

Deadline	<b>Thu 3 Apr 2025, 23:59:59 (IOCB deadline Mon 31 Mar 2025 - please respect the interim IOCB deadlines below)</b>
Call name	<b>JUNIOR STAR grants 2026</b>
www	<a href="https://gacr.cz/js-2026/">https://gacr.cz/js-2026/</a>
Focused on	Support of projects in basic research focused on following scientific fields: EX1 Mathematics and Physics 1; EX2 Physics 2; EX3 Chemistry; EX4 Human Biology and Medicinal Sciences; EX5 Biology and Agricultural Sciences; EX6 Social Sciences; EX7 Humanities; EX8 Technical Sciences and Informatics
PI	<b>Applicant up to 8 years from Ph.D. defence</b> (30 Sept 2017 – 30 Sep 2025); excluding the maternity leave and parental leave, sick leave for long-term sickness and other long-term career breaks on legal basis; to be sufficiently proved. <b>Significant international experience</b> – Ph.D. diploma acquired abroad, a long-term research stay or several short-term research stays abroad, cooperation with foreign authors – proved by a peer-reviewed publication
Eligible organisation	Research organizations: research institutes, universities, higher education institutions, and other legal entities seated in CR dealing with research. Project proposal comprises only one applicant (one institution). Participation of co-applicants is not possible. <b>Only junior group leaders approved by the International Advisory may submit a JUNIOR STAR project proposal to IOCB Prague as the host institution.</b> Submission of JUNIOR STAR project proposals to other institutions in the Czech Republic outside the IOCB is not limited (see “Internal rules UOCHB Call 2026”).
Target group	Teams may consist of: researchers at any career stage, postdocs, students, technical and administrative staff. When creating research teams, equal opportunity trends should be taken into account.
Expected outputs	Publications and other outputs of fundamental research (according to Methodology for Evaluating RDI): Peer-reviewed article ( $J_{imp}$ , $J_{sc}$ ); Book (B); book chapter (C); paper in proceedings (D).
Call opens	12 Feb 2025
IOCB deadline	<b>Tue 25 Feb 2025</b> inform us about your intention to apply and your choice of evaluation panel at <a href="mailto:projectoffice@uochb.cas.cz">projectoffice@uochb.cas.cz</a> <b>Tue 4 Mar 2025</b> budget and justification (exported from GRIS) for checking <b>Tue 18 Mar 2025</b> formal check of whole proposal except part C1 (the project description) <b>Thu 27 Mar 2025</b> formal check of part C1 <b>Mon 31 Mar 2025</b> a final version of the project proposal for submission
Final deadline	<b>Thu 3 Apr 2025, 23:59:59</b>
Evaluation results	31 Oct 2025
Signature of agreement	Subject to the GA ČR procedures.
Earliest date of implementation	1 Jan 2026
Latest date of implementation	31 Dec 2030
Sustainability	Not applicable
Reporting	Annually: interim financial report: (January of the following calendar year) Interim scientific report (2,5 years after the start of the project) Final report: financial (30 days after the project termination) and scientific report (1 year after the project termination)
Project duration (min-max)	<b>5 years</b>
Allocation for the call	480 M CZK

Project budget (min-max)	max. 25 M CZK /project
Success rate	10.8 % (2023), 5 % (2022)
Eligible costs	<p>Direct costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>personnel costs</b> – salaries including mandatory contributions (1,358 of a gross salary) and personnel costs from other types contracts (DPP, DPC); for applicant, collaborators (members of team), other professional collaborators (postdocs, PhD students), other collaborators. Other types of contracts (apart from basic employment relationship) may make up to 7% of personnel costs.</li> <li>• <b>material costs</b> – consumables, travel costs, services, intangible asset costs, OA publishing costs, costs of data management, costs of IPR, etc.</li> <li>• <b>investments costs</b> – acquisition or depreciation of tangible assets (acquisition cost &gt; 80,000 CZK), aliquot part of costs reflecting the duration and intensity of the use in the project (up to 20 % of personnel and material costs)</li> </ul> <p><b>Indirect costs:</b> up to 20% of direct non-investments costs (overhead inclusive)</p>
Reimbursement	100%
Mode of funding	ex-ante
Language of application	English, only the title of project also in Czech
Provider	Czech Science Foundation (GAČR), <a href="http://www.gacr.cz">www.gacr.cz</a> , Project submission – GRIS application: <a href="https://www.gris.cz/">https://www.gris.cz/</a> Questions: helpdesk: <a href="mailto:info@gacr.cz">info@gacr.cz</a>
Call identifier	GAČR JUN STAR 2026
Information	JUNIOR STAR projects are focused on the support of excellent early-career researchers (max. 8 years from PhD) with the aim of supporting excellent basic research while provide an opportunity for the early-career researchers with an original research topic to build an independent group with several collaborators and modern equipment, that will enrich the recent structure of the basic research in the Czech Republic.
