



**UNIwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu**

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Rector

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Member of Rectors' Conference of Polish Academic Institutions

# **DOCTORAL STUDIES**

## **FROM STUDENT TO RESEARCHER**

### ***THE CASE OF POLAND***



# Conference of Rectors of Universities in Poland

	Members	Number of students 30.11.2012
1	<b>Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan</b>	<b>43 249</b>
2	University of Gdansk	28 684
3	University of Silesia in Katowice	29 258
4	University of Wroclaw	28 558
5	University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn	30 337
6	Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun	29 854
7	Opole University	13 268
8	University of Zielona Gora	14 297
9	<b>University of Lodz</b>	<b>41 068</b>
10	Szczecin University	19 725
11	Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin	23 640
12	<b>University of Warsaw</b>	<b>50 707</b>
13	The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin	15 191
14	Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw	17 085
15	<b>Jagiellonian University in Cracow</b>	<b>45 498</b>
16	University of Bialystok	14 742
17	University of Rzeszow	19 613
18	Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz	12 294
19	The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow	3 643
20	The Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce	16 328

**Total**

**497 039**



# ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY – SHORT DESCRIPTION



- Founded in **1919**
- Public, comprehensive university
- One of 3 best Polish universities
- **43 000** students + **1 400** PhD
- **3 000** academic staff (750 professors)
- **15** faculties and **3** independent teaching & research units (branch campuses)



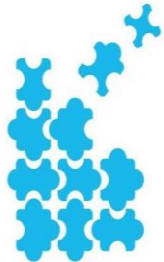
# ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY – SHORT DESCRIPTION



- **70** study programmes I, II cycle
- **17** study programmes at PhD level (taught in Polish) + **5** interdisciplinary PhD studies + **2** international programmes
- More than **7 000** publications/year
- **580** research projects (funded by Poland)
- **40** international research projects



# EUROPA - DOCTORAL STUDIES IN THE **BOLOGNA PROCESS**



EUROPEAN  
Higher Education Area

- Two-stage study was extended to the third degree – PhD  
(The Conference in Berlin, 19.09.2003)
- European Higher Education Area based on three cycles (degrees) studies, each degree is designed to prepare graduates for employment and further expansion (development) of competences  
(Seminar in Salzburg, 3-5.02.2005, Conference in Bergen, 10-20.05.2005)



In Poland, doctoral programmes can be offered by organisational units of HEI which are authorised to confer either the academic degree of *doktor habilitowany* (postdoctoral degree) or the academic degree of *doktor* (PhD) in at least two different disciplines of a given area of science.

The subject of the offered doctoral programmes must correspond to the field of scientific disciplines in which the institution has the right to award degrees.



- ***full-time studies***

form of Higher Education, in which at least half of the training program is implemented in the form of classes requiring direct participation of academic teachers and PhD Candidate  
(*Law PoSW Art. 2.12*)

- ***part-time studies***

form of Higher Education, other than full-time, appointed by the University senate  
(*Law PoSW Art. 2.13*)



- AMU regulations provide more detailed requirements, in particular concerning consistent description of the programme objectives and the learning outcomes, and the admission rules.

**Doctoral education has to be based on research.**

- Thus an important part of PhD programmes consists of individual research work of doctoral students under the supervision of a supervisor.



# STATISTICS

## – DOCTORAL STUDENTS IN POLAND

THE  
QUANTITATIVE  
TREND IS THAT OF  
A LARGE INCREASE  
IN BOTH  
THE NUMBERS OF  
DOCTORAL  
STUDENTS  
AND  
OF DEGREES  
AWARDED

### POLAND

Academic year	TOTAL	FULL TIME	PART TIME
2002/2003	31 000	23 400	7 600
2012/2013	42 300	33 000	9 300

### ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY

Academic year	TOTAL	FULL TIME	PART TIME
2002/2003	1 066	915	151
2012/2013	1 465	1 125	309

# STATUS OF PhD CANDIDATE

## SOME DIFFICULTIES AND CHALLENGES

### FUNDING – inadequate?

- In Poland, doctoral students have a possibility to receive financial support from the national budget (fewer than 50% of Polish doctoral students receive stipends)

*AMU – average 1380 PLN*

- Scholarships funded by the European Structural Funds available by the competition procedure at universities

*AMU – average 3100 PLN*



# STATUS OF PhD CANDIDATE

## SOME DIFFICULTIES AND CHALLENGES

### Additional sources of money for PhD candidates at AMU:

- participation in research projects
- additional „vacation pay” 640 PLN
- teaching at AMU Programme for International Exchange or at part-time studies
- teaching overtime hours
- doing additional work at university





# STATUS OF PhD CANDIDATE

## SOME DIFFICULTIES AND CHALLENGES

### MOBILITY RIGHTS

- AMU PhD students do have mobility rights, although it's difficult to go for a long time visit abroad (the organization of education and teaching process > 60-90 h every academic year)
- rather **short time scientific mission**
- mobility of PhD candidate depends largely on **supervisor's activity** (the crucial role of the supervisor)
- Both national and international mobility of PhD students is relatively low, however international mobility has been increasing in recent years



