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**2024/2025 Academic Year, 2nd Semester**
**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**
**SOE Doctoral Excellence Scholarship**

The Sopron University Foundation awards the Doctoral Excellence Scholarship through an application process to support outstanding full-time state-funded doctoral students.

The primary aim of the scholarship is to support state-funded doctoral students with exceptional performance by improving their living conditions and raising the total available scholarship amount to a level close to that of a net assistant lecturer’s salary. The scholarship also seeks to encourage doctoral students not to take on full-time jobs alongside their studies, as this could hinder their academic progress and reduce the overall effectiveness of doctoral training.

**Eligible Applicants:**
Full-time state-funded doctoral students with active student status. Applicants must be under 40 years of age at the start of their doctoral program.

**Amount of Support:**
HUF 100,000 per student per month (5 months of funding in the autumn semester, 7 months in the spring semester).

**Eligibility Criteria for a Valid Application:**
a) The applicant must be under the age of 40 at the beginning of their doctoral studies.
b) The doctoral student must commit to:

* participating in university teaching activities, including (but not limited to) assisting with class preparation, occasionally conducting practical/laboratory/fieldwork sessions, and supervising undergraduate theses (minimum: 2 hours/week of teaching activity and supervision of at least one undergraduate student);
* regularly attending bachelor’s, master’s, or undivided courses within the doctoral school’s field of science for training toward future teaching roles;
* regularly consulting with their supervisor (tutor) regarding their teaching experiences;
* actively engaging in the institute’s research activities, administrative or protocol duties, alumni programs, internationalization, or student recruitment efforts.

**Special Requirements for Pre-Comprehensive Exam Semesters:**
a) The comprehensive exam must be completed by the end of the 4th active semester (August 31 for spring semester, January 31 for autumn semester).
b) By the time of the comprehensive exam, the student must have published (or have accepted for publication) at least one full-length scientific article (not an abstract) in English as first or last author.

**Special Requirements for Post-Comprehensive Exam Semesters:**
a) The student must obtain the final certificate (absolutorium) by the end of the 8th semester (August 31 for spring semester, January 31 for autumn semester).
b) After the comprehensive exam, at least one full-length scientific publication in English in a Q1/Q2/Q3 journal or equivalent in the field must be published as first author or confirmed as accepted/in press.

In the case of multi-author publications, a signed declaration from all authors must confirm the doctoral student's contribution. This declaration must indicate only the doctoral student's percentage of authorship.

**Priority is given to applicants who:**
a) do not have full-time (8-hour) employment;
b) or whose employment does not require higher education qualifications (e.g., student jobs or unrelated part-time work).

Applicants must declare whether they have full-time or any type of employment relationship (including contracts or student jobs) and provide documentation detailing the nature and qualification requirements of the work.

**Application Conditions:**

* The application may be submitted for one academic semester at a time.
* The scholarship can be awarded for multiple semesters.
* Applications may only be submitted after completing at least one full semester of doctoral studies.
* Applications must be submitted via the Neptun system (application code: SOE\_12\_08).
* **Application deadline:** February 12, 2025 (Wednesday) at 24:00.
* Attachments must be uploaded **exclusively in PDF format**.

**Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.**

**Evaluation Committees:**

* A 5-member committee including the Vice-Rector for Research and International Affairs, the Vice-Rector for Education, the EDHT President, and doctoral school leaders (advisory).
* Board of Trustees of the Sopron University Foundation (decision-making body).

**Further Information:**
The decision is expected by **March 10, 2025**, and will be communicated through the Neptun system.
Inquiries may be sent to: **soea-osztondij@uni-sopron.hu**

**Expected number of recipients:** maximum **15 students** at institutional level.

**Obligations After Receiving the Scholarship:**
By **September 5, 2025**, scholarship recipients must submit:

* a research report (summary of the current stage of research, 3–5 pages),
* a certificate of teaching and institutional participation from the institute director,
* a list of scientific publications (in addition to the required ones).

If the doctoral student does not complete the comprehensive exam by the end of the 4th active semester, fails to meet any of the scholarship conditions, or voluntarily terminates their student status, **the full scholarship amount for all affected semesters must be repaid**.

If the student fails to meet final certificate (absolutorium) requirements by the end of the 8th semester, or if they terminate their student status, **the scholarship received for semesters 5–8 must be fully repaid**.

**Sopron, January 29, 2025**
**Prof. Dr. Attila Fábián, Rector**