

Academy of Fine Arts in Prague

opens

a project application call for the

Research Grant Competition (RGC) for 2025 AVU students and academic staff members

Research Grant Competition is to support student projects of specific university research carried out by AVU students of the doctoral or master's study programme.

The project applicant shall be a student of an AVU doctoral programme or a member of AVU academic staff (academic staff members are required to have students in their project team).

The duration of the project is 12 calendar months, i.e., from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

Important dates:

The call opens: 25 November 2024

Deadline for applications: 16 January 2025

The project focus and expected outputs:

The applicant should focus on a topic related to their studies and should be research-based.

Expected and eligible outputs are:

1. **Publication outputs** – a book, article in a Czech or foreign journal (preferably peer-reviewed), chapter in a book, contribution in an anthology, script, catalogue, etc.
2. **Non-publication outputs** – participation in a conference, symposium, colloquium, solo exhibition, participation in a group exhibition, etc.
3. **Other eligible outputs** – a dissertation, applied results within a research, patent, etc.

The applicant can:

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

The application must be submitted in accordance with the Guidelines for Research Grant Competition (RGC) for students and academic staff members of AVU 2025 on the prescribed form and with the required attachments.

Guidelines for Research Grant Competition (RGC) for students and academic staff members of AVU 2025

The Academy of Fine Arts in Prague opens the call for applications in its Research Grant Competition (RGC) to support specific higher education research projects within the year 2025. Specific higher education research shall be understood as research carried out primarily by students of doctoral and master's degree programmes. RGC is financed by the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and the funds provided shall be used exclusively for the recompense of eligible costs of the selected student projects, the payment of eligible costs associated with the organization of student scientific conferences (max. up to 10% of the provided support), or the payment of eligible costs associated with the organization of a student grant competition including the costs associated with the evaluation of the projects and their results (max. up to 2.5% of the support provided). Research Grant Competition is based on the Rules of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports for the provision of targeted support for specific university research and on the addendum approved on the basis of Resolution No. 697 of the Government of the Czech Republic dated September 30, 2019.

The applicant and project team:

- 1. The project applicant** is a student of the AVU doctoral programme or AVU academic staff member (academic staff members must have students in their project team). Every applicant can submit a maximum of one project proposal. If the project applicant is a doctoral student, their supervisor must be a part of the project team (or other academic or research staff member of AVU). The supervisor fulfils the role of a project guarantor.
- 2. Other members of the project team** can be any of the following: students of the doctoral study programme, master's study programme (4th – 6th-year students), the follow-up master's study programme (1st – 3rd-year students) or AVU academic and research staff members.
- 3. The project team** can be comprised of up to 50 members. The number of students of the doctoral or master's study programme must be at least equal to the number of other members of the project team.

The expected and eligible outputs

The topic that the project researcher will focus on should be connected with the area of study and it should be researched-based. The expected and eligible outputs shall be the following:

- 1. Publication outputs – an article published in a Czech, preferably reviewed magazine, an article published in a foreign journal, a chapter in a book, an anthology/script/catalogue etc.** In case the output is a manual/technical book, it is required to comply with the criteria for being listed in the Result Information Registry (in Czech and hereinunder referred to just as RIV)¹. Financial means

¹ A manual/technical/professional book is a non-periodical, a professional publication of minimum 50 printed pages of original text without images, maps and other visual/non-visual appendices etc. It must be published in print or in electronic form and reviewed by at least one generally acknowledged reviewer of the given field (barring those who work at the same workplace as the publication's author).

- The formal attributes of a manual/professional publication are:
- Text references to other sources
- The list of literature used, a comment section, bibliography
- A summary in at least one of the world languages
- The ISBN number (allocated by AVU Publishing)

A manual/technical/professional book that complies with all the above stated formal attributes shall be a monography, a scientific encyclopedia or a lexicon, a critical edition of sources, a critical edition of art (musical,

for the publication may only be requested in case the applicant is able to accompany their application by a record of how far their project has progressed (i.e., progress report). It is feasible to request financial means for the completion of the project, which may only be the realization of a book publication (the means necessary for publishing the book/publication can then be requested by the applicant in the next competition year, or in the grant competition of AVU Publishing House).

