

**Recruitment rules (in a nutshell) for candidates to Doctoral School of Exact and Life Sciences
Academia Scientiarum Thoruniensis (AST)
Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland
2020/2021 academic year**

In AST, graduate students prepare PhD theses in one of the following **six disciplines**:

- **astronomy** (Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Informatics)
- **mathematics** (Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science)
- **biological sciences** (Faculty of Biological and Veterinary Sciences)
- **chemical sciences** (Faculty of Chemistry)
- **physical sciences** (Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science)
- **earth and environmental sciences** (Faculty of Earth Sciences and Spatial Management)

Recruitment stage	Deadline
Registration in the IRK2 online system Studies - IRK (umk.pl)	21-28.06.2021 (23:59)
Document submission to AST Office: Institute of Physics, Grudziądzka 5, room 390 / ast@umk.pl	24.06-30.06.2021 (15:00)
Interviews with candidates (internet allowed, individual schedule)	5-12.07.2021
Results are announced: https://www.phd.umk.pl/ast/	before 15.07.2021

AST Doctoral School candidates will select their MAIN PhD project and up to two “second-choice” projects that also fall within the interests of the candidate, from the following list:

<https://www.phd.umk.pl/ast/dokumenty/wykaz-projektow-2021/>

(N.B. The candidates do not submit their own projects, however at later stage they will contribute to the research plan)

Recruitment into AST Doctoral Schools is composed of two steps:

1. An evaluation of the submitted documents;
2. An interview (oral, in English or Polish, an internet interview is allowed).

Candidates with the highest scores (points) will be offered placements in AST.

Required documents:

Application form – printed out from the IRK system and signed by the candidate
Scientific CV in English
A motivation letter, containing a clear indication of preference in the selection of the main doctoral project, as well as, optionally, up to two second-choice projects; titles of all projects must be sourced from the list published on the School's website with an indication of the scientific discipline in which the doctorate will be carried
An official copy of the diploma of completion of the second-cycle or long-cycle Master's degree programme (or an equivalent diploma) or a photocopy of such a copy certified by Nicolaus Copernicus University staff or a declaration of the candidate on the planned date of obtaining such a diploma (of completion of the second-cycle or long-cycle Master's degree programme), which must occur <u>no later than September 15th 2020</u>
If your diploma is issued by a state which has signed the Hague convention (https://www.aina.pl/legalizacja-czy-apostille-konwencja-haska): authorization in the form of Apostille In case the candidate's diploma country has not signed the Hague convention: authorization in the form of legalization, as well as the scientific council of the appropriate discipline (NCU: Rada Dyscypliny Naukowej) must validate the diploma through nostrification
For foreign students: a copy of the visa, or the residency card, or another document granting the right to stay in Poland
An English or Polish translation of the Master of Science diploma (by a certified translator)
A short summary of the Master's Thesis (in English or Polish)
A list of co-authored papers (including hard copies or pdf files)
A list of research projects funded by grants (international, national, local) on which the candidate was working (a written confirmation is required)
A list of research visits / stays / internships in external research units; a list of seminars, conferences with active participation of the candidate (e.g. poster / talk, a written confirmation is required)
A list of research projects conducted by the candidate for external entities
A list of distinctions, awards, fellowships, and other honors (a written confirmation / copy of the diploma is required)
A confirmation of English language skills at B2 level or above, or a document confirming the completion of the first-cycle or second-cycle studies delivered in English
3 current photographs (including one in an electronic form, which the candidate uploads into the IRK system) compliant with the requirements applied for issuing ID
A signed declaration, committing the candidate, if accepted and while at AST, to not undertake studies in other Doctoral Schools
Two recommendation letters (optional, but recommended)
Grade average (GPA) statement (an example: https://www.phd.umk.pl/en/ast/recruitment/)
A statement on the grading scale used in the foreign university issuing the MSc diploma

Candidate application scoring and assessment:

1. Interview			max 60 pts
a.	description of the most recent diploma project, goal, methods, results	max 10 pts	
b.	level of understanding of the chosen PhD research project	max 10 pts	
c.	a general question regarding the discipline of the PhD thesis (main laws, theorems, principles, research methodology)	max 15 pts	
d.	a detailed (advanced) question regarding the discipline of the PhD thesis (main laws, theorems, principles, research methodology)	max 15 pts	
e.	motivation for enrollment into the AST School	max 10 pts	
2. Scientific achievements			max 15 pts
a.	major papers / patents	15 pts	
b.	authorship of a scientific monography / patent application	10 pts	
c.	authorship of a chapter in a scientific monography	5 pts	
d.	other papers (local research organizations, popular science, etc.)	max 3 pts	
e.	other	max 5 pts	
3. Participation in scientific projects			max 5 pts
a.	participation in a major research project, externally funded	5 pts	
b.	participation in a local research project, a research stay in an external research unit	3 pts	
c.	active participation in a conference, seminar, workshop, etc. (presentation of results)	max 3 pts	
d.	participation in a local University research project (grant)	1 pt	
4. Awards and stipends			max 5 pts
a.	stipends / fellowships / awards in international competitions	5 pts	
b.	the best Alumnus award (university level)	5 pts	
c.	stipends / fellowships / awards in national competition	max 5 pts	
d.	the best Alumnus award (faculty level)	4 pts	
e.	a stipend of the University Rector (Chancellor) or equivalent	3 pts	

5. Grades/Average	max 15 pts
<p>5.00 or 100% or Polish Diamond Grant – 15 pts [4.75; 5.0) or [95%; 100%) - 14 pts [4.50; 4.75) or [90%; 95%) - 12 pts [4.25; 4.50) or [85%; 90%) - 10 pts [4.00; 4.25) or [80%; 85%) - 8 pts [3.75; 4.00) or [70%; 80%) - 4 pts <3.75 or < 70% - 0 pts</p> <p>for two level (3+2 or similar) higher education leading to a Master’s diploma, a time-weighted average will be used to calculate the average grade: $AG = (t_1 * AG_1 + t_2 * AG_2) / (t_1 + t_2)$</p>	
<p>Minimum number of points required (but not guaranteed) for AST admission</p>	<p>50 pts</p>