

**Call for applications
for the "Post-Doctoral Students" (PDs) module of the "Young Scientists and Post-
Doctoral Students - 2" (YSPD-2) National Program, Stage 2**

The Agricultural Academy (AA) has started accepting applications for the "Post-Doctoral Students" (PDs) module of the "Young Scientists and Post-Doctoral Students - 2" (YSPD-2), Stage 2, National Program under the following conditions:

1. Candidates for the **Postdoctoral** (PD) module may be scholars with obtained a PhD in the country or abroad. They must satisfy the minimum national requirements for the PhD in the scientific area and professional field in which they are applying.

2. Candidates must meet the definition of "postdoctoral fellow": a scientist who has obtained a first educational and scientific doctoral degree, but not more than five years after its acquisition (the day on which the dissertation is successfully defended). This condition is valid for the entire period of their participation in the programme until October 1st, 2025 for the second stage.

3. Candidates may also be **external**¹ to the structural units of the AA. In this case, they shall submit the written consent of the university or scientific organization in the country from which they are migrating concerning:

- their participation in the programme as postdoctoral fellows in structural units of the AA;
- the use of unpaid leave for the period of participation as postdoctoral students in structural unit of the AA, subject to approval and retention of their full-time place.

4. Candidates from the structural units of the AA who meet the above requirements and in the case of qualification, may be appointed as PD on an additional part-time contract in the structural unit in which they work.

5. When applying for a PD in the AA, each applicant must submit a project proposal that meets the following requirements:

- to be topical and of a high scientific standard,
- to have a detailed work programme for the duration of the project and a detailed financial plan accompanied by a rationale

5.1. The proposal shall be submitted in Bulgarian or English, in accordance with the application criteria and guidelines developed by the AA, which are part of the call/ advertisement for recruitment and selection of postdoctoral fellows.

5.2. The deadline for the project proposal should be within 10 months with the possibility of extension, but not more than 2 months during the programme implementation period (October 1st, 2025).

6. A candidate for the postdoctoral position shall move from the first to the second stage of the programme without competition to complete the work of his/her research, following approval of the report on the work carried out to date, if the duration of 12 months for the first stage was foreseen when applying in the first stage, and if he/she continues to meet the definition of a 'postdoctoral fellow'.

7. Eligible candidates are the employees of the structural units of the AA who have programmatic accreditation for the educational and scientific degree "PhD" by National Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation (the list of the institutes can be accessed at the following link: <https://agriacad.bg/en/phd-students/accredited-doctoral-programs>), for degree programmes in the following scientific fields and professional fields, according to the Council of Ministers Decree No 125 of 24 June 2002 of :

- Social, Economic and Legal Sciences - 3.8 *Economics*.

¹ All employees of the structural units of the AA are considered internal to the organisation applicants

- Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics - *4.3 Biological Sciences*.
- Technical Sciences - *5.1 Mechanical Engineering, 5.7 Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy and 5.12 Food Technologies*.
- Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine - *6.1 Crop Science, 6.2 Plant Protection and 6.3 Animal Production*.

7.1. Candidates from the structural units of the AA are appointed as postdoctoral fellows on a supplementary agreement to work in a beneficiary organisation.

8. Candidates for the PD modules may be either Bulgarian or foreign nationals.

9. Postdoctoral fellows who are external to the structural units and the AA system shall have priority in the ranking if other conditions are equal.

11. Candidates who meet both the Young Scientists and Post-Doctoral Students definitions may apply under only one procedure/advertisement/invitation.

12. In the event of insufficient funds to support all applicants who have passed the administrative match, ranking will also be based on the following indicators as reflected in the Candidates supplementary evaluation card:

- Publications in refereed journals indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science in 2023 - 10 points per publication;
- Certificates/patents/useful models claimed involving the applicant in 2023 - 10 points per claim;
- Participation in scientific forums - conferences, seminars, roundtables, etc. in 2023 with a report, poster or presentation - 5 points;
- Other (if applicable) - Courses and specialisations to enhance qualifications, including Erasmus+ training in 2023 - 2 points.

Documents required for participation in the Postdoctoral module:

1. Application for participation in the programme (free text).

2. Scanned copy of the PhD diploma, with the app.

2. Evidence that the applicant is engaged in research: a CV with annexes (list of publications, list of projects with the applicant's participation, list of participation in scientific events, all described detailed by year for the entire scientific career), employment contracts, diplomas for qualifications and training.

3. Project (by template) - link to the [template](#) and [the preparation and evaluation guidelines for the project proposal](#).

Documents should be submitted in "pdf" format to: ssa_nauka@agriacad.bg.

The call for proposals opens on June 6st, 2024 local time and closes at 17.00 (local time) on July 6st, 2024.