

DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

Eligibility for the scholarship:

A doctoral student of the Doctoral School of the University of Szczecin who does not hold a doctoral degree is entitled to a doctoral scholarship under the rules set out in Article 209 of the Law on Higher Education and Science. Doctoral student status is acquired upon taking the oath and commencing education at the Doctoral School.

Scholarship period:

The doctoral scholarship is paid for 12 months per year.

The total period for which a doctoral scholarship may be received may not exceed 4 years (48 months). This period also includes any period during which the doctoral student received a doctoral scholarship in connection with education at another doctoral school. This means that periods of receiving a doctoral scholarship at different doctoral schools are added together and may not exceed a total of 48 months. The period of suspension of education referred to in § 24 of the Regulations of the Doctoral School of the University of Szczecin, as well as the period of education at a doctoral school in the case referred to in Article 206(2) of the Act of 20 July 2018 – Law on Higher Education and Science, is not included in this period.

A doctoral student who submits their doctoral dissertation earlier than the completion date of education specified in the education programme is entitled to receive the doctoral scholarship until the date on which the education completion deadline expires, but for no longer than 6 months.

Payment of the doctoral scholarship ceases on the last day of the month in which the decision to remove the doctoral student from the doctoral student register becomes final or in which the 48-month scholarship entitlement period expires.

Amount and payment of the doctoral scholarship:

The minimum monthly doctoral scholarship is:

- **37% of the minimum salary of a professor** – until the month in which the mid-term evaluation is conducted;
- **57% of the minimum salary of a professor** – after the month in which the mid-term evaluation is conducted.

In 2026, the minimum salary of a professor is PLN 9,650, therefore the scholarship amounts to:

- **PLN 3,570.50 gross per month** – before the mid-term evaluation;

- **PLN 5,500.50 gross per month** – after the mid-term evaluation.

The basis for calculating social security contributions on doctoral scholarship income is the amount of the doctoral scholarship received, in accordance with the provisions governing the social security system.

If the doctoral student voluntarily joins sickness insurance, the relevant contribution is also deducted from the scholarship.

The doctoral scholarship is paid monthly, by the 15th day of each month. However, the scholarship for October may be paid by 30 November.

Increase in the doctoral scholarship:

A doctoral student **holding a disability certificate or a certificate of disability level** referred to in Articles 5 and 62 of the Act of 27 August 1997 on Vocational and Social Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities receives a doctoral scholarship increased **by 30%** of the amount specified in paragraph 7(1) of the Regulations of the Doctoral School of the University of Szczecin. In 2026, this amounts to **PLN 1,071.15 gross**.

Suspension of education and the doctoral scholarship:

Education is suspended, at the doctoral student's [request](#) submitted to the Director, for a period corresponding to the duration of maternity leave, additional maternity leave, leave on the terms of maternity leave, paternity leave, and parental leave, as specified in the Act of 26 June 1974 – Labour Code (Journal of Laws of 2025, item 277, as amended), provided that the conditions for granting such leave are met.

When submitting the request, the doctoral student is required to present the child's birth certificate or a certificate from a doctor specifying the expected date of delivery.

During the period of suspension of education, the doctoral student retains the right to the doctoral scholarship. The amount of the scholarship is determined in accordance with the provisions governing the calculation of maternity allowance, except that the basis for calculating the allowance is the amount of the monthly doctoral scholarship to which the doctoral student was entitled on the date of submitting the application for suspension of education.

Within one month of the end of the suspension period, the doctoral student is required to submit a [declaration](#) to the Director confirming that they are resuming their education. Failure to submit the declaration within this period is deemed to constitute failure to resume education at the Doctoral School of the University of Szczecin.

DOCTORAL STUDENT INSURANCE:

SOCIAL SECURITY INSURANCE:

A doctoral student receiving a doctoral scholarship is subject to compulsory social security insurance covering:

- retirement pension insurance;
- disability pension insurance;
- accident insurance.

Sickness insurance is **voluntary**, and a doctoral student may be covered by it upon request in [OŚWIADCZENIE / DECLARATION \(ZUS / NFZ / stypendium doktoranckie / doctoral scholarship\)](#).

For doctoral students who have an established entitlement to a disability pension, special rules concerning social security coverage apply, as set out in the provisions governing the social security system.

