

Internal Regulations

Czech Academy of Sciences

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Guideline No. 8 of the Academy Council of the Czech Academy of Sciences

dated 30 June 2020

amending the Guideline No. 3/2015 – Rules for Granting the ‘Research Professor’ Degree by the Czech Academy of Sciences

Guideline distributed on 6 November 2020

FULL WORDING

Guideline No. 3/2015 of the Academy Council of the Czech Academy of Sciences from 14 July 2015

Rules for Granting the ‘Research Professor’ Degree by the Czech Academy of Sciences, as amended (amended as Guideline No. 8/2020).

The ‘Research Professor’ degree was established by a resolution of the XXI. Session of the Academy Assembly of the Czech Academy of Sciences (hereinafter ‘CAS’) on 18 December 2002. The granting is regulated by the provision of Article 62 of the Statutes of the CAS. For the implementation of this provision, the Academy Council of the CAS issues these Rules for Granting the ‘Research Professor’ Degree by the CAS (hereinafter ‘Rules’).

I. General Provisions

1. The CAS grants the scientific degree ‘Research Professor’ (hereinafter ‘scientific degree’), along with the specification of the relevant area of sciences (Art. I, Section 3), abbreviated as Res. Prof. after the surname.

2. The scientific degree denotes an exceptionally high scientific qualification proved by the creation of consequential and original scientific work important for the development of research in a specific branch of science and characterised by a distinctive scientist. The Science Council of the CAS decides on granting the scientific degree.

3. The scientific degree is granted in the following areas of sciences: physico–mathematical; technical; geophysical–geological; chemical; molecular–biological and medical; biological–ecological; social and human sciences; historical; and philological.

4. The scientific degree can be granted to an applicant who has completed doctoral-level university studies (see Article 47 of Act No. 111/1998 Coll., on Higher Education Institutions and on the Amendment and Supplement of Some Other Acts, or has obtained a Ph.D. degree at a foreign university) or has attained the ‘Candidate of Sciences’ degree (abbr. CSc., according to Article 102 of Act No. 111/1998 Coll.), or another equivalent degree, and is a recognised scientist in their field of science and whose scientific creative activity and personal attitudes conform to the ethics of science.

5. To ensure the high professional level and effective coordination of the procedure for granting this degree, the Science Council of the CAS has established a Committee for the Research Professor Degree (hereinafter ‘Committee’) chaired by the Vice President of the Science Council who will appoint a Secretary of the Committee from among Committee members. The competences of the Committee are specified in the individual provisions of these Rules.

6. The Science Council decides on granting the scientific degree solely on the basis of the proposal of the Committee and the results of the respective proceedings for granting the scientific degree.

7. The certificate of granting the scientific degree is a diploma signed by the President of the CAS, the President of the Science Council of the CAS and the Chairperson of the Commission, where the defence of the dissertation took place. The diploma is issued by the Czech Academy of Sciences in a Czech version with an English translation (Appendix A). The English version presents the degree 'Research Professor' as the equivalent of the Czech degree of 'Doctor of Sciences'.

II. Commissions for the Defences

1. The Science Council of the CAS decides on the establishment of standing commissions for the defences of dissertations to obtain the scientific degree (hereinafter 'dissertation'). In justified cases, the Committee is authorised to establish an ad hoc commission for individual defence. The chairperson and deputy chairperson of standing commissions and ad hoc commissions (hereinafter 'commissions') are appointed by the Science Council. Members of the commissions are appointed by the Committee.

2. The chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of the standing commissions are appointed for a period of four (4) years and can be appointed repeatedly for more functional periods. At the proposal of the Committee, the Science Council can in justified cases recall a chairperson or deputy chairperson of a commission during the functional period.

3. A commission has at least nine regular members appointed by the Committee for a period of four (4) years. Members of the commission can be appointed repeatedly for more functional periods. Based on the agreement of the chairperson of a commission and the Committee, the Committee can terminate the membership in a commission for individual members in justified cases. A standing commission can also have alternate members that become regular members for individual defences when authorised by the chairperson of the commission. The members of the commission are research professors, professors of higher education institutions and other prominent representatives of the given field of science. Employees that are not employed full-time at the institutes of the CAS constitute at least one-third of the members of the commission. The chairperson of the commission is an employee of an institute of the CAS.

