



Endowment Fund
Charles University




**Charles
University**



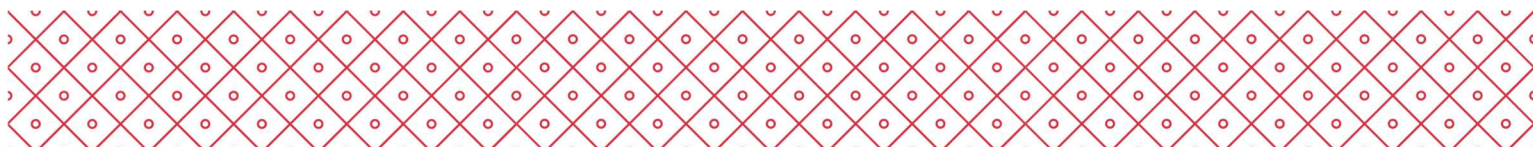
The Kellner
Family
Foundation

PUBLIC PROMISE ANNOUNCEMENT RULES

KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme

Charles University Endowment Fund

10 September 2026



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The Charles University Endowment Fund announces, in collaboration with Charles University and THE KELLNER FAMILY FOUNDATION, a public promise under Section 2887 et seq. of Act No. 89/2012 Sb., the Civil Code, with the aim of selecting and funding researchers under the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme.

The KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme is a collaborative effort between Charles University, the Charles University Endowment Fund, and THE KELLNER FAMILY FOUNDATION. The public promise and the individual calls within the programme are announced by the Charles University Endowment Fund in its capacity as the programme administrator on behalf and in the benefit of all partners in the programme.

Aim of the programme

The aim of the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR (KRC) Programme is to attract and integrate excellent researchers into the research environment of Charles University in the long term. The programme supports scientists who have already established themselves at leading research institutions abroad, who achieve results competitive at the international level, and who promise the potential for a major contribution to the advancement of the activities of Charles University in research, education, and innovation.

The aim of the programme is to enable the selected researchers to implement an ambitious research project, establish or strengthen their own research group, engage students and junior researchers in research activities, develop international cooperation, and strengthen the reputation of Charles University in global research.

The programme also supports the sustainability of research activities by actively seeking external funding, developing research leadership, and implementing the principles of open science, in particular, open access to research publications and responsible research data management.

The joint programme implemented by Charles University, the Charles University Endowment Fund, and THE KELLNER FAMILY FOUNDATION aims to support research in the social sciences and humanities (SSH), natural sciences, mathematics, and informatics (SCI), and the medical and biomedical sciences (MED).

The KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme is implemented while respecting the principles of equal treatment, non-discrimination, and open, transparent, and merit-based recruitment. The programme supports equal opportunities regardless of the gender, age, nationality, ethnicity, health, religion, or other position of the applicant.

Subject matter of the public promise

The subject matter of the public promise is the promisor's obligation to provide performance to individuals who meet the conditions of this public promise and who are selected for the Kellner Research Chair Programme ("KRC Programme"), a collaborative programme of THE KELLNER FAMILY FOUNDATION, the Charles University Endowment Fund, and Charles University.

The selected applicants will be given an opportunity to develop a high-quality independent research programme at Charles University, establish or strengthen research groups, supervise junior researchers and students, and contribute to the international visibility of Charles University.

The KRC Programme will support up to six selected researchers in the following fields:

SSH – humanities and social sciences,

SCI – natural sciences, mathematics, and informatics,

MED – medical sciences and biomedicine.

Requirements for participation in the programme

The public promise is open to applicants who have already established themselves at a leading research institution abroad and achieved competitive results at the international level. The applicant must show the potential for a major contribution to the research activities of Charles University and the international scientific community.

A person who is a member of the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme's Steering Committee, is an external evaluator for the given call, or who is directly involved in the administration of the evaluation thereof may not apply for the public promise.

Applicants submit a project proposal, which must include the research project, strategy for the integration of the project at Charles University, and a plan for establishing or strengthening a research team, for mentoring junior researchers and students, and for securing external funding, and meet the other requirements under the set out in the Guide for Applicants.

Once the proposal is submitted, no modifications can be made, even if the call is still open. An applicant may submit only one project proposal within a given call. The detailed structure of the project proposal, the scope of the individual parts of the proposal and the appendices thereto, and the technical requirements are provided in the Guide for Applicants.

The project proposal must include a letter of commitment of the dean of the hosting faculty, or the head of the hosting unit of Charles University ("hosting unit") structured in accordance with the Annex hereto. In the letter, the hosting unit confirms its commitment to implement the project, readiness to host the selected applicant and employ him or her as a researcher, provide the required material, equipment, and premises, ensure the administrative and technical infrastructure for the implementation of the project, and to assume obligations following from the Agreement on Cooperation in the Implementation of the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme, including the obligation to secure funding for the employment and the research activities of the selected researcher in years four and five of the researcher's activities within the programme.

Any project proposals which are not submitted within the given deadline, or which do not include all the requirements and appendices will be excluded without any further evaluation.

Eligibility criteria

The public promise is open to applicants who have achieved globally recognised results, and have experience from a leading institution abroad.

The primary target group of the programme are researchers who can demonstrate international excellence and who received their Ph.D. between 3 to 12 years ago, and who are able to independently lead ambitious research projects and establish their own research groups. The applicant must show the potential for a major contribution to the research activities of the given faculty/unit of Charles University and the international scientific community.

Extension of the Eligibility Period

Maternity leave

The eligibility period shall be extended by 18 months for each child born before or after the successful defence of the applicant's PhD. degree.

Where an applicant can demonstrate a longer period of leave, including maternity leave alone or maternity leave combined with parental leave, the eligibility period shall be extended by the total documented duration of such leave.

The extension shall be calculated either on the basis of the 18-month flat-rate extension or on the basis of the actual documented duration of leave, whichever is more favourable to the applicant. Where an extension is claimed for more than one child, the same principle shall apply.

Paternity leave

The eligibility period shall be extended by the documented duration of paternity leave taken before the call deadline for each child born before or after the successful defence of the applicant's PhD degree.

Parental leave

The eligibility period shall be extended by the documented duration of parental leave taken before the call deadline for each child born before or after the successful defence of the applicant's PhD degree.

The applicant may be required to provide supporting documentation demonstrating the duration of maternity, paternity, or parental leave claimed for the purpose of extending the eligibility period.

Applicants who, on the date of the call deadline, have resided or worked in their primary employment in the Czech Republic for more than 12 months during the 36 months preceding the call deadline are not eligible. If requested, applicants must provide documents proving compliance with this requirement.

If selected, the applicant must be able to take up employment at Charles University with a workload of at least 0.8 FTE. The total workload of the selected researcher at Charles University may not exceed 1.0 FTE during the period of his or her participation in the programme.

An applicant may only submit one project proposal in the call. The proposal must identify the hosting unit.

The project proposal must be submitted within the deadline and in the form and scope set out in the Guide for Applicants. The scope, structure, and the mandatory appendices to the project proposal are provided in the call and the Guide for Applicants. The proposal must include, in particular, the administrative forms, description of the project, applicant's curriculum vitae and results achieved to date, the ethics self-assessment form, and the letter of commitment from the

hosting unit. Detailed ethical requirements, including a list of the prohibited or restricted research activities, are set out in the Guide for Applicants.

The project proposal must include a letter of commitment of the dean of the hosting faculty or the head of another hosting unit, in which the hosting unit confirms its commitment to implement the project, readiness to employ the selected applicant as a researcher, and ensure the required conditions for the implementation of the project, including funding for the employment and the research activities in years four and five of the researcher's activities in the scope of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Implementation of the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme.

Prior to signing the related contractual documents, the selected applicant must provide proof of compliance with the requirements for participation in the programme, in particular, completion of doctoral study and other requirements considered within the eligibility check, by submitting the relevant documents, in particular, a certified copy of the diploma, certificate of successful completion of doctoral study (defence of dissertation), and other documents proving compliance with the requirements. A sworn statement is not in itself considered sufficient proof of compliance with the requirements. A failure to submit the required documents may result in excluding the applicant from the programme or losing the right to be provided the funding.

The project may not include activities which are excluded from the funding under the rules for the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme or the Guide for Applicants. Applicants prove compliance with this requirement in the form of a sworn statement and the completion of the ethics self-assessment questionnaire (Ethics Issues Table). The programme provider may request further documents or explanation for the purposes of checking compliance with this requirement at any time. These restrictions apply, in particular, to certain areas of research related to the protection of human rights, human embryos, military use of research, protection of personal data, security-sensitive research, and other areas specified in the call and the related programme documents.

Applicants acknowledge that the research results created within the programme must be made accessible in accordance with the Open Science and Open Access Policy of Charles University and other requirements provided in the Guide for Applicants.

