

RESOLUTION

on the Supplementation, Updating, and Implementation of Decisions concerning Research, Competitiveness, and Excellence

Having regard to the need to continue promoting research, competitiveness, and excellence at UBB, with a view to enhancing the University's academic visibility and impact within the international education and research landscape, and taking into account the principles underpinning the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), the HR Excellence in Research (HRS4R) process, and the European Charter for Researchers, thereby reaffirming Babeş-Bolyai University's institutional commitment to integrating these principles into its administrative procedures and practices,

the Administrative Council of Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, convened on 13 July 2026,

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. The updating of Administrative Council Resolution No. 10413/14 July 2025 on promoting research, competitiveness, and excellence at UBB, with a view to enhancing academic visibility and impact within the international education and research landscape, is approved.
2. Annexes 1–3 form an integral part of this Resolution.

RECTOR,
Prof. univ. dr. Daniel DAVID

Annex 1 to Administrative Council Resolution No. 11295/13 July 2026

Babeş-Bolyai University Programmes for Supporting Research, Competitiveness, and Excellence

I. Programme for Supporting Research through Development Grants Awarded to Internationally Indexed UBB Journals

The conditions for a journal to be recognised as a UBB journal are as follows:

1. The establishment and continued publication of the journal have been approved by a UBB academic unit (and/or by UBB's central administration), and the journal operates in accordance with internationally recognised editorial standards and practices;
2. The journal explicitly indicates, on one of its covers, its affiliation with UBB and/or one of UBB's academic units, including through the use of elements of UBB's visual identity (e.g. logo).

UBB journals indexed in Web of Science may receive financial support in the form of development grants, according to the following scheme:

- a) A journal indexed in Web of Science (Core Collection), with an Impact Factor and an Article Influence Score greater than 0, and also indexed in Scopus; and/or a journal indexed in Web of Science (Arts & Humanities Citation Index), Scopus, and ERIH PLUS — **Type A Grant**;
- b) A journal indexed in Web of Science (Core Collection), with an Impact Factor and an Article Influence Score greater than 0; and/or a journal indexed in Web of Science (Arts & Humanities Citation Index) — **Type B Grant**;
- c) A journal indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection under the Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, or Emerging Sources Citation Index, without an Impact Factor — **Type C Grant**.

The maximum financial support available under each grant category takes into account the scale of editorial activities, which typically increases as the journal gains attractiveness, as evidenced by higher scientometric indicators and, consequently, a stronger position in relevant rankings.

For a **Type A Grant**, the maximum award is RON 40,000 per annum. Eligible expenditure includes:

- Salary costs associated with the editorial process (including costs for maintaining the journal's website);
- Printing costs (not eligible for online journals);
- Costs related to indexing and dissemination.

For a **Type B Grant**, the maximum award is RON 20,000 per annum. Eligible expenditure includes:

- Salary costs associated with the editorial process (including costs for maintaining the journal's website);
- Printing costs (not eligible for online journals);
- Costs related to indexing and dissemination.

For a **Type C Grant**, the maximum award is RON 10,000 per annum. Eligible expenditure includes:

- Salary costs associated with the editorial process (including costs for maintaining the journal's website);
- Printing costs (not eligible for online journals);
- Costs related to indexing and dissemination.

Any amount already spent annually by UBB to support the journal through other institutional mechanisms shall be deducted from the annual amount awarded under this scheme.

Funding applications shall be submitted by the journal's official representatives to the Directorate for Scientific Research Management, for consideration by the UBB Scientific Council after Clarivate Analytics/Journal Citation Reports has published the scientometric indicators for the year of application. The funding application shall specify: (1) the type of grant requested; (2) eligibility for the requested grant type (according to Web of Science/Journal Citation Reports, Scopus, and ERIH PLUS); (3) the number of manuscripts received by the editorial office between June of the preceding year and June of the application year, including a breakdown of manuscripts submitted from Romania and abroad; (4) the acceptance rate; and (5) the amount requested, itemised by eligible expenditure category, with any other existing funding provided by UBB also indicated. Documents substantiating the journal's status as a UBB journal shall also be attached to the application.

Applications shall be submitted by the end of September, and the results shall be announced by the end of October. Journals that fail to submit an application in September will not be eligible for funding in that year.