4. The seat of the commission is at the institute of the CAS, where its chairperson is employed.

5. A commission meets quorum if more than half of its regular members are present. For the defence of a dissertation, the presence of at least two-thirds of its regular members is required.

6. In justified cases, the commission may meet remotely, i.e. using technical means of distance communication (teleconference or videoconference) or a combination of the use of technical means of distance communication and an in-person session (hereinafter 'remote session or combination thereof'). Any technical device that allows the identification of the members of the commission, so as to ensure that the decision and vote is actually taken by a member of this commission, may be used.

A remote session or combination thereof must be approved in advance by the commission. In exceptional cases, this approval may be given only by the chairperson of the commission. The minutes of the session shall state the reasons for holding a remote session or combination thereof.

III. Proceedings for Granting the 'Research Professor' Degree

1. The eligibility of the applicants for receiving the scientific degree is proved in proceedings for granting the scientific degree, at which the scientific level of the applicant is evaluated, namely predominantly on the basis of the dissertation and its defence and other scientific or professional work.

2. A dissertation is understood as either:

a) published monograph or

b) collection of published scientific works complemented with a commentary and a summary.

A dissertation must present new scientific knowledge with an international response. In the case of point b), the publications that form the background materials of the dissertation must be a thematically consistent collection of selected works.

The dissertation may be submitted in Czech or English. Having discussed it with the chairperson of the relevant commission for the defence, the applicant may, in justified cases, apply to the chairperson of the Committee for his/her consent with the submission of the dissertation in another language. The Committee will evaluate these reasons and issue a statement with whose content the applicant will be acquainted.

3. The theses of the dissertation shall contain a concise expression of the basic ideas, methods and conclusions of the dissertation of up to forty (40) pages in length. The theses should be in A5 format, the first page of the theses of the dissertation needs to be edited according to the example, which is in Appendix B of the Rules. A component of the theses of the dissertation is the list of publications that form the basis of the dissertation, as well as the list of used literature and a résumé of up to two pages in length. The theses can be submitted in Czech or in English, in justified cases, also in another language (see Art. III, Section 2). The résumé of the theses is in English.

4. Proceedings are commenced on the basis of the request of the applicant, supported by at least two written opinions of research professors or professors of Czech or foreign higher education institutions of the same or exceptionally of a related field to that of the person of the applicant. The authors of these opinions must not be employees of the same workplace as the applicant or be a relative of him/her. With higher education institutions, the same workplace is understood as faculty. The request for the commencement of the proceedings for granting a scientific degree can be submitted by persons fulfilling the conditions pursuant to Art. I, Section 4 of the Rules. In the request, the applicant also lists the area of sciences and the scientific field in which the proceedings for granting the scientific degree are to be commenced.

5. The applicant shall attach the following documents to the request, items c) – i) also in the electronic format:

a) certified proof of the successful completion of university education (diploma),

- b) certified proof of granting of the Ph.D. title at Czech or foreign university, or certified proof of granting of the scientific degree 'Candidate of Sciences' (or possibly proof of granting of a title with the same standing). With degrees granted abroad, the Committee may request a certificate of a recognition of the granted degree in the meaning of Article 89 and 90 of Act No. 111/1998 Coll.,
- c) Curriculum Vitae with an overview of the scientific work accomplished,
- d) list of the publications forming the background materials of the dissertation with the impact factors of the relevant journals and with a citation analysis, and further a list of all the original scientific works with the overall data on their citation rate. List of the citation analysis and a number of citations according to SCI in those fields of science where this number is a recognised indicator of the scientific performance,
- e) theses of the dissertation in ten (10) copies,
- f) dissertation in five copies and an electronic version if it is technically possible. One copy will be kept in the archives,
- g) statement of the employment legal status in relation to a workplace where knowledge of the dissertation can be utilised,
- h) statement of an applicant's assessment of his/her scientific contribution and share of work if the scientific results listed in the dissertation were acquired with co-authors,
- i) written opinions of two research professors or professors (See Art. III, Section 4),
- j) if an applicant presents a new dissertation in the same field for new proceedings for granting the scientific degree, a statement declaring the person's name that issued the denial decision, the title of the original dissertation and the definition of the differences between the two dissertations must be attached.

6. The request is submitted to the Committee. If the request does not have all the necessary information and the applicant does not remedy the imperfections when invited to and within the given timeframe, the Committee will suspend the proceedings.

7. Unless a suspension of the proceedings occurs pursuant to Art. III, Section 6, the Committee forwards the request to the relevant commission.

8. The commission evaluates the request of the applicant based on the submitted background materials and passes a resolution on whether the proceedings will continue. If the majority of the members are against the continuation of the proceedings, the commission recommends that the Committee suspends the proceedings for granting the scientific degree and notifies in writing reasons for the suspension. If it is recommended to continue in the proceedings, the commission passes a resolution by a majority of the votes of the members:

- a) on the proposal of at least three opponents of the dissertation and
- b) on the proposal of the place where the defence of the dissertation will take place.

9. The proposals with their justifications are submitted by the chairperson of the commission, or an entrusted member, to the Committee. Based on the proposals, the Committee will pass a resolution by secret ballot on the suspension or continuation of

the proceedings for granting the scientific degree. It will further approve the opponents and the place of the defence, and these will be conveyed to the commission and the applicant.

In justified cases, the Committee may meet remotely or use a combination of technical means of distance communication and an in-person session. Any technical device that allows the identification of the members of the Committee, so as to ensure that the decision and vote is actually taken by a member of the Committee, may be used.

A remote session or combination thereof must be approved in advance by the Committee. In exceptional cases, this approval may be given only by the chairperson of the Committee. The minutes of the session shall state the reasons for holding a remote session or combination thereof. Where a secret ballot is required, it must be provided.

10. Three opponents must be research professors or professors of higher education institutions. Opponents may not be the persons submitting opinions on the dissertation pursuant to Art. III, Section 4, the persons from the same workplace and co-authors of a substantial portion of the publications which form the background materials of the dissertation. The opponent's opinions must contain the clear position of the opponent, whether he/she recommends granting the scientific degree or not and the justification for this position.

11. Within two months of receiving the opinions of all of the opponents, the chairperson of the commission will state a date for the public defence of the dissertation. He will ensure that the defence will take place no later than twelve months from the day of the submission of the request for the commencement of the proceedings for granting the scientific degree. An extension of the deadline must be requested from the Committee with the reasons listed. The chairperson of the commission will announce the date and place of the defence no later than six weeks before the date for the defence of the dissertation to:

- a) the applicant,
- b) the members of the commission,
- c) the opponents,
- d) the Committee for the Research Professor Degree,
- e) the employer of the applicant,
- f) the organisation and persons that might be interested in the topic of the presented dissertation.

12. The persons listed in Art. III, Section 11 under letters c) through f) will, at the same time, receive from the chairperson of the commission the theses of the dissertation with the statement containing information where they can learn about the dissertation. The persons under letters a) through c) will receive the opponents' opinions.

13. The chairperson of the commission, or the entrusted deputy chairperson, chairs the defence of the dissertation. The defence is public, the participation of the opponents is mandatory. If one opponent cannot attend the defence due to exceptionally serious reasons, the defence may take place if the absent opponent submits a positive opinion and the members of the commission agree that the defence takes place in the absence of this opponent. In such a case, the opinion is delivered by the person chairing the defence. The defence takes place even if the opinion of one or more opponents is negative.

In justified cases it is possible to hold the defence using technical means of remote communication (teleconference or videoconference).

The applicant acquaints the commission with the dissertation. After acquainting the commission with the opinions of the opponents, the applicant answers possible questions and their comments. Subsequently, a discussion of the members of the commission follows, then a public discussion.

The presence of at least two-thirds of the members of the commission, namely pursuant to Art. II, Section 2 of the Rules, is required for the validity of the defence as well as the approval of the decision on the proposal for granting the scientific degree.

The commission will pass a resolution on the proposal to grant, or not grant, the scientific degree at a non-public session by secret ballot with at least two-thirds of the votes of the members of the present commission members with voting rights. The members of the commission with voting rights also include the opponents present for the specific defence.

The course of the defence shall be recorded and the 'Protocol on the Defence' completed. If the applicant fails to defend the dissertation, the commission will propose a suspension of proceedings and will pass a resolution on the justification.

14. The proposal to grant or not to grant the scientific degree is submitted by the chairperson of the commission to the Committee. The Committee will deliberate the proposal, and based on a secret ballot, will recommend or not recommend to the Science Council of the CAS granting the degree. The Science Council will decide on the granting of the scientific degree by secret ballot. The presence of at least two-thirds of the members of the Science Council is required for this vote. The chairperson of the commission or his/her deputy, or possibly the applicant, can request to be present during the deliberation of the proposal by the Science Council.

15. Unless the proposal for granting the scientific degree obtains the majority of the votes of the present members of the Science Council of the CAS, it holds that the Science Council has suspended proceedings for granting the scientific degree. This decision is complemented by a justification.

16. If the proceedings for granting a scientific degree are suspended, the dissertation with the attached background materials are returned, with the exception of one copy of the dissertation and the theses to be archived, to the applicant along with a justification. A new request can be submitted two years from the suspension of the proceedings at the earliest.

17. At the request of the applicant, the Committee can suspend the proceedings for granting the scientific degree.

18. The applicant can submit objections to the procedure of the proceedings for granting the scientific degree to the President of the Science Council of the CAS, to be discussed by the Science Council, and the Science Council will decide on the correctness of the procedure.

19. The applicant can appeal the decision of the Science Council of the CAS pursuant to Art. III, Section 15 to the President of the CAS. The decision of the President of the CAS is final.

20. The proceedings for granting the scientific degree are not subject to the Administrative Code.

IV. Final Provisions

1. The costs for the proceedings for granting the scientific degree (travel expenses of the members of the commissions and opponents from the Czech Republic and other European countries, the elaboration of the opponents' opinions, the production and presentation of the diplomas) are covered by the CAS within the approved budget for the relevant year. The Secretariat of the Science Council of the CAS will ensure the administrative agenda connected with granting the scientific degree.

2. These Rules come into effect as of 14 July 2015. At the same time, the Guidelines of the Academy Council of the CAS No. 5/2014 – The Rules for Granting the 'Research Professor' Degree by the Czech Academy of Sciences are cancelled.

Prof. Ing. Jiří Drahoš, DrSc., dr. h. c.
President of the CAS

Appendixes:

- A. Example of a diploma of the scientific degree (text part)
- B. Example of the first page of the theses of the dissertation

Appendix A

Example of a diploma – scientific degree ‘Research Professor’ – small (text part)



AKADEMIE VĚD
ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY

CZECH ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

Diplom vědeckého titulu
doktor věd
Číslo XXXX

AFFIDAVIT OF THE
SCIENTIFIC DEGREE OF
RESEARCH PROFESSOR
Number XXXX

AKADEMIE VĚD
ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY
rozhodnutím
Vědecké rady AV ČR
na jejím XXXX. zasedání dne XX.
XXXXX 20xx
číslo protokolu XXXX
podle článku 62 Stanov
Akademie věd České republiky
udělila
XXXXX XXXXXX, CSc. (Ph.D.)
narozenému dne XX. XXXX 19XX
v XXXXX
na základě řízení
ukončeného obhajobou disertace
před komisí
pro obhajoby disertací
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,
při XXXXXXXXXXXX
dne XX. XXXXXXXX 20XX
vědecký titul
DOKTOR VĚD
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
ve zkratce DSc. za jménem



razítko AV ČR
stamp of the CAS

jméno, příjmení, tituly
předseda Akademie věd
České republiky
President, Czech Academy of
Sciences

jméno, příjmení, tituly
předseda Vědecké rady
Akademie věd České
republiky
President, Science Council of
the Czech Academy of
Sciences

jméno, příjmení, tituly
předseda Komise
pro obhajoby disertací
Commission for the Defence
of Dissertations
XXXXXXXX, XXXXXXXX

CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
by the decision
of the Science Council of the CAS
taken at its XXXXth Session on XX
XXXXX 20xx
Protocol No. XXXX
pursuant to Article 62 of the
Statutes of the Czech Academy of
Sciences
has awarded
JXXXXX XXXXX, CSc. (Ph.D.)
born on XX XXXXX 19XX in XXXXX
on the basis of proceedings
concluded by the successful
defence of his/her dissertation
before the Commission for the
Defence of Dissertations
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,
at XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
on XX XXXXX 20xx
scientific degree
RESEARCH PROFESSOR of
XXXXXXXXXX
abbreviated as Res.Prof. following
the surname

Appendix B

Example of the first page of the theses of dissertation



Czech Academy of Sciences

Theses of Dissertation
for Obtaining the 'Research Professor' Degree
in the Category of the Sciences

.....

Title of Dissertation

Commission for the Defence of Dissertations in the Field

.....

Applicant's Name

Applicant's Workplace

Place and Date