 2025 (another 3 months) would have spent a total of 9 months in the Czech Republic within the 36 months before June 1, 2026. This researcher is still eligible.

Example 3: Non-eligible

A researcher who lived in the Czech Republic from June 2023 to the end of September 2023 (4 months), and again from January 2025 to March 2026 (15 months) would have spent a total of 19 months in the Czech Republic in the 36-month period before June 1, 2026. This researcher exceeds the 12-month mobility rule and would not be eligible.

Note: Applicants will be required to provide proof of their residence and main activity during this period. Acceptable documents include a work agreement, employer's confirmation, or other type of document proving your actual residency

within the required period. The document must be submitted in English. Please note that a sworn statement is not a sufficient document. These documents will only be required from applications recommended for funding (Autumn 2026).

5. Which part of Charles University can host my research project?

Any faculty, institute, or research unit of Charles University can host your project. For a full list of faculties and units, please visit [this page](#).

6. Can I submit more than one proposal?

No, applicants can submit only one proposal. In case of multiple submissions, only the most recent proposal will be considered for evaluation, and the others will be disregarded.

7. Will I receive confirmation that my application was received?

Yes, you will receive an email confirmation that your application has been received.

8. Is it possible to update my application or submit additional material/information BEFORE the call deadline?

No, submitted proposals cannot be updated before the deadline. If you wish to make changes, submit a new proposal. The most recent application will be evaluated.

9. Is it possible to update my application or submit additional material/information AFTER the call deadline?

No, it is not possible to update your application or submit additional material/information after the call deadline. All submissions are considered final once the deadline has passed to ensure a fair and transparent evaluation process for all applicants.

10. Do I need to contact secondment institution before I submit my project proposal?

Yes, applicants should contact the secondment institution before submitting the project proposal.

Applicants can select from a [list of associated partners](#) to plan their non-academic secondment period. If none of the current partners is relevant to their research topic, researchers may propose another non-academic institution.

11. If my secondment is outside Prague (Plzeň, Hradec Králové), will the programme reimburse my travel expenses?

Yes, if your secondment is outside Prague (or Plzeň, Hradec Králové), the Charleston programme will reimburse any travel expenses. The calculation of travel expenses must be included in the project proposal.

12. How long can my secondment be? Can it be divided into two parts, and organized at any stage of the project?

Your secondment can last between three and six months and must take place at a single non-academic host institution. It may be split into two parts and can take place at any point during the fellowship; however, it cannot begin within the first 60 days of the project's implementation. No gaps are allowed between the academic and non-academic phases of the fellowship.

13. Do I receive a salary during the non-academic secondment period?

Yes, you will continue to receive a salary from the Charleston programme for the entire duration of your non-academic secondment period. You will remain an employee of Charles University throughout this period.

14. What does the funding cover?

For details about the funding coverage, please refer to the [Employment conditions section](#).

15. How will the relevance of my project to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) be evaluated?

The relevance of your project to the UN SDGs will be evaluated as part of the selection process, as the SDGs are one of the key elements of our programme. Applicants should align their project with the SDGs and demonstrate how their proposed research contributes to them.

You can find the full list of SDGs on [this website](#). Refer to [the University of Auckland SDG Keyword mapping](#) for a list of keywords that can serve as a guidance. This list is intended to inspire applicants and help them better align their proposed research with the SDGs.

16. Is the project start date fixed, or can it be set within a specific range?

Projects are expected to start by April 1, 2027 at the latest.

17. Is it possible to work part-time on the project (less than 1.0 FTE)?

The full-time equivalent (FTE) commitment must be 1.0 throughout the duration of the project and cannot be reduced, except in exceptional cases, such as for family reasons (e.g., childcare).

18. How do I find a supervisor at Charles University (internal supervisor)?

1. Choose a Relevant Faculty or Unit

See the list of faculties and university units and select the one that best aligns with your research topic.

Faculties:

- [Catholic Theological Faculty](#)
- [Protestant Theological Faculty](#)
- [Hussite Theological Faculty](#)
- [Faculty of Law](#)
- [Faculty of Humanities](#)
- [First Faculty of Medicine](#)
- [Second Faculty of Medicine](#)
- [Third Faculty of Medicine](#)
- [Faculty of Medicine in Plzeň](#)

- [Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové](#)
- [Faculty of Pharmacy in Hradec Králové](#)
- [Faculty of Arts](#)
- [Faculty of Science](#)
- [Faculty of Mathematics and Physics](#)
- [Faculty of Education](#)
- [Faculty of Social Sciences](#)
- [Faculty of Physical Education and Sport](#)

University Institutes:

- [Institute of the History of Charles University and Archive of Charles University](#)
- [Center for Theoretical Study](#)
- [Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education](#)
- [Environment Centre](#)

2. Identify a Suitable Supervisor

Visit the website of your chosen faculty/unit and find a potential supervisor whose expertise matches your research area.

The supervisor must have at least eight years of research experience after completing their Ph.D. The decisive date for calculating this experience is the call deadline (June 1, 2026). No specific academic title (e.g., professor) is required – the key condition is the research experience.

3. Contact Your Potential Supervisor

Send an email with your CV, introducing yourself and your proposed research project. Express your interest in working under their supervision and inquire about their availability and willingness to take on this role.

4. Confirm and Add the Supervisor in IS Věda Portal

If the supervisor agrees, you can list them as your supervisor in the IS Věda portal as part of your project proposal. They will receive a notification requesting their approval.

19. How do I find a supervisor at a secondment non-academic institution (external supervisor)?

Applicants can choose from pre-arranged partner institutions for their secondment. **A list of these institutions, along with contact details for identifying an external supervisor and arranging the secondment, can be found in the [Partners section](#) on our website.**

If a suitable host institution is not found within the existing network, the postdoc can propose an alternative non-academic institution.

There are no specific experience requirements for the external supervisor at the non-academic institution, other than that **they must be an employee at the institution** where the fellow will carry out their secondment. Please note that without prior contact with the external supervisor at the chosen non-academic institution and a **signed Letter of Commitment**, it will not be possible to submit your project proposal.

20. What happens if I am selected for the programme but can no longer accept the fellowship?

In the event that a selected candidate is unable to accept the fellowship, the offer will be extended to the next eligible applicant on the reserve list.

21. Can I apply if I have already completed a postdoctoral programme or an MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship?

Yes, you can apply as long as you meet the mobility requirement and all other eligibility criteria.

22. Is prior research experience required to apply?

No, prior research experience is not a requirement. The applicant is eligible to apply as long as they fulfil the eligibility criteria.

23. Can applicants propose their own hosting institution for secondments, or must they choose from the provided list?

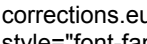
Applicants are free to select their own hosting institution for secondments, provided it aligns with their research focus and objectives. The choice should be based on how well the institution supports the applicant's research goals and the overall project aims.

24. Does the fellowship include health insurance, and does it cover the fellow's spouse and children?

Health and social insurance contributions are deducted from the fellow's salary in accordance with Czech legislation.

The specifics of health insurance depend on the fellow's nationality and residence status. The Charles University's Staff Welcome Centre will provide individual support and guidance on health insurance matters to fellows.

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