Conditions / Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single person may only submit as an applicant one JUNIOR STAR project proposal, or only one Restart Grants.</li> <li>• A single person who submits a JUNIOR STAR project proposal as the applicant may also submit a maximum of two more project proposals (in all competitions launched by the GAČR in a given calendar year), one as an applicant and one as a co-applicant. Tool for verification: <a href="https://gacr.cz/soubehy-navrhu-projektu-2024/">https://gacr.cz/soubehy-navrhu-projektu-2024/</a></li> <li>• If the applicant of a JUNIOR STAR project is successful in more than one public call for proposals, he/she may either only carry out this JUNIOR STAR project, or a maximum of two other projects (one as principal investigator and one as co-investigator).</li> <li>• If the applicant withdraws from a public tender, or withdraws from the evaluation process pursuant to the relevant provision of the Rules for International Grant Projects evaluated on a Lead Agency Principle (LA Grants), before submitting another project proposal which would otherwise cause an overlap of projects contrary to the above provisions, the project proposal withdrawn by the applicant shall be treated as if it had never been submitted. Such project proposal will then not count towards the limit of project proposals submitted in a given year.</li> <li>• Required workload is at least 0,5 full-time equivalent (FTE) for the applicant and other professional co-workers. This request is not applicable to technical and administrative staff or to master and bachelor students.</li> <li>• Zero workload is not acceptable. A sum of workloads for one person in all projects funded by GAČR cannot exceed 1 FTE.</li> <li>• A postdoc is a person who defended their PhD less than 8 years before the starting date of the project (2.1.2018 – 1.1.2026). Career breaks such as maternity leave, parental leave and long-term illness are excluded from the limit.</li> <li>• Rewards and bonuses are not eligible personnel costs</li> <li>• If the applicant does not yet hold a Ph.D. degree, he/she must defend his/her doctoral thesis by 30 September 2025 at the latest and submit the proof of the degree to the GAČR by 10 October 2025 at the latest.</li> <li>• The international experience of the applicant needs to be described in Parts A and D1.</li> <li>• Permitted attachments (to be uploaded only to the GRIS application) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A copy of PhD diploma</li> <li>– A Letter of Intent confirming international cooperation or a commitment to perform the necessary work at an institution abroad</li> <li>– A copy of documents confirming significant international experience</li> <li>– A list of foreign institutions that shall not be asked to evaluate the proposal</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A quote from a supplier comprising the proper identification of supplier, the supplied items and the preliminary price – required if the cost of a single tangible asset exceeds 250,000 CZK or if the service(s) from a single supplier represent a value higher than 750,000 CZK/project; In addition, for each purchase exceed 750,000 CZK, at least two other competing quotes shall be submitted, along with an explanation of which of the offers was selected and why. Competitive quotes need not be submitted in cases where the selected supplier is the only supplier whose offer meets the required parameters.</li> <li>- Special licences – if required for the project implementation (check validity of the licence)</li> </ul>
Proposal consists of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application forms are available on-line in the GRIS web application <a href="http://gris.cz">http://gris.cz</a>.</li> <li>• Project proposal consists of the following parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>A</b> - basic identification data, abstract (1100 characters) and aims of the project (300 characters);</li> <li>- <b>B</b> - total funding, breakdown of financial items, incl. justification for the entire duration of the project, detailed structure of personnel costs;</li> <li>- <b>C</b> (C1 and C2) - justification of project proposal (C1: up to 15 pages, font size 11pt; 6MB; new in the references recommended include DOI);</li> <li>- <b>D</b> (D1 and D2) - CV of the applicant; (D1: up to 2 pages, font size 11pt; 1 MB); bibliography and other achievements of the applicant (D2)</li> <li>- <b>E</b> – information on other projects of the applicant</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Project proposal has to be converted to PDF format and sent by email to <a href="mailto:projectoffice@uochb.cas.cz">projectoffice@uochb.cas.cz</a> who will submit it to GAČR via its <b>data box</b>.</li> <li>• Project proposal cannot be modified after the final PDF version is generated! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- breach of the electronic seal constitutes the reason for the rejection of the project proposal</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Statutory declaration will be submitted by the Project Office.</li> </ul>
Evaluation criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project aims (breakthrough character and prospective impact, ambitious intention, high risk/high gain);</li> <li>• Proposed methodology of implementation (conception, preparation and adequacy of the proposed methodology, developments of new methods, including the time schedule of the implementation);</li> <li>• Competence and prerequisites of applicants and research team members (significant international experience of applicants, scientific results);</li> <li>• Readiness of the applicant to carry out the grant project (technical and institutional facilities);</li> <li>• Expected quality of project outputs;</li> <li>• International cooperation – involvement of foreign institutions;</li> <li>• Adequacy of proposed costs.</li> </ul> <p>Evaluation of project proposals is carried out in evaluation panels and discipline committees of GA ČR: (1<sup>st</sup> stage - 4 expert reviews by the Discipline Committee members + the Discipline Committee evaluation; 2<sup>nd</sup> stage - assessment from at least two external reviewers + Discipline Committee evaluation).</p>
Research areas	All scientific fields and disciplines of basic research.
Call workshop	<a href="https://gacr.cz/seminare-s-predsedom-2025/">https://gacr.cz/seminare-s-predsedom-2025/</a> (czech)
IOCB contact	<p>Please inform the IOCB Project Office about your intention to apply. Do not hesitate to contact us with your questions, concerns or request for help. Contact us on:</p> <p><a href="mailto:projectoffice@uochb.cas.cz">projectoffice@uochb.cas.cz</a>;</p> <p><a href="#">Veronika Palečková</a>, ☎ : 266; <a href="#">Jitka Šilerová</a>, ☎ : 229; <a href="#">Šárka Křížová</a>, ☎ : 527; <a href="#">Lenka Štěrbová</a>, ☎ : 179</p>
Download documents	<p>GACR JUN STAR 2026 Souhrn (CZ)</p> <p>GACR JUN STAR 2026 Summary (EN)</p> <p>GACR JUN STAR 2026 Zadávací dokumentace (CZ)</p> <p>GACR JUN STAR 2026 Tender document (EN)</p> <p>GACR JUN STAR Internal rules ÚOCHB Call 2026 (CZ/EN)</p> <p>GACR JUN STAR 2026 Praktické informace (CZ)</p>