

Regulation on the Extension of the Postdoctoral Excellence Fellowship

I. Purpose of the Regulation

The purpose of this regulation is to define the principles, conditions, and procedures under which the University of Debrecen may extend the Postdoctoral Excellence Fellowship. The extension may be granted exclusively to top-performing fellows whose research achievements significantly exceed the minimum expectations for a completed PhD degree.

The extension mechanism aims to:

- support internationally competitive early-career researchers,
- strengthen high-impact research at the University,
- promote the development of an independent research profile,
- encourage financial co-responsibility from faculties, institutes, and research groups,
- and ensure that extended support is awarded only in cases of demonstrated excellence and strategic value.

II. Eligibility for Extension

To be eligible for an extension of the Postdoctoral Excellence Fellowship, the fellow must:

- Have completed or be nearing completion of the initial fellowship period at the University of Debrecen.
- Have fulfilled all contractual obligations during the initial fellowship, including research, teaching, reporting, and participation in departmental activities.
- Demonstrate scientific performance significantly exceeding PhD-level expectations.
- Show evidence of increasing research independence (e.g., first/corresponding authorship, external collaborations).
- Maintain an active program of research affiliated with the University.
- Submit all required application materials as defined in this regulation.

III. Scientific Performance Requirements

Extensions are granted exclusively to fellows whose research performance places them among the strongest early-career researchers internationally. The University sets clear quantitative and qualitative performance thresholds.

A. Minimum Publication Requirements

- Minimum of 4 Q1 publications during the first postdoc period at the University of Debrecen.
- At least 2 publications must be in D1 journals.
- Authorship expectations:
 - ✓ at least 1 D1 publication must be first-author,
 - ✓ at least 2 Q1 publications in total must be first-author (the D1 publication may be included).

The Q1/D1-based publication requirements defined in this regulation primarily apply to disciplines where these international journal ranking systems are standard (e.g., natural sciences, engineering, medical and life sciences).

In fields where publication practices differ substantially (e.g., humanities, law, and certain areas of the social sciences), the Committee shall apply discipline-adapted criteria, relying on the established quality indicators of the field (such as peer-reviewed monographs published by reputable international academic presses, peer-reviewed book chapters, or high-ranked field-specific journals).

This ensures that the evaluation remains academically relevant, fair, and aligned with the methodological and publication norms of each research domain.

These expectations align with international standards for competitive postdoctoral fellows.

B. Additional Indicators of Excellence

- participation in national or international grant proposals,
- supervision of MSc/PhD students,
- invited conference presentations,
- international collaborations,
- contributions to strategic university research goals.
- intellectual property outputs, particularly filed or granted patents, which demonstrate the researcher's independent innovation activity and contribute to the University's intellectual property and technology transfer portfolio.

IV. Financing and Co-Funding of the Extension

The extension of the Postdoctoral Excellence Fellowship follows a shared financing model between the University and the hosting unit (faculty, institute, or research group). Longer extensions are only possible when the hosting unit demonstrates a meaningful financial commitment.

This structure aligns with international practice in competitive postdoctoral programs, where institutional co-funding is standard for multi-year.

To ensure transparency and fairness, the University contribution increases progressively with institutional co-funding according to a simple and monotonic rule:

Let D be the requested extension duration (6, 12, 18, or 24 months).

University contribution:

$$U(D) = 2 + 0.5 \times D$$

Institutional contribution:

$$I(D) = D - U(D)$$

This model ensures that:

- longer extensions require higher institutional investment,
- the University contribution increases with institutional commitment,
- the total support remains predictable and rational,
- and the mechanism rewards research groups willing to co-invest in excellence.

Financing structure:

Extension (month)	University (month)	Host Unit (month)	University Share (%)	Host Unit Share (%)
6	5	1	83.3%	16.7%
12	8	4	66.7%	33.3%
18	11	7	61.1%	38.9%
24	14	10	58.3%	41.7%

No extension is granted without institutional co-funding.

The Host Unit's required financial contribution may be fulfilled, in whole or in part, from publication-based support awarded by the University of Debrecen in the framework of the Research Support Program.

V. Application Procedure

To request an extension, the fellow must submit:

1. Updated academic CV with full publication list.
2. Detailed performance report (max. 5 pages).
3. Research plan for the extension period (3–4 pages).
4. Supervisor's recommendation letter.
5. Institutional Funding Declaration confirming commitment.
6. Statement from the fellow confirming continued availability for research, teaching, and departmental duties.

Applications are evaluated by the University's Research and Scientific Excellence Committee. External experts may be consulted if necessary.

Evaluation criteria include:

- scientific excellence,
- research independence,
- publication quality and impact,
- feasibility of the proposed work,
- strategic value to the University,
- level of institutional co-funding.