The UBB Scientific Council shall review the application and approve the grant and the budget deemed appropriate, taking into account, inter alia, UBB's available budget, the estimated workload based on the number of manuscripts processed, and the relevant scientometric indicators (e.g. Impact Factor/Article Influence Score). The award of the grant is conditional upon the availability of UBB financial resources.

II. Programme for Enhancing UBB's Competitiveness by Encouraging Prestigious Research Grants

In order to encourage the acquisition of high-value national and international research grants (minimum EUR 1,000,000), the difference between the grant overhead rate exceeding 25% and UBB's 25% overhead rate shall be allocated to an institutional fund supporting research, competitiveness, and excellence, which shall be dedicated to the respective grant and/or other excellence-oriented activities at UBB and shall form part of the research support fund.

For grants exceeding EUR 2,000,000 or ERC grants, where specific circumstances apply (e.g. the Principal Investigator [PI] does not hold a permanent position at UBB), the conditions governing the use of overhead funds may be applied flexibly, based on an agreement reached

prior to the commencement of the grant between the PI and the Vice-Rector responsible for Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) and approved by the Executive Board of the Administrative Council.

III. Programme for Promoting Research, Competitiveness, and Excellence at UBB through Academic Grants and Awards for UBB Employees

In order to promote research, competitiveness, and excellence at UBB and to achieve a significant quantitative and qualitative improvement in UBB's position in international university rankings, the following mechanisms for fostering academic performance shall be implemented: (1) Competitiveness Support Grants for UBB Employees and (2) UBB Annual Excellence Awards.

(1) Competitiveness Support Grants for UBB Employees

UBB shall award academic grants to its employees as follows:

- **Publications in Science/Nature** – EUR 10,000 per article (document type: article, review¹) if the corresponding author is affiliated with UBB; EUR 5,000 per article if the first author is affiliated with UBB; EUR 1,500 per article if the second author is affiliated with UBB; EUR 1,000 per article if at least one author listed after the second author is affiliated with UBB.
- **Web of Science publications** (Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, and Arts & Humanities Citation Index; document type: article, review):
 - **Q1** – EUR 1,000 per article if the lead author² has UBB as their primary affiliation; EUR 700 per article if one of the co-authors has UBB as their primary affiliation. The grant amount shall be increased by 10% for articles published in journals included in the Nature Index and for articles published in journals ranked within the top 10% in their field, based on the Article Influence Score (AIS);
 - **Q2** – EUR 700 per article if the lead author has UBB as their primary affiliation; EUR 400 per article if one of the co-authors has UBB as their primary affiliation;
 - **Q3** – EUR 250 per article if the lead author has UBB as their primary affiliation; EUR 150 per article if one of the co-authors has UBB as their primary affiliation.

Note. Quartiles Q1–Q3 are determined on the basis of the Article Influence Score (AIS) applicable to the year of publication.

¹ Only quantitative reviews (e.g., meta-analyses), review articles published in Nature or Science, or review articles published in journals ranked within the top 10% are eligible for an award.

² **Lead author** means the first author, the corresponding author, or, in fields where established practice so requires, the last author. Where no distinction is made among authors, any of the authors may be considered a lead author. Field-specific definitions established by UEFISCDI and/or CNATDCU may also be taken into consideration.

