



University of Warsaw – Research

The University of Warsaw is not only the largest university in Poland, but also a leading research centre in the country. Besides its 24 faculties and 4 doctoral schools, the university also comprises 30 research units, where 3 800 scholars work and 2 500 doctoral candidates receive their education. Since 2016, the University of Warsaw has the right to use the title ‘HR Excellence in Research’ awarded by the European Commission. This award confirms that the university fulfils the requirements of the European Charter for Researchers. According to international rankings such as THE, QS and ARWU, UW is in the top 3% of universities in the world. Twelve scientific disciplines run by UW were ranked in the Shanghai’s Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2020, including Physics (51-75), and Mathematics (76-100).

Subsidies from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education as well as domestic and European grants are the main sources of academic research funding. Employees from the University of Warsaw have received over 3 000 grants since the foundation of the National Science Centre. The University of Warsaw is ranked first among the Horizon 2020 beneficiaries in Poland in terms of the number of participants (97) and coordination (19). The most prestigious European research competitions are organised by the European Research Council. UW employees have won 16 of the 37 grants given to Polish institutions from ERC. Winners of ERC grants are engaged in a wide range of areas that relate to, e.g. computer science, astronomy and archaeology – fields in which UW research groups maintain a well-established position in the academic world. Prof. Piotr Sankowski is one of those winners. He won 3 ERC grants which is quite an achievement in Europe.

In 2019, following the competition of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education entitled “Initiative of Excellence – Research University”, the University of Warsaw was granted research university status for 2020-2026. The University of Warsaw receives 10% extra on a state subsidy. This boosts the development of five priority research areas and the execution of 70 measures specified in the application.

The strategic objective of the university ensure a good position among top European research universities and international recognition. It involves continuous development and collaboration with leading world centres. The university works with 800 international partners, and belongs to 100 global research networks and various consortiums set up to conduct particular research projects.

UW is a member of the 4EU+ European University Alliance selected by the European Commission for funding in the ‘European Universities’ call for proposals, launched as part of the 2019 Erasmus+ programme. The 4EU+ universities want to enhance cooperation in research, teaching and initiatives related to the social responsibilities of science.

UW scientists are engaged in conducting research projects within the European Knowledge and Innovation Communities: EIT Food (projects related to the food sector), and EIT Climate (projects whose objective is to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change). In 2019, the university was awarded the status of project partner within EIT Raw Materials – a raw materials community.

Over the last decade, thanks to EU funding, representatives of the exact and natural sciences have been equipped with laboratories facilitating research at the highest level. 2016 saw the beginning of the realisation of the UW multiannual development plan (2016-2025). It aims to foster research in the humanities and social sciences, tighten up collaboration between faculties and simplify cooperation within the social and economic environment, as well as promote international academic exchange. The plan includes the construction of new buildings and the reconstruction of existing facilities. In 2019, the university carried out work under 10 of investments. The first two were completed – the reconstruction of the basement of the University of Warsaw Library for sports purposes and the reconstruction of the building at Aleje Ujazdowskie 4 for the newly-established Center for Cooperation and Dialogue, which serves as a platform for co-operation and communication between the university and its socio-economic environment.