# MODELS OF SUPERVISION IN POLAND



- 1. Supervisor** – independent researcher (professor, habilitated doctor) active in research, publishing research results within last 5 years; supervisor supports doctoral student in his independent research work
- 2. Auxiliary supervisor** – plays an important supporting role in the care of a PhD Candidate, takes part in: planning research, implementing scientific work, interpreting results. Person with doctoral degree in related discipline which does not have the power to act as a Supervisor
- 3. Promoter + Co-promoter**

# STATUS OF PhD CANDIDATE

## SOME DIFFICULTIES AND CHALLENGES

### MOBILITY – some problems

- Attractiveness of our country  
(the role of international promotion)
- Polish HEI in worldwide rankings
- Polish HEI infrastructure (better and better)
- The labour market for new PhDs in some disciplines is much larger abroad than in Poland  
(the number of academic staff members remained pretty stable) – brain drain?
- The number of foreigners willing to undertake doctoral studies in Polish institutions is constantly growing





# DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CAPACITY VIA COLLABORATIVE DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

## POLISH LAW:

**Created the conditions for joint doctoral dissertations and conducting interdisciplinary studies**

**Adam Mickiewicz University** – a member of many research international groups and mobility networks.

## 2 international doctoral programmes:

- „The PhD program in nanoscience and nanotechnology” (Faculty of Physics)
- „From genome to phenotype: a multidisciplinary approach to functional genomics” (Faculty of Biology)





# DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CAPACITY VIA COLLABORATIVE DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

## Adam Mickiewicz University

5 cotutelle:

(3 universities in France,  
1 – Switzerland,  
1 – Czech Republic)

### Interdisciplinary PhD studies:

- in mathematics
- natural sciences (2)
- economy





The current state of legislation concerning Higher Education in Poland, as long as properly executed, can serve well the needs and requirements of PhD Candidates in terms of their scientific and personal development.





## REQUIREMENTS PROVIDED BY THE POLISH LAW REGULATIONS

- requirements for the unit to offer a doctoral programme
- responsibility of the Scientific council of the unit for a formal and research control of the doctoral programme
- general requirements for the supervisors
- general rules for doctoral education
- general rules for doctoral programme of study
- general rules of an admission process
- general rights and obligations of a PhD student
- general rules for doctoral scholarships



# STATUS OF PhD CANDIDATE

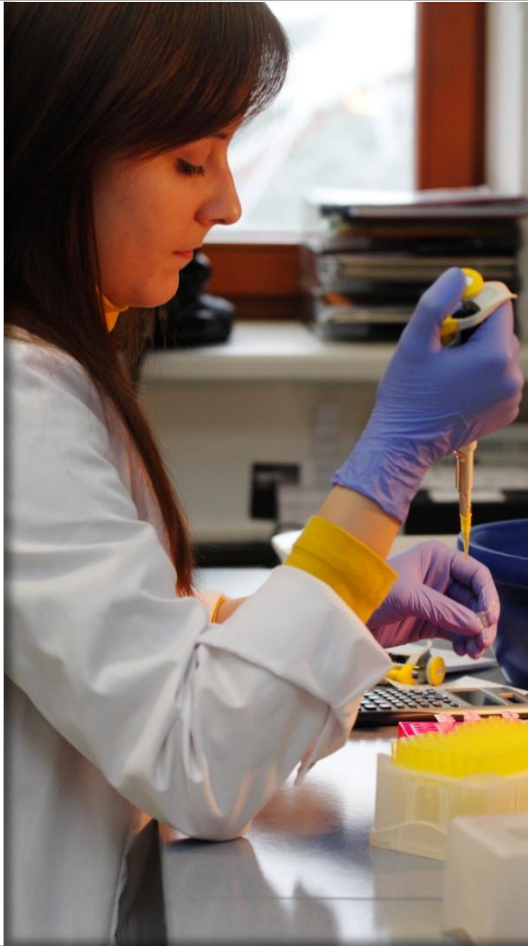
## SOME DIFFICULTIES AND CHALLENGES

### EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

- Doctoral students have some of the privileges of faculty members, including basic social security, healthcare contributions, 8 weeks of summer holidays etc. but do not receive regular salaries and contributions to their pension schemes are not paid,
- Doctoral students have poor chances of being employed in the public academic sector (the number of positions available is very low)
- The production of doctoral students mainly for the outside labour market requires different kind of doctoral programmes from those traditionally focused on providing new entrants to the academic profession



# FACTORS AFFECTING SCIENTIFIC/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



1. Preparing to work in scientific research teams
2. Skills on the methods and the methodology of scientific research
3. Development of social competences  
(doctoral seminars, conference presentations)
4. Improving the scientific writing skills by the preparation of peer-reviewed research papers
5. Writing dissertation