- For publications in journals issued by publishers operating exclusively under the Gold Open Access model³ (where publication charges are paid by the author), the grant amount shall be reduced by half. Journals falling within Categories 1–5 of Annex 1 to the UBB Scientific Council Evaluation Criteria are exempt from this provision; see https://cercetare.ubbcluj.ro/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/evaluare_generic_UBB_8mai2026.pdf
- Publications in journals or other publication venues operating under the Diamond/Platinum Open Access model shall receive an additional 10% recognition.
- Publications by UBB authors in UBB journals eligible for grants must comply with applicable standards of professional ethics and avoid conflicts of interest that may arise from or be facilitated by the existence of these grants (e.g. during the peer-review process, through the artificial increase in the number of volumes or publications included in a volume, etc.). The UBB Scientific Council may examine such conflicts of interest following a referral or ex officio.
- Publications eligible for consideration are those published after 1 October 2017 and indexed in Web of Science at the time the application is submitted. The publication date of an article shall be determined in the following order of precedence: (1) the publication date stated on the article itself (including the date of online publication as *early access/online first* and/or *uncorrected proof*, where such a date is provided); (2) where no publication date is stated on the article itself, the publication date of the issue in which the article is included.
- Articles published in journals disqualified from evaluation by the UBB Scientific Council are not eligible for support under this scheme (https://cercetare.ubbcluj.ro/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/evaluare_generic_UBB_8mai2026.pdf).
- Grants shall be awarded monthly for publications that have been published and indexed by the time the application is submitted. The lead author affiliated with UBB shall determine how the grant is to be used. If the lead author is not affiliated with UBB, the UBB-affiliated co-authors shall jointly determine how the grant is to be used. If the corresponding author is affiliated with UBB, the decision shall be made by the corresponding author. Where there are several corresponding authors affiliated with UBB, they shall jointly determine how the grant is to be used.
- Where the lead author of the publication is a doctoral student affiliated with UBB and the doctoral supervisor is also listed as a co-author, the grant shall be awarded to the doctoral supervisor. If the lead author is a doctoral student affiliated with UBB and the doctoral supervisor is not a co-author, but another UBB employee is listed as a co-author, the grant shall be awarded to that UBB employee at the amount applicable to the lead author. Where the lead author is a UBB Bachelor's or Master's student and a UBB employee is listed as a co-author, the grant shall be awarded to the UBB employee as lead author. Where the lead author is not affiliated with UBB and a UBB student (affiliated with UBB) is among the co-authors, the UBB-affiliated co-authors who are academic staff or researchers shall determine how the grant is to be used, taking into account the student's contribution to the article. In all the situations described above,

³ For the purposes of these regulations, publishers operating exclusively under the Gold Open Access model are those whose journals generally require payment of article processing charges (APCs), even where authors may occasionally receive fee waivers based on their activities, economic circumstances, or other considerations, and even where the publisher also offers authors free publication options in addition to its journal publishing activities. Examples include PLoS, MDPI, Frontiers, and PeerJ. Journals published by professional societies in specific fields are not included in this category. The Scientific Council may propose additions or amendments to the list to the Vice-Rectorate responsible for research, either on its own initiative or at the request of DMCS.

the persons designated to administer the grant shall be required to use the funding attributable to the doctoral student's contribution for the benefit of the student's doctoral or academic programme, as applicable, in consultation with the student if the student remains enrolled at UBB.

- Eligible expenditure under the grant includes:
 - Participation in conferences/scientific meetings and scientific fieldwork;
 - The purchase of or subscriptions to scientific publications;
 - The development of research, development, and innovation laboratories;
 - Book publication costs and article processing charges for Open Access publication (excluding publishers operating exclusively under the Gold Open Access model) for publications in Q1 and Q2 Web of Science journals, according to AIS, where the lead author is affiliated with UBB. Such expenditure is also eligible in cases of co-authorship;
 - Grants are awarded annually subject to the availability of financial resources.

(2) UBB Annual Excellence Awards

2.1. Annual Award for Excellence in Scientific Research;

2.2. Annual Award for Excellence in Teaching;

2.3. Annual Award for Innovative and Cultural Services to Society;

2.4. Annual Award for Excellence in Administration.

For the Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Award for Services to Society/Community, no more than one award may be granted per faculty. For the Awards for Excellence in Scientific Research, faculties employing up to 99 academic staff members (employed either on permanent or fixed-term contracts) may receive a maximum of one award, while faculties employing more than 100 academic staff members may receive a maximum of two awards in each category. In addition, two awards may be granted to researchers who are not eligible for awards through the faculties. For this category of researchers, nominations shall be made by the Executive Committee of the UBB Scientific Council.