Detailed requirements for participation in the programme, application requirements, evaluation rules, ethical requirements, eligible costs, rules for the spending of the funding, and other conditions of the programme are provided in the Guide for Applicants, which forms an integral part of this public promise.

Evaluation

After the deadline for the submission of project proposals, the formal requirements and requirements for participation in the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme requirements will be checked. Project proposals which fail to meet the eligibility criteria or fail to meet the mandatory requirements set out in the call and the Guide for Applicants will be excluded from further evaluation.

Project proposals which advance to the scientific evaluation stage are evaluated by at least two independent evaluators with the required expertise who are not in a position of conflict of interest with the proposal or applicant under evaluation. The external evaluators and members of the

Steering Committee must report any conflict of interest, make independent decisions, and maintain the confidentiality of all information they learn in the process of evaluating the proposals.

In the project proposal, the applicant may indicate up to five individuals whom he or she prefers not to act as evaluators, with a due justification. This information will be treated as confidential and will be used only for the purpose of the assessment of any conflict of interest in the selection of the evaluators.

The evaluation of the project proposals is based on the following, in particular:

- a) Scientific quality and originality of the proposed research;
- b) Previous research results, experience, and international standing of the applicant;
- c) Applicant's potential for a major contribution to the advancement of research activities at Charles University and the international scientific community;
- d) Feasibility of the proposed project and reasonability of the budget;
- e) Plan for establishing or strengthening a research team;
- f) Strategy for the applicant's integration into Charles University;
- g) Prospects of securing external funding and long-term sustainability of research activities;
- h) Contribution of the project to the advancement of the scientific discipline, hosting unit, and Charles University.

The evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

Criterion	Weight
Excellence of the applicant and the proposed research	50%
Contribution to, and impact on, Charles University and the scientific field	30%
Project feasibility and long-term sustainability	20%

Only proposals which achieve a minimum total score of 80% advance to the next stage. However, achieving this threshold does not, in itself, create the right to participate in the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme and to be provided the funding.

Only project proposals which achieve a minimum total score of 80% and which rank among the top ten project proposals are selected for the next stage of the evaluation. Applicants who advance to the next stage will be invited for an online interview before an evaluation board. The evaluation board is composed of two independent experts and two members of the Steering Committee. The interview is held in English. During the interview, the applicant presents his or her project proposal. The presentation is followed by a Q&A session.

The interview is evaluated based on the following criteria in particular:

- a) Scientific vision and excellence of the applicant;
- b) Strategic contribution of the project and alignment with the priorities of the hosting unit and Charles University;
- c) Ability to lead a research team, mentoring capacity, and communication skills.

The final ranking of the applicants is determined on the combination of the scores achieved in the scientific evaluation of the project proposal and the interview according to the rules set out in the call.

The project proposals will be ranked on the basis of the evaluation. The final ranking will be determined on the basis of a consensus reached by the evaluators or the final score. The results of the evaluation will be presented to the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme's Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will consider the results of the evaluation and select the project proposals recommended for funding in the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme. The Steering Committee adopts decisions by a two-thirds majority. The decision of the Steering Committee is final. There is no legal right to participate and receive funding in the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme.

Proposals recommended for funding, along with those on the reserve list, may undergo an ethics review. The ethics review will be conducted by the Research Integrity Officer of Charles University. The purpose of the ethics review is to verify the compliance of the proposed research with established ethical principles, legal regulations, rules for the protection of personal data, and Charles University rules. The ethics review may result in additional conditions for the implementation for the project.

Applicants will be notified of the results of the evaluation without undue delay after approval by the Steering Committee.

Within 10 calendar days, a reasoned objection may be submitted against the evaluation result on the grounds of a breach of the evaluation procedure, conflict of interest, or an obvious administrative error. The objection does not serve as grounds for a new scientific or substantive evaluation of the project proposal.

The Steering Committee may also rank the applicants on the reserve list who achieved the minimum required score should a selected applicant refuse the funding or terminate his or her participation in the programme prematurely.

Funding provided to selected applicants

The selected applicants will participate in the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme and be employed at Charles University under the conditions of the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme. The selected researcher will enter into an employment contract with Charles University, usually for three years, with the possibility of extension for another two years. The workload within the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme must correspond to at least 0.8 FTE and the total workload of the researcher at Charles University may not exceed 1.0 FTE.

Each selected researcher in the programme may receive funding in the amount of up to CZK 7,600,000 over the first three years of his or her activities. The specific allocation of the funding,

eligible costs, and the rules for the spending of the funds are provided in the Guide for Applicants and the related contractual documents. Investment costs are not eligible under the programme.