The basis for calculating social security contributions for doctoral students is the amount of the doctoral scholarship received.

The doctoral student finances the following contributions from the scholarship:

- retirement pension contribution – 9.76% of the assessment basis;
- disability pension contribution – 1.50% of the assessment basis;
- sickness contribution – 2.45% of the assessment basis, if the doctoral student has voluntarily joined sickness insurance.

The **accident insurance** contribution is financed by the entity operating the doctoral school.

A doctoral student who does not receive a doctoral scholarship is not covered by social security insurance on account of receiving such a scholarship, and no social security contributions are calculated on this basis.

This applies in particular to doctoral students who have exhausted the total 48-month period for receiving a doctoral scholarship and doctoral students who are continuing their education during an extension period.

However, the absence of a doctoral scholarship does not preclude the possibility of being covered by health insurance on the basis of doctoral student status if the doctoral student has no other entitlement to health insurance.

HEALTH INSURANCE

A doctoral student is covered by health insurance on the basis of their doctoral student status if they do not have another entitlement to compulsory health insurance and have not been registered for health insurance as a family member of an insured person.

In the case of doctoral students who have another entitlement to health insurance or who have been registered for health insurance as a family member of an insured person, health insurance on the basis of doctoral student status does not apply.

Doctoral students who are citizens of a European Union Member State or a member state of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland) are entitled to free healthcare services and **are covered by health insurance.**

An exception applies to doctoral students who have another entitlement to such insurance or who are registered for health insurance as “family members”¹ of an insured person.

Doctoral students who are foreign nationals from outside the EU obtain health insurance in Poland by concluding a voluntary health insurance agreement with the relevant branch of the National Health Fund (NFZ) according to their place of residence and **finance the monthly health insurance contribution themselves**, unless they hold a Pole’s Card (Karta Polaka) or a certificate of Polish origin.

The basis for calculating health insurance contributions for doctoral students is an amount corresponding to the special care allowance provided for under the regulations on family benefits (PLN 620 in 2026).

If a doctoral student **has not yet reached the age of 26** (or, regardless of age, if they hold a certificate of significant disability or an equivalent certificate), they should first be registered for health insurance as a family member of an insured person. If the doctoral student **does not have family-member status with an insured person**, they are covered **by health insurance on the basis of their doctoral student status**.

¹ **A family member of an insured person** includes, among others:

- the insured person's biological child;
- the insured person's spouse's child;
- an adopted child;
- a grandchild or a child for whom the insured person has been appointed as a guardian, or a child placed in foster care or a family-type children's home;

until the child reaches the age of 18, or, if they continue their education at a school, teacher training institution, university or doctoral school, until they reach the age of 26. In the case of a person holding a certificate of significant disability or an equivalent certificate, there is no age limit;

- the spouse (Article 5(3) of the Health Insurance Act).

Doctoral students who reach the age of 26 and do not have health insurance from another source **should submit a declaration to the Doctoral School within 7 days of losing their entitlement to health insurance, requesting coverage under health insurance.**

Coverage will begin on the date the declaration is submitted, but not earlier than the date on which the first semester of education at the Doctoral School begins. **Health insurance coverage expires on the date the doctoral student completes their education at the Doctoral School or is removed from the doctoral student register.**

Important: The right to healthcare services for persons who have completed their education at the Doctoral School expires 4 months after completion of education or removal from the doctoral student register.

Change of details of an insured person

The information submitted to the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS) in insurance documents must be correct and up to date. If the information is incorrect or changes, the doctoral student must report the change within 14 days from the occurrence of the change by submitting a new declaration to the Doctoral School Office.

If, for example, the surname, PESEL number, address, bank account number, type of insurance, or the date on which insurance coverage begins changes (e.g. due to reaching the age of 26 or changing the basis for health insurance coverage), the declaration must be completed by selecting “notification of change”.

In addition, doctoral students are reminded that they must report **any other source of health insurance coverage in addition to the coverage resulting from their doctoral student status** (e.g. starting work under a contract of mandate or an employment contract) in order to avoid being insured with the NFZ under multiple titles at the same time.

Insurance during an extension of the education period

Doctoral students who are continuing their education during an extension period do not receive a doctoral scholarship, but they **may continue to be covered by health insurance provided that they have no other entitlement to such insurance.**