UNIWERSYTET WARSZAWSKI

WYDZIAŁ FILOZOFII
UNIWERSYTET WARSZAWSKI

OPEN CALL FOR A PHD SCHOLARSHIP POSITION

in the NCN-funded research project "The right to bodily and mental integrity in the era of biomedicine and neurotechnologies – an integrative bioethical analysis"

(*in accordance with the Regulations for awarding NCN scholarships for NCN-funded research projects*[1]).

Project details:

Title of the project	„The right to bodily and mental integrity in the era of biomedicine and neurotechnologies – an integrative bioethical analysis"
Type of the project	SONATA BIS 13
Funding institution	National Science Centre, Poland
Duration of the project	48 months (from January 2, 2025, to January 1, 2029)
Principal Investigator (PI)	Joanna Różyńska, PhD *link* (Faculty of Philosophy, Center for Bioethics & Biolaw)
Description of the project	The project deals with the right to physical and mental integrity in the era of dynamic development of biomedical sciences and neurotechnology. It aims to examine the content, moral justification, strength, and scope of the right to physical and the right to mental integrity, and to determine whether it is possible to develop an integrated, conceptually coherent, ethically adequate, and practically applicable concept of the right to integrity of the person. The project includes conceptual and normative analysis, as well as analysis of the lived experience of people affected by various physical illnesses or mental disorders. It uses primarily methods of philosophical analysis, as well as methods of jurisprudence and, where appropriate, methods of systematic/integrative literature review. The project focuses on moral rights, not legal rights.
Key words	Right to integrity, physical integrity, mental integrity, bioethics, neuroethics, human rights

Position details:

Position title	PhD student - scholarship holder
Organisational unit	Faculty of Philosophy, University of Warsaw; https://filozofia.uw.edu.pl/en/
Number of positions	1
Legal format	Scholarship agreement
Expected date of commencement of scholarship agreement and its duration	Expected start date: December 1, 2026. Duration of the scholarship agreement: 12 months (with the option to extend for 6 months, based on a positive evaluation by the PI).
Scholarship amount	PLN 2,000 per month (tax free)

[1] Annex to NCN Council Resolution No 124/2022 of 1 December 2022, *Regulations for awarding NCN scholarships for NCN-funded research projects*; https://www.ncn.gov.pl/sites/default/files/pliki/uchwaly-rady/2022/uchwala124_2022-zal1_ang.pdf

Other conditions of scholarship agreement	• Possibility to work partially remotely. • Funds to attend scientific conferences and purchase specialized scientific literature. • Professional administrative support for conducting research and disseminating its results. • Participation in an active and interdisciplinary research team. **Important notice:** NCN scholarships may be combined with other scholarships and/or remuneration funded by the NCN from the funds allocated for more than one research project, provided that the total amount of scholarships and remuneration does not exceed PLN 5,000 per month.
Basic responsibilities and obligations[2]	**The PhD student - scholarship holder will be involved in the following research tasks to the extent consistent with his or her scientific competence and interests, and in collaboration with and under the guidance of the project Principal Investigator and/or a senior research team member:** • Review of theoretical literature, relevant regulatory documents and/or empirical studies on physical or mental integrity. • Philosophical and conceptual analysis of the categories of physical integrity and/or mental integrity. • Ethical analysis of the content and justification of the right to physical integrity and/or the right to mental integrity in the context of other recognized ethical principles and human rights, as well as the results of research on the lived experience of integrity. • Ethical analysis of the scope, strength, and limitations of the right to physical integrity and/or the right to mental integrity in the context of selected cases of integrity violations, especially in the field of biomedicine and neurotechnology. In addition, this person will be involved in research aimed at developing an integrated concept of the right to physical and mental integrity of the person. **The responsibilities of the PhD student - scholarship holder include:** • Accurately and timely completion of the research tasks assigned in the work plan agreed upon with the Principal Investigator. • Regular and active participation in research team meetings. Work with the Principal Investigator and other team members to share and develop knowledge and collaborate on research tasks and publications. • Publication of research results in recognized international scientific journals and books/volumes; it is expected that during the 12 months of participation in the project, the PhD student-scholarship holder will be the first author or co-author of at least 1 scientific manuscript. • Presentation of research results at important international and national conferences and scientific seminars. • Participation in the collection, analysis, archiving, and dissemination of data from a systematic/integrative review of the literature on the topic. • Participation in the organization of activities to promote and disseminate the results of the project, including conferences and seminars. The scholarship does not involve any teaching duties, but those who are willing will have the opportunity to gain such experience.
Formal requirements	The call is open to persons who do not hold a PhD degree and who meet all of the following requirements: • are enrolled in a doctoral programme or are PhD students at a doctoral school as defined in §3 (3) of the Regulations for awarding of NCN scholarships for NCN-funded research projects; • have a Master's degree in philosophy, ethics and/or bioethics; • have at least one scholarly publication on bioethical or neuroethical issues to their credit, published within the last two years; • have an advanced level of English, enabling them to work scientifically in this language.

[2] The position does not involve any activities that fall under the regulations for the protection of minors.

Required competences	Candidates are expected to have: • the competences to conduct conceptual and normative analyses using methods appropriate to philosophy, ethics and/or bioethics, and • a scientific interest in bioethics and/or neuroethics, confirmed in particular by: – the field of completed or ongoing first or second cycle studies, or the topic of the defended Master's or Bachelor's thesis; or – the topic of the Ph.D. dissertation being prepared; or – publications, conference presentations, participation in academic classes, workshops or training on issues related to bioethics and/or neuroethics. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the project, preference will be given to candidates who have completed more than one degree program. Additional education in law or cognitive science would be a strong asset. Experience in organizing international or national scientific and public outreach events would be an additional asset.
Criteria for the assessment of candidates	Candidates will be evaluated according to the criteria specified in §3 section 12 of the Regulations for awarding of NCN scholarships for NCN-funded research projects. The competition will be won by the candidate who achieves the highest score, provided it is at least 60% of the maximum.

Recruitment procedure:

Deadline for submitting applications	**The application deadline is November 2, 2026 (Monday, 11:59 p.m.).** *Only complete and timely applications will be considered.*
Method of submitting an application	All application documents should be sent in electronic form as PDF files to the Principal Investigator, Dr. Joanna Różyńska: j.rozynska@uw.edu.pl In the subject line of the email, please write: "NCN PhD - .....[candidate's surname]". In the body of the email, please include the following statement: "I declare that all the information provided in the application documents is true".
Required documents	1. Candidate questionnaire (Attachment no. 1 to the call - *Link*). 2. Information on the processing of personal data (Attachment no. 2 to the call - *Link*). 3. Consent to the processing of personal data (Attachment no. 3 to the call - *Link*). 4. Scan of a document certifying the status of a doctoral student. 5. Scan of a diploma(a) of first- and/or second-cycle studies. 6. A scan of document(s) confirming an advanced command of English (e.g., certificates), if available. 7. A cover letter addressed to the Principal Investigator, Dr. Joanna Różyńska. 8. A sample of academic writing, preferably in English, of no more than 20,000 characters. *Please do not attach any documents other than those listed above. The selection committee reserves the right to ask the candidate to provide additional explanation or documentation to support the information provided in the application..*
Recruitment process	The recruitment process is conducted by a committee chaired by the Principal Investigator, Dr. Joanna Różyńska. The process consists of three stages. The first stage is the formal evaluation of the application. Only those candidates who have submitted a complete set of documents by the deadline and meet the formal requirements will be admitted to the next stage of the process. In the second stage, the committee will make a preliminary assessment of the candidates on the basis of the documents submitted. The highest scoring candidates will be invited for an interview, which is the third stage of the process. **The interviews are to be conducted on 16-17 November 2026, remotely via Google Meet, under a University of Warsaw license.** The interviews will be conducted in English. The candidate will receive an invitation to the interview by e-mail at least 5 days before the proposed date. The invitation will be accompanied by two short academic texts in English on the right to physical or the right to mental integrity. During the interview, the candidate will be asked to critically address the assumptions, arguments or conclusions presented in one of these texts (of his/her choice).

	If a candidate is unable to attend the interview on the scheduled date for compelling reasons, the chair of the committee will reschedule the interview. Failure to appear on the scheduled date will result in the candidate being disqualified from further consideration. After the interviews, the committee will make a final assessment of the candidates based on the information obtained throughout the recruitment process. The committee reserves the right to declare the call void if none of the candidates meets the formal requirements or receives more than 60% of the points. The committee reserves the right to offer the position to the next person on the ranking list if the selected candidate does not confirm his or her willingness to sign a scholarship agreement within the specified time period or refuses to accept the scholarship. The committee also reserves the right to offer the position to the next person on the list without announcing a new call if the previously signed scholarship agreement is terminated or not renewed. Individuals with disabilities or special needs may indicate their accessibility needs in the application process in the Candidate Questionnaire (Appendix 1), "Other Important Information" section.
Anticipated date and method of notification of the results	**The competition will be resolved by November 23, 2026.** Candidates will be informed of the results of the call by email.
Contact for any questions relating to the call	For additional information regarding the call, please contact the Principal Investigator Dr. Joanna Różyńska (j.rozynska@uw.edu.pl). Please include the following in the subject line of your email: “NCN PhD”.

The University of Warsaw is a winner of the HR Excellence in Research award granted by the European Commission to institutions that comply with the European Charter for Researchers.

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