The principles/criteria for granting the awards, as established by the Scientific Council, the Academic Council, the Council for Relations with Society (both its socio-economic and socio-cultural components), and the Executive Board of the UBB Administrative Council, respectively, are as follows:

(1) Excellence in Scientific Research: authorship as lead/conceptual author of articles indexed in Web of Science (excluding articles published by publishers operating exclusively under the Gold Open Access model; see also the UBB Scientific Council's principles for the evaluation of scientific research activity, adopted by Administrative Council Resolution No. 9555/22 June 2026), or authorship of scientific book chapters/books indexed in the Book Citation Index (Web of Science) or WorldCat. Distinctions among candidates within each faculty shall be based on the journal's Article Influence Score (or its academic standing, as assessed by the Scientific Council, where Article Influence Score is unavailable or unsuitable for comparison) and, in the case of book chapters/books, on the number of libraries holding the respective publications. Where candidates demonstrate equivalent levels of performance, success in securing national/international grants shall constitute an advantage. In the field of Humanities, publications indexed in Scopus/ERIH PLUS or national publications of demonstrated and duly substantiated academic standing may also be taken into consideration,

as may scholarly book chapters/books published by national publishing houses ranked in the highest category following UEFISCDI evaluations.

(2) Excellence in Teaching: peer and student evaluations of teaching activity; financial resources secured through service provision; national/international awards for sporting and/or artistic achievements; textbooks/teaching materials published by prestigious publishing houses (ranked in the highest category following UEFISCDI evaluations); achievements of academic staff in activities involving students; and/or other criteria established by the faculties.

(3) Innovative and Cultural Services to Society: professional projects undertaken in partnership with companies, organisations, and public or private institutions; events organised in collaboration with companies; literary creation; theatrical productions; film and media productions; musical performances; artistic/cultural achievements; sporting achievements; financial resources secured through services provided to the community; and other criteria established by the faculties.

(4) Excellence in Administration: excellent performance evaluations by management; outstanding results in day-to-day activities; substantial involvement in and/or contributions to institutional development; initiative; a constructive approach; and commitment to the institution. Nominations shall concern UBB's central administration and shall be made at the level of the UBB Rectorate.

Each faculty/the Scientific Council shall operationalise its criteria on the basis of the principles and criteria set out above and shall submit the nominations accordingly. In all cases, nominations shall explicitly identify the achievements on which they are based (including lists of articles/volumes/contracts/awards/evaluations/etc.). Award nominations may also be submitted by the University Rectorate.

Nominations shall be submitted for review and endorsement to the UBB Scientific Council, Academic Council, or Council for Relations with Society, as appropriate, or to the Executive Board of the UBB Administrative Council. The awards shall be announced at a ceremony organised by the UBB Rectorate, with explicit reference to the achievements on which the nomination was based (including lists of articles/volumes/contracts/awards/evaluations/etc.).

INTERNAL PROCEDURE

for the Award of Competitiveness Support Grants to UBB Employees

- Applicants shall submit a notification to the Directorate for Scientific Research Management (DMCŞ), containing the following information:
 - Identification details of the article, including at minimum the title, journal name, DOI, and WoS accession number; only articles indexed and visible in Web of Science are eligible;
 - The amount requested, the authorship status of the UBB-affiliated author on which the application is based (lead author or co-author), and the quartile in which the journal is ranked. The subject field in which the journal's classification is to be considered shall also be specified, at the applicant's discretion.
- The notification shall be signed by the applicant (the lead author with a UBB affiliation, where applicable). Where the publication has no lead author affiliated with UBB, the notification shall be signed by all UBB-affiliated authors**, shall explicitly identify which of them will be the grant holder, and shall be submitted to DMCŞ by email.
- DMCŞ shall verify the journal's classification within quartiles Q1–Q3 on the basis of the most recent lists available as of the article's publication date, containing journals classified by subject subfield and ranked according to their Article Influence Score (AIS). These lists are available at: <https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/scientometrie-baze-de-date>
- The grant amount in RON shall be calculated using the average exchange rate published by the National Bank of Romania (BNR) for the month preceding the submission of the application.
- On the basis of the notifications received and following verification of the accuracy and validity of the information provided, DMCŞ shall invite applicants to sign the corresponding grant agreements.
- The grant agreements shall be centralised by DMCŞ and forwarded to the General Administrative Directorate/Rectorate for approval (with regard to the availability of financial resources) and signature no later than the 5th day of the month following the month in which the application was submitted (e.g. 5 March for applications submitted in February of the current year). Once approval has been obtained, the procedures for committing the requested expenditure may commence.
- The award of grants in any given year is subject to the availability of institutional funding.