The hosting unit agrees to continue the employment and fund the research activities in years four and five of the researcher's activities in accordance with the conditions of the programme.

The funding for the employment of the selected researcher and the costs related to his or her research activities are governed by the Agreement on Cooperation in the Implementation of the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme, the Principles of the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme, and the subsequently concluded agreement on the implementation, the spending of the funds, the publication of results within the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme, and on the use of the funding.

Obligations of the recipient

The funding recipient is obliged to implement the approved project during the period of his or her participation in the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme in compliance with the project proposal, conditions of the programme, and the contractual documents signed.

The funding recipient is obliged to cooperate in the administration, evaluation, and checks within the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme as necessary and submit the required information, materials, and project implementation reports.

The funding recipient is obliged to notify the Charles University Endowment Fund and the hosting unit of Charles University without undue delay of any facts which might affect the implementation of the project or compliance with all conditions of the programme.

The funding recipient must work towards integrating in the research environment of Charles University, strengthening the research team, mentoring students and junior researchers, and securing external funding in accordance with the submitted project proposal.

The funding recipient is obliged to actively seek external competitive funding for his or her research, in particular, through international grant programmes similar to the ERC or Horizon Europe in compliance with the submitted research activities development plan.

The funding recipient must use the research results in accordance with the principles of open science and respect the rules of Charles University on research ethics, protection of personal data, and protection of intellectual property.

The funding recipient is obliged to mention affiliation to Charles University and the funding from the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme in the manner described in the programme contractual documents for all outputs created in relation to the implementation of the project.

In the case of a long-term obstacle to work – in particular, maternity or parental leave, long-term sick leave, or other similar situation – the funding recipient is obliged to notify the Endowment Fund of Charles University and the hosting unit without undue delay. The conditions for an interruption of the implementation of the project, the postponement of the spending of the funding, or the use of the unspent funds will be determined on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the contractual documents for the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme.

The funding recipient acknowledges that his or her activities in the programme are subject to continuous and final assessment in the scope defined under the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme and the related contractual documents. Detailed conditions for the spending of the funding and other rights and obligations of the funding recipient are set out in the employment contract entered into with the faculty/unit of CU, agreement on the provision of a contribution from the endowment fund, and the related contractual documents.

Timeline

Date	Event
10 Sept 2026, 4 p.m.	Announcement of the public promise and opening of the call
9 Nov 2026, 4 p.m.	Call deadline
By 16 Nov 2026	Formal eligibility check
23 Nov 2026–31 Jan 2027	External evaluation of proposals
8 Feb–19 Feb 2027	Interviews
8 March–19 March 2027	Meeting of the Steering Committee and approval of the results
By 24 March 2027	Notification of results to the applicants
By 30 June 2027	Signing of contractual documents with the selected applicants

This public promise is announced on 10 September 2026. Project proposals may be submitted until 4:00p.m. on 9 November 2026. Proposals submitted after this deadline will not be considered. You will find more information in the Guide for Applicants.

Protection of Personal Data

The applicants' personal data are processed by Charles University, the Charles University Endowment Fund, and THE KELLNER FAMILY FOUNDATION in the scope necessary for the organisation and administration of the KELLNER RESEARCH CHAIR Programme, evaluation of the project proposals, decision-making regarding the provision of the funding, and subsequent implementation of the programme.

The applicant acknowledges that by submitting a project proposal, the information in the project proposal may be made accessible to individuals involved in the administration of the programme, members of the Steering Committee, and the external evaluators for the purpose of the

administration of the programmes or other activities related to the project, including, without limitation, the evaluation of the project proposal or the review of the evaluation of the project proposal.

The external evaluators and members of the Steering Committee only have access to information necessary for the evaluation of the project proposal and decision-making regarding the funding. The external evaluators, members of the Steering Committee, and other persons involved in the evaluation of project proposals are obliged to maintain the confidentiality of all information which they learn in relation to the performance of their activities and to protect the provided personal data and confidential information from misuse or unauthorised access.

Personal data are processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council (GDPR), Act No. 110/2019 Sb., the Personal Data Processing Act, and the internal regulations of the individual programme partners.

Final provisions

This public promise is announced under Section 2887 et seq. of Act No. 89/2012 Sb., the Civil Code, as amended. The promisor reserves the right to revoke or modify the public promise in accordance with the conditions defined in legal regulations.

This Public Promise was duly considered and approved by the Board of Trustees of the Charles University Endowment Fund at its meeting held on 10 September 2026.