

Lodz, 18 September 2023

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of changes in legal regulations concerning doctoral students. By virtue of the Act of 28 July 2023 amending the Act - Teachers' Charter and certain other acts, several key changes for doctoral students have been introduced in the Act of 20 July 2018 - Law on Higher Education and Science (i.e. Journal of Laws 2023 item 742 as amended, hereinafter: PSWiN), in particular:

1. Article 209.10, which provided for the prohibition of employment of a doctoral student as an academic teacher or researcher, has been repealed.

In the previously applicable wording of Article 209.10 of the PSWiN, a doctoral student could not be employed as an academic teacher or researcher. The restriction did not apply to the employment of a doctoral student in several cases listed: in order to implement a research project; after a successful mid-term evaluation (with the reservation that in the case of employment exceeding half-time, the amount of the scholarship shall be 40% of the monthly scholarship rate), or in the case of a doctoral student who was not entitled to a doctoral scholarship.

As of 1 October 2023, changes will take effect that completely repeal all of the above regulations, meaning that a doctoral student will be able to take up employment as an academic teacher or researcher, and their doctoral scholarship will not be reduced to 40% of the monthly base amount. The only reservation with regard to the doctoral scholarship has been introduced as follows.

2. Change to the provision of Article 209.1a of the PSWiN, which specified the situation in which a doctoral student lost the right to the payment of a doctoral scholarship.

In the previously applicable wording of Article 209(1a), if a doctoral student took up employment as an academic teacher or researcher in a research project and with a remuneration higher than 150% of the amount of the doctoral scholarship applicable, then the doctoral student would lose the right to this scholarship payable through the doctoral school.

From 1 October 2023 on, the new wording of this provision will come into effect, which will make the doctoral student lose of the right to receiving doctoral scholarship only in the case of taking up employment based on an employment contract with an entity running a doctoral school, with a reservation that the **employment results from such an obligation, especially if it is set by agreements and regulations of scientific project(s)** providing remuneration which exceeds that of a professor, which currently amounts to PLN 7210.

3. clarification has been introduced concerning the proceedings fee for the doctoral degree award procedure

The provision of Article 182(4) PSWiN, as being in force from 1 October 2023, stipulates that the fee for proceedings for the award of a doctoral degree shall not be charged in a higher education institution, an institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, a research institute or an international institute to an applicant for a doctoral degree who has submitted a dissertation prepared as part of training in a doctoral school operated by that entity or jointly with another entity.

The above communication is intended to clarify that a person who has completed training at a doctoral school will not bear the costs of the award procedure of a doctoral degree only if the procedure is initiated at the entity at which he or she completed the doctoral school (graduates of the doctoral school at the University of Lodz may therefore proceed, at no cost, with the procedure of awarding a doctoral degree before the relevant bodies at the University of Lodz, and in the case of the BioMedChem Doctoral School – also at the institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences co-forming their particular doctoral school).