

Academy of Fine Arts in Prague

proclaims

call for applications for support for projects in the

Research Grant Competition (hereinafter referred to as VGS) for students and academic staff of the Academy of Fine Arts for 2026

The research grant competition is intended to support student projects of so-called specific university research, which is carried out by students of the doctoral or master's degree programme of the Academy of Fine Arts.

The applicant of the project is a student of the doctoral study programme of the Academy of Fine Arts or an academic staff of the Academy of Fine Arts (but they must also have students in the research team).

The duration of the project is 12 calendar months, i.e. from 1.1.2026 to 31.12.2026.

Deadlines for processing the application:

VGS announcement: November 25, 2025

VGS deadline: January 18, 2026

Project focus and expected outputs:

The topic that the researcher will deal with in the project should be related to their study and should be exploratory.

The expected and eligible outputs are:

- 1. Publication outputs** – professional book, article in a Czech, best-reviewed journal, article in a foreign journal, chapter in a book, contribution to an anthology, textbooks, catalogue, etc.
- 2. Non-publication outputs** – participation in a conference, symposium, colloquium, solo exhibition, participation in a group exhibition, etc.
- 3. Other eligible outputs** – realization of the dissertation, applied results, patent, etc.

An applicant for support may:

- submit a maximum of one project proposal
- apply for up to 100% of the total project costs
- apply for a maximum of CZK 150,000

The application for support must be submitted in accordance with the Principles of the Research Grant Competition (VGS) for students and academic staff of the Academy of Fine Arts for 2026 on the prescribed form and with the required attachments.

Principles of the Research Grant Competition (hereinafter VGS) for students and academic staff of the Academy of Fine Arts for 2026

The Academy of Fine Arts in Prague announces a Research Grant Competition (VGS) to support specific university research projects in 2026. Specific university research is understood as research carried out primarily by students of doctoral and master's degree programs. VGS is financed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the funds provided will be used exclusively for the payment of eligible costs for selected student projects, the reimbursement of eligible costs associated with the organization of student scientific conferences (up to a maximum of 10% of the support provided), or for the payment of eligible costs associated with the organization of a student grant competition, including the costs of evaluation and control of student projects and the evaluation of the results achieved (up to a maximum of 2.5% of the support provided). The research grant competition is based on the current Rules of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for the Provision of Targeted Support for Specific Higher Education Research and on the Amendment to them approved on the basis of the Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic of 30 September 2019 No. 697.

Principal investigator and research team:

1. **The principal investigator** of the project is a student of the doctoral study programme of the Academy of Fine Arts or an academic staff of the Academy of Fine Arts (but they must also have students in the research team). Each applicant may submit a maximum of one project proposal. If the project is submitted by a student of a doctoral study programme, the supervisor of the researcher (it can also be another academic or researcher at the Academy of Fine Arts) who fulfils the role of guarantor.
2. **Other members of the research team** may be students of doctoral, master's (4th–6th years) or follow-up master's (1st – 3rd years) study programmes, or academic, scientific, research and development staff of the Academy of Fine Arts.
3. **The research team** has a maximum of 50 people. The number of students of the doctoral or master's degree programme in the research team is at least equal to the number of other members of the research team.

Project focus and expected outputs:

The topic that the researcher will deal with in the project should be related to study and should be exploratory. The expected and eligible outputs are:

1. **Publication outputs – an article in a Czech, best-reviewed journal, an article in a foreign journal, a chapter in a book, a contribution to an anthology, textbooks, a catalogue, etc.** If the output is a professional book, it must meet the criteria for inclusion in the Register of Information on Results (hereinafter referred to as RIV).¹ Funds for the publication of a book can only be requested if the

¹ A professional book is a non-periodical professional publication with a volume of at least 50 printed pages of its own text without pictorial, map, etc. appendices, published in print or electronically and reviewed by at least one generally recognized reviewer from the relevant field (but not from the workplace of the authors of the book).

- The formal attributes of a professional book are:
- references to literature in the text
- list of used literature, footnotes, bibliography

researcher documents the degree of progress of the manuscript together with the application. It is possible to request funds for a project that will only result in the creation of a manuscript of the book (the investigator can then request funds for the publication in the next year of the competition, or in the grant competition of the AVU Publishing House).

2. **Non-publication outputs – participation in a conference, symposium, colloquium, solo exhibition, participation in a group exhibition, etc.** Professional presentations of the results of research activities on the project in the form of participation in conferences, symposia, and professional colloquia are considered to be eligible outputs. Another possible outcome is the realization of a solo exhibition or participation in a group exhibition, which will be clearly connected with the theme of the submitted project. The exhibitions will be registered in the RUV (Register of Artistic Outputs).
3. **Other eligible outputs – realization of the dissertation, applied results, patent, etc.** Other eligible outputs are also considered to be results in the form of patents, results of applied research, new technologies, conservation procedures, etc. Another possible output is the completion of the dissertation, but not as the only output. For grant applications that will submit outputs only in this category, the grant committee will evaluate their professional quality and relevance to the project topic.

Schedule:

- Date of announcement of VGS: 25/11/2025
- VGS deadline: 18/01/2026
- Announcement of VGS results: no later than 28.2.2026
- Project implementation: from 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2026
- Interim report on project implementation: until 31/08/2026
- Final report and project accounting: by 18/01/2027

Eligible costs:

The costs indicated in the project budget must be directly related to the implementation of the project.

Eligible costs are:

- material costs of a non-investment nature (purchase of professional literature, purchase of materials, office supplies, small assets up to CZK 40 thousand)
- costs of services (rental of equipment, premises, etc., work performed on invoice)
- travel costs (only for AVU employees; for students they will be covered as part of the scholarship provided)
- personnel costs (remuneration on top of salary incl. statutory contributions/agreement to perform work only for employees, scholarships for students)

The financial support for one project can amount to a maximum of CZK 150 thousand. In the application, it is necessary to distinguish the costs that will be financed from other sources. The applicant may apply up to 100% of the total project costs, but not more than CZK 150,000. Project support can only be used to cover eligible costs in a given calendar year. In the event that the investigator finds out during the implementation of the project that he or she will not be able to draw

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- summary in at least one world language
 - assigned ISBN code (assigned by the AVU Publishing House)

A professional book that meets all the above formal attributes is a monograph, a scientifically processed encyclopaedia and lexicon, a critical edition of sources, a critical edition of artistic (musical, artistic, etc.) materials accompanied by a study, a critical commented translation of demanding philosophical, historical or philological texts accompanied by a study.

the funds by the end of the year, it is necessary **to inform the authorized person** by 15 October 2026 at the latest.

Submission of applications for support:

The application must be completed on the prescribed form, which is published together with the VGS principles on the AVU website in the grant department section. The complete support request includes:

1. **Application form** – download the application form with the budget; fill in all the white fields in the application form;
2. **Detailed description and specification of the budget** (mandatory annex to the application) – recommended structure:
 - a) describe in detail what is the essence and goal of the project
 - b) Elaborate on how you will solve the project, what activities the project includes
 - c) state what the outputs of the project will be
 - d) Specify the project timeline
 - e) describe the project implementation team and the role of individual co-investigators in the project
 - f) Attach a more detailed specification and budget commentary:
 - Indicate what specific costs each budget item includes and how you calculate them
 - Justify the need for individual budget items
 - State from which sources you will co-finance the costs not covered by the requested grant (foundation, studio contributions, own contribution, etc.)
 - g) attach image documentation if relevant to your project
3. **A brief CV of the applicant** – including an overview of research and artistic activities in the last 3 years; students of doctoral studies will state the topic of their doctoral thesis

The project proposal is submitted in electronic form. The application form with attachments must be delivered **no later than 18 January 2026 in electronic form by e-mail to vgs@avu.cz** (please include the name of the applicant and the name of the project in the subject of the e-mail).

The project proposal must meet the formal and content requirements in order to be able to proceed to further evaluation by an expert committee. Projects submitted after the deadline, incompletely or incorrectly filled in or unsatisfactory in terms of content of the announced thematic areas cannot be provided with support.

Consultation of project proposals:

If you have any questions about the preparation of applications for support, please contact Mgr. Tereza Kasalová (Grant Office of the Academy of Fine Arts, tel. 770 153 135, vgs@avu.cz, tereza.kasalova@avu.cz) or Mgr. Veronika Jurečková (Grant Department of the Academy of Fine Arts, tel. 778 496 601, veronika.jureckova@avu.cz). Personal consultations are possible by prior arrangement.

Project evaluation criteria:

Applications included in the further evaluation within the VGS will be assessed by the grant committee appointed by the Vice-Rector for Student Affairs of the Academy of Fine Arts. The chairwoman of the committee is M.A. Hana Janečková PgCert., who fulfills the role of an independent **opponent** who has not participated in the preparation of proposals, nor is she a member of any research team of the assessed projects. The Commission determines the ranking of projects and decides on the amount of funds to be allocated. The Grant Committee may propose reductions or changes to the funds

requested. The Commission will evaluate the submitted project proposals according to the following criteria:

- quality of the project, contribution to the field,
- the nature of the project outputs (in particular the results applicable in the RIV),
- content and formal processing of the project (clear formulation of the content, goals, specific implementation plan, staffing, project timeline, project outputs, balanced budget)

Information about the results:

The authorised person shall notify the applicant in writing (by e-mail) of the outcome of the evaluation of the grant proposal (award or non-award of the grant). In the case of a grant award, the notification also includes information on the amount of funds allocated and instructions for their use. The notification of the results is final and cannot be appealed. There is no legal entitlement to support.

Project solution and conditions for drawing the grant:

A decision on the granting of a grant will be issued for successful researchers selected by the VGS expert committee, which sets out the conditions for its drawdown.

- The beneficiaries of the aid are responsible for the proper absorption and economical use of the allocated funds in accordance with the purposes for which the aid was granted.
- The funds allocated for a given calendar year must be used up during that calendar year (i.e. by the end of December 2026).
- Support is provided **only for non-investment expenditure related to the implementation** of the submitted projects.
- Of the total personnel costs or expenses (including scholarships), the **share associated with the participation of students of the doctoral or master's degree programme** (as investigators or members of the research team) is **at least 75%**.
- The grant provided cannot cover expenses for hospitality, donations, costs of staff training or project processing, investment costs. Expenses related to foreign trips can only be covered if they are a direct part of the project.
- When drawing funds from individual budget items, funds can be transferred between these items during the calendar year of the project only after discussion with an authorized person. The total amount of funds allocated to these items for one calendar year may not be exceeded. All changes in the drawdown, including their justification, must be stated in the final report.

Interim and final report on the project:

By 31 August 2026, the **investigator shall prepare an interim report** on the project solution, which contains information on the status of the project and the drawing of funds and as of this date, and shall send it by e-mail to vgs@avu.cz.

The beneficiary submits **electronically** (to the address vgs@avu.cz) **the final report and the statement of drawing of grant funds by 18 January 2027**. The final report form is published on the AVU website in the study/internal grant competitions section. An integral part of the final report is **the submission of all outputs** that are the result of the project (in the case of publication results in 2 copies).

General instructions and information:

- The researcher is responsible for the quality of the proposed project, the financial aspect and compliance with labour legislation. If the investigator is a student of a doctoral study programme, the guarantor is responsible for the professional side of the project together with the researcher.

- The project or parts thereof must be completed in accordance with the binding deadlines set out in the grant application.
- All change requests must be addressed to the authorized person.
- In the event that the investigator is unable to continue with the project for serious reasons, the co-investigator who meets the conditions of the student grant competition becomes the principal investigator.
- In accordance with Section 15 of Act No. 130/2002 Coll., on the Support of Research and Development from Public Funds and on the Amendment of Certain Related Acts, the AVU is the owner of the property acquired from grant funds (including purchased literature). The rights to the results arising from the project belong in accordance with Section 16 of Act No. 130/2002 Coll. on the Support of Research and Development from Public Funds and on the Amendment of Certain Related Acts of the Academy of Fine Arts.
- For all outputs of the grant project, the beneficiary of the support is **obliged to explicitly state that they were created on the basis of financial support from the Academy of Fine Arts in the framework of a competition for the support of projects of specific university research** (for publication outputs, it is recommended to state the wording: "This study/publication/output was created at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague as part of the project "name" supported by the funds of targeted support for specific university research, provided by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in 2026.") It is also mandatory to insert the AVU logo for publication outputs.
- The researcher is obliged to submit data on the results of their grant project by the set deadline, which are intended for the Research and Development Information System (RIV) in accordance with the Act and the Government Regulation on the Research and Development Information System.