2. **Non-publishing outputs – a presence at a conference, a symposium, a colloquium, a solo exhibition, a group exhibition and so forth.** The outputs that shall be acknowledged as approvable types of outcomes shall be: expert presentations of project research results via attending conferences, symposiums and professional colloquia. Another type of acceptable outcome is organizing a solo exhibition or participating in a group exhibition, which is unequivocally connected to the topic of the submitted project. These exhibitions shall be filed within the RUV (Artistic Outcomes Register).
3. **Other eligible outputs – a completed dissertation, applied results, a patent etc.** Other types of approvable outcomes can also be: patents, results of applied research, new technologies, conservation treatment etc. Another type of possible outcome is completing a dissertation, but not as a single output (must be accompanied by additional outputs). Regarding grant applications submitted solely in this category, the grant committee shall mainly judge their professional quality and how relevant there are to the project topic.

Schedule:

- The VGS call opens: 25 November 2024
- Deadline for applications: 16 January 2025
- VGS result announcement: by 28 February 2025
- Project implementation: starting 1 January 2025, ending 31 December 2025
- Progress report regarding the implementation of the project: 31 August 2025
- Project final and financial report: 16 January 2026

Eligible costs:

Costs listed in the project budget must be directly connected with the project's implementation.

These types of costs are deemed eligible:

- Material costs of non-investment character (purchases of professional publications, purchases of material, office supplies, small-size property of up to CZK 40,000)
- Costs of services (leasing technical equipment, facilities, invoiced jobs)
- Travel costs (solely for AVU staff members; students will receive reimbursement only within the limits of the awarded stipend from the grant)
- Personnel costs (bonuses on top of wages including legal levies/small jobs contracts only for employees, stipends for students)

Financial subsidies per project can equal a maximum of CZK 150,000. The application must clearly list and distinguish costs covered from other sources. The applicant may require the reimbursement of up to 100% of total project costs, but no more than CZK 150,000. Project subsidies may be used only to cover eligible costs incurred within the given calendar year. In case the participant finds out during project implementation that they will not be able to deplete the allocated funds by the end of the year, they must inform the appointed person at the latest by 15 October 2025.

fine art etc.) materials accompanied by a study, a critical commentary translation of challenging philosophical, historical and/or philological texts accompanied by a study.

How to apply for the grant:

To apply you must fill out the prescribed form, which is, together with the RGC rules, available at the AVU website, under the grant department section. The complete application for financial support includes:

1. **The application form** – download the application form with the budget table; fill out all the white fields/boxes;
2. **A detailed description and budget specifications** (a mandatory supplement of the application) – hereinafter is the recommended structure:
 - a) Describe in detail what is the nature and goal of the project
 - b) Elaborate on how you plan to conduct the project, and which activities it contains
 - c) State the types of outputs expected
 - d) Include the schedule of project progress
 - e) Describe the implementation team and the role of individual fellow teammates
 - f) Include detailed specification of the budget with a commentary:
 - ❖ State what concrete costs are included in the individual budget items and how you calculate them
 - ❖ Give reasons for the necessity of the individual budget items
 - ❖ State what sources you shall use to co-finance costs that are not covered by the requested grant (foundations, contributions of the studio, personal funds etc.)
 - g) Include visual documentation should it be relevant to your project
3. **A brief CV of the applicant** – including an overview of research and art work done over the last three years; doctoral degree students shall state the topic of their doctoral thesis

A project proposal is submitted in electronic form. The application form including all attachments and appendices must be submitted **at the latest by 16 January 2025 in electronic form by e-mail to the address vgs@avu.cz** (the subject line of the email should include the name of the applicant and project title).

A project proposal must comply with the formal and content requirements in order to be able to pass into the next round of evaluation by a committee of experts. Projects submitted after the deadline as well as projects that were filled out incompletely or erroneously or their content will not comply with the announced topics shall not be considered.

How to consult your project proposals:

Should you have any questions regarding the preparation of the grant application, contact Mgr. Michaela Žůrková (Grant Department AVU, tel. 778 496 601, vgs@avu.cz). Individual consultation in person is also possible after a prior arrangement.