Note. Where an author lists multiple affiliations for the respective article, the amounts specified in Section III.1 shall be awarded in full if UBB is the author's primary affiliation and at 50% of the applicable amount if UBB is not the author's primary affiliation. "Primary affiliation" is a term applicable where an author is listed with more than one affiliation and there is evidence that one affiliation takes precedence over the others. For the purposes of this grant programme, primary affiliation shall be determined according to the following criteria, applied in descending order of priority:

1. UBB is identified in the article itself or in the corresponding Web of Science record as the author's "primary affiliation", or by an equivalent term indicating that UBB takes precedence over other affiliations;
2. Where an institutional email address is provided for the author, it is a UBB email address rather than that of another institution;
3. Where institutional affiliations are not listed alphabetically and do not follow the order of authorship, UBB is listed first;
4. The article specifies where activities clearly attributable to the UBB-affiliated author were undertaken, and those activities were carried out predominantly at UBB, rather than at the other partner institutions. In the notification, the applicant shall indicate the primary affiliation and provide information on the activities carried out at UBB;
5. There is no indication that any one affiliation takes precedence over the others, in which case all affiliations shall be regarded as "primary affiliations".

Procedure for Awarding Co-Funding for Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Projects at UBB

Definition: Co-funding = the applicant's own financial resources invested in the project (as coordinator and/or partner).

1. Any research team within UBB may apply to the UBB Rectorate for co-funding, whether submitting a project application as a partner in a consortium, as the coordinator of a consortium, or as a sole applicant. Projects must be RDI projects or include RDI activities (as defined in the relevant UBB regulations, see http://cercetare.ubbcluj.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020_12_09_HCA_17751_privind_defini%C8%9Bia_Grantului_de_cercetare_UBB.pdf), and the co-funding request must be submitted before the funding application is submitted.
2. Co-funding may not be requested for projects in which the co-funding requirement may also be met through in-kind contributions, in which case UBB is not required to allocate financial resources to the project. Before requesting co-funding from UBB, the applicant must first apply to UEFISCDI/ministries/other public institutions providing co-funding, where such programmes are open. Co-funding shall not be awarded to projects that do not include an explicit budget category for "indirect costs/overheads". For grants receiving co-funding from UBB, the 35% share of overheads shall no longer be available for use by the project director/project manager. Where the co-funding does not exceed the amount corresponding to the 35% share of overheads, the remaining amount may be made available to the project director/project manager, in accordance with UBB decisions governing overheads from RDI grants.
3. Co-funding shall be requested as follows: an application shall be submitted to the UBB Directorate for Scientific Research Management (DMCŞ), accompanied by the project summary sheet, the list of partners, a description of the funding scheme, the total budget and the amount of co-funding requested from UBB, including information addressing the criteria set out under point 4 (a–e) below.
4. The UBB Scientific Council shall issue a recommendation to approve or reject the application, taking into consideration:
 - a) The project team's experience in the relevant field (e.g. articles published in journals with significant impact, books held by a significant number of libraries, international patents, the total funding secured for UBB through previous projects, the academic and financial success of previous projects, etc.), together with the anticipated contribution of the project outcomes to UBB's position in international rankings. Co-funding shall be awarded only to teams whose leaders and/or members deliver results for UBB at the IE (Extensive International Impact) level, in accordance with the Scientific Council's evaluation framework: https://cercetare.ubbcluj.ro/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/evaluare_generic_UBB_8mai2026.pdf
 - b) The prestige of the funding scheme and the funding body (e.g. Horizon Europe, other international funding bodies, the funding body's annual budget);

- c) The contribution to the sustainable development of UBB's human resources (particularly early-career researchers) and to UBB's strategic research infrastructure, including the promotion of multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, or transdisciplinary research at UBB;
 - d) The prestige of the funding scheme and the funding body (e.g. Horizon Europe, other international funding bodies, the funding body's annual budget);
 - e) Alignment with UBB's strategic areas (as defined in the UBB RDI Strategy), including the sustainable/environmentally responsible development programme – **UBB Goes Green**;
 - f) The total amount of co-funding requested in relation to the total project funding allocated to UBB and the overhead funding accruing to UBB.
5. The amount of co-funding shall be negotiated individually with each project director, depending on the UBB budget available for co-funding in the respective year.