

Koper, March 16, 2026

N°: 2912-4/2026

Unofficial translation¹

University of Primorska, on the basis of Article 19 of the Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, N° 186/21, 40/23, 102/24 and 40/25), the Decree on Scientific Research Funding from the Budget of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, N° 35/22, 144/22 and 79/23), Chapter IV of the General Act on Stable Funding of Scientific Research Activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, N° 87/22, 103/22 – corr. and 3/25), Statute of the University of Primorska (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, N° 51/15 – UPB2, and changes), Chapter IV of the Rules on Stable Funding of Scientific Research Activities of the University of Primorska (002-21/22 on July 21, 2022) and the Criteria for Allocating Funds for Stable Funding of Scientific Research Activities of the University of Primorska (002-9/24 on February 29, 2024), publishes the

CALL FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRIMORSKA IN 2026

1. Purpose of the call

The aim of the instrument of young researchers is to educate and train new generations of researchers. Young researchers will rejuvenate research groups at the University of Primorska (UP) and bring fresh ideas and approaches to the research space that will contribute to the development of scientific research and innovation activity at the UP and beyond in the coming years. As a rule, young researchers carry out doctoral studies at the UP and are trained in the framework of the parent research programmes² at the UP.

2. Subject of the call

The subject of the call is the selection of young researchers who will be trained for the research profession at the UP and will, during their doctoral studies, be involved in research work on the basis of a fixed-term contract.

The training will take place under a programme consisting of a research and study programme. The young researcher will carry out research work under mentorship and within the parent research programme at the UP faculty/institute. Young researchers will carry out their doctoral studies at the UP. Only in

¹ This is an unofficial translation. In the event of any inconsistency between the English translation and the original Slovenian text, the Slovenian version shall prevail.

² For the definition see Article 4 of the Rules on [Stable Funding of Scientific Research Activities of the University of Primorska](#) (002-21/22 on July 21, 2022).

exceptional and duly justified cases can the doctoral study be carried out at another higher education institution.³

In 2026, four vacancies are available for young researchers.

This call is open from March 16, 2026 (sixteenth of March 2026). The call closes on June 16, 2026 (sixteenth of June 2026), at the end of the day.

3. Mentors and research fields

Candidates may apply for vacancies for young researchers under selected mentors, in research fields and in the framework of the UP parent research programmes, as presented in the table⁴:

Mentor	Research field of mentor	Research programme	UP faculty/institute where the young researcher will be trained
Assist. prof. dr. Slobodan Filipovski	Mathematics	P1-0285: Algebra, discrete mathematics, probability account and game theory	UP IAM
Dr. Aleksander Simonič	Mathematics	P1-0404: Mathematical modelling and encryption: from theoretical concepts to everyday applications	UP FAMNIT
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Michael Burnard	Forestry, wood science, and paper science Administrative and organisational sciences	P4-0459: Renewable materials for healthy built environments	UP IAM
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jana Hojnik	Administrative and organisational sciences	P5-0454: Synergy between health, work and education	UP FM

Detailed presentations of mentors and a description of the general content of the training are given in Annex 1 to this call.

4. Conditions for a young researcher

The young researcher must fulfil the conditions laid down in Article 21 of the [Rules on Stable Funding of Scientific Research Activities of the University of Primorska](#) (002-21/22 on July 21, 2022):

1. Completed second-level study programme or an education that corresponds to the level of education obtained through second-level study programmes and is in accordance with the law governing the Slovenian framework of qualifications,⁵ ranked at the 8th level, or a comparable study programme achieved abroad.

³ See paragraph 4 of Article 23 of [Rules on Stable Funding of Scientific Research Activities of UP](#) (002-21/22 on July 21, 2022).

⁴ The table contains links to the SICRIS page, which provides information about the mentor and research programme.

⁵ For further information see the Slovenian [ENIC-NARIC centre](#).

2. Not more than four years have passed from the date of the completed education referred to in the preceding indent until entry into the young researchers funding system.⁶ If the candidate has taken leave arising from parental leave insurance for at least six months, the number of years can be increased from four, by one year for each use of leave. The same applies to longer (at least six months) documented sick leave of the candidate.
3. The candidate must have an average grade of at least 8.00 in all exams and coursework in the second-level study programme (the grade of the Master's thesis is also taken into account). If at the time of concluding a contract the candidate is enrolling in the second or third year of a third-cycle study programme, the average grade of all examinations and coursework of the second-cycle study programmes shall not be deemed relevant.
4. Enrolment in doctoral studies must be carried out through the eVŠ web portal.

Young researcher candidates who are enrolled in an additional year of a third-cycle study programme or who have already used such status, candidates who have already been funded by the young researchers programme and candidates who already hold a doctoral degree, are excluded from the call.

5. Selection criteria

The criteria for assessing candidates for young researchers are set out in Article 22 of the [Rules on Stable Funding of Scientific Research Activities of the University of Primorska](#) (002-21/22 on July 21, 2022) and are:

- the average grade of all examinations and coursework (without thesis) in a university second-cycle study programme;
- enrolment in a third-cycle study programme;
- awards and prizes received;
- published articles;
- participation in research work;
- assessment of an interview with the candidate.

Valuation of the criteria and the score for each position of young researcher shall be determined by the faculties/institute of the UP at which the young researchers will be trained.

Only one candidate can be selected per mentor. In the event of a higher number of candidates, they shall be ranked by the sum of the points scored. The best candidate with the highest points score will be selected. If two candidates achieve the same number of points, priority shall be given to the candidate of the underrepresented sex in a particular research field, insofar as the research field is characterised by an imbalance of UP researchers by sex (more than 60%/40% in favour/disadvantage to one sex).

⁶ Planned date of the entry into the young researchers funding system is the date of employment, which is October 1, 2026.

If the successful candidate withdraws from the candidature or does not deliver the necessary supporting documents by the time limit laid down in the call, the next candidate shall be selected according to the sum of the points obtained.

6. Duration of training

UP will enter into a full-time, fixed-term employment contract with the selected young researchers.

UP shall fund the training of young researchers up to a doctoral degree, for a maximum of four years. The funding period shall be reduced by one year if, at the time of signing the contract, the young researcher is enrolled in the second year of a third-cycle study programme, or by two years if the young researcher is enrolled in the third year of a third-cycle study programme.

The estimated date of employment and the start of training of young researchers is October 1, 2026.

The training will be carried out [in accordance with the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Guidelines on Supervision](#).

7. Non-performance

Termination of training at the request of the young researcher or on the basis of a mutual agreement with the young researcher during the first three months of funding has no financial consequences for the young researcher.

If the young researcher loses their student status, does not complete their studies no later than 12 months after the end of the funding, or prematurely terminates the training at their own request, or in any other case leading to the termination of the employment relationship, the young researcher returns to the faculty/institute of UP in which they were trained, half of the funds paid to cover the tuition fees for their doctoral studies up to the termination of the employment contract, unless the faculty/institute decides that the funds need not be returned.

8. Content of the application

The application must contain a completed and signed application form (UP-MR-Application/2026) and separate annexes.

8.1. Evidence of compliance with the call conditions (mandatory annexes):

1. curriculum vitae,
2. motivational letter,
3. proof of education completed:⁷
 - a photocopy of the graduation certificate or certificate of completion of the study programme with which the candidate is enrolled or will be enrolled in doctoral study, OR
 - a statement that the candidate will graduate and submