

**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  
2024/2025**

In AST, graduate students prepare PhD theses in one of the following **seven 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)
- **veterinary medicine** (Faculty of Biological and Veterinary Sciences)

| Recruitment stage  | Deadline                 |
|--|--------------------------|
| Registration in the IRK online system<br><a href="#">Studies - IRK (umk.pl)</a>  | 10-24.06.2024 (23:59)    |
| Document submission to AST Office:<br>Collegium Humanisticum, Bojarskiego 1, Room C.0.32 /<br><a href="mailto:ast@umk.pl">ast@umk.pl</a> | 17.06.-3.07.2024 (15:00) |
| Interviews with candidates<br>(internet allowed, individual schedule)  | 8-16.07.2024             |
| Results are announced:<br><a href="https://www.phd.umk.pl/ast/">https://www.phd.umk.pl/ast/</a>  | until 19.07.2024         |

**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 list of projects.**

*(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:**

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Application form – printed out from the IRK system and signed by the candidate   |
| 2  | Scientific CV in English   |
| 3  | 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  |
| 4  | 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 15<sup>th</sup> 2024</u>   |
| 5  | If your diploma is issued by a state which has signed the Hague convention ( <a href="https://www.aina.pl/legalizacja-czy-apostille-konwencja-haska">https://www.aina.pl/legalizacja-czy-apostille-konwencja-haska</a> ): authorization in the form of Apostille<br>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 |
| 6  | For foreign students: a copy of the visa, or the residency card, or another document granting the right to stay in Poland  |
| 7  | An English or Polish translation of the Master of Science diploma (by a certified translator)  |
| 8  | A short summary of the Master's Thesis (in English or Polish)  |
| 9  | A list of co-authored papers (including hard copies or pdf files)  |
| 10 | A list of research projects funded by grants (international, national, local) on which the candidate was working (a written confirmation is required)  |
| 11 | 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)  |
| 12 | A list of research projects conducted by the candidate for external entities   |
| 13 | A list of distinctions, awards, fellowships, and other honors (a written confirmation / copy of the diploma is required)   |
| 14 | 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  |
| 15 | 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  |
| 16 | A signed declaration, committing the candidate, if accepted and while at AST, to not undertake studies in other Doctoral Schools   |
| 17 | Two recommendation letters (optional, but recommended)   |
| 18 | Grade average (GPA) statement (an example: <a href="https://www.phd.umk.pl/en/ast/recruitment/">https://www.phd.umk.pl/en/ast/recruitment/</a> )   |
| 19 | A statement on the grading scale used in the foreign university issuing the MSc diploma  |

## Candidate application scoring and assessment:

|  |   |            |                   |
|--|---|------------|-------------------|
| <b>1. Interview</b>                            |   |            | <b>max 60 pts</b> |
| 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 |                   |
| <b>2. Scientific achievements</b>              |   |            | <b>max 15 pts</b> |
| 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  |                   |
| <b>3. Participation in scientific projects</b> |   |            | <b>max 5 pts</b>  |
| 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       |                   |
| <b>4. Awards and stipends</b>                  |   |            | <b>max 5 pts</b>  |
| 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      |                   |
| <b>5. Grades/Average</b>                       |   |            | <b>max 15 pts</b> |

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

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:

$$AG = (t_1 * AG_1 + t_2 * AG_2) / (t_1 + t_2)$$

**Minimum number of points required (but not guaranteed) for AST admission**

**50 pts**