Criteria for project evaluation:

Applications considered for further evaluation within RGC shall be judged by a grant committee appointed by AVU's Rector. The chair of the committee is M.A. Hana Janečková PgCert., fulfilling the role of an independent **opponent**, who did not participate in the preparation of the proposals, nor is she a member of any research team of the reviewed projects. The committee shall set the succession of projects and decides the sums to be granted. The grant committee may decide for a sum to be decreased or other changes regarding the requested financial funds. The committee shall evaluate the project proposals based on the following criteria:

- Project quality, its contribution to the field,
- Nature of project outputs (especially the results applicable in RIV),

- Project preparation from a formal view and content (clear content formulation, goals, a concrete implementation plan, securing personnel, project schedule, project outputs, a balanced budget)

Receiving information about evaluation results:

The applicant shall be informed about the evaluation of the grant proposal (whether it was awarded the grant or not) by an appointed staff member in writing (via e-mail). In case the grant is awarded, the applicant shall be also notified about the amount of granted funds and given information on how to use these funds. The result notification is final and cannot be appealed. There is no legal right to the subsidy.

Project implementation and conditions for drawing the granted funds:

Those who succeeded in being selected by the RGC expert committee will also receive a decision declaring the grant including the conditions for its use.

- Those who receive the subsidy are responsible for using the funds correctly and economically in compliance with the purposes for which the grant was awarded.
- Finances allocated for the given calendar year must be fully used (i.e., by the end of December 2025).
- The subsidy is meant **only for non-investment costs connected with the implementation** of the submitted projects.
- Out of all personal costs or expenditures (including stipends), **the participation share of doctoral or master's study programme students** (as those carrying out the project or their team members) must be **at least 75%**.
- The awarded grant may not be used to cover the cost of refreshments, gifts, training staff or subcontracted services for project implementation, and investment costs. Costs related to travels abroad can be covered only if they are connected directly to the project's outcome.
- Should the need arise that the items of the basic budget composition of the grant funds allocated to the project would have to be shifted, this can be done only with the consent of an appointed staff member. The total amount of funds allocated to these items for one calendar year must not be exceeded. All such changes in fund drawing must be included in the final report including their substantiation.

Progress and final report regarding the project implementation:

The awarded applicant shall submit a **progress report** by **31 August 2025** that will include information pertaining to the state and degree of the project implementation as well as fund drawing as of the above date and shall e-mail it to vgs@avu.cz.

The recipient shall also submit a **final report plus financial overview** by **16 January 2026** and email it in electronic form to the address vgs@avu.cz. The form to be used for filling the final report is available on the AVU website under the section Study/Internal Grants. An integral part of this final report is a **submission of all outputs**, which are the result of the project implementation (in case of publication outputs, this must be done in two copies).

General instructions and information:

- The grant recipient is responsible for the quality of their proposed project, its finances and for adhering to legal/workplace norms and standards. In case the participant is a doctoral programme student, they shall be responsible for the professional side of the project together with the guarantor.
- The project or its parts must be completed in compliance with the binding deadlines stated in the grant application.
- All change requests must be directed to the appointed staff member.
- In case the project leading member, cannot continue with the project due to serious reasons, the role will be passed to the project co-leading member that complies with the terms and conditions of the student grant competition.
- The owner of all property purchased with grant funds (including books and publications) shall be AVU as it is in compliance with par. 15 of law 130/2002 Coll. regarding research and development supported by public funds including the amendments of some of the related laws. The rights to the outputs of the project also belong to AVU in the sense of par. 16 of law 130/2002 Coll. regarding research and development supported by public funds including the amendments of some of the related laws.
- In all types of grant project outputs, the grant recipient is bound to specifically state **they were created thanks to AVU's financial support provided within a competition designed to give support to projects of specific academic research** (for publications, it is recommended to formulate the statement as follows: "This study/publication/outcome was created at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague within a project "name" funded from finances allocated to specific academic research, provided by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in 2025.") It is also obligatory with publications to include AVU's logo.
- The grant recipients are required to submit, within a given deadline, the information about the results of their grant project, for the purposes of the research and development information system (RIV) in compliance with the law and the governmental directive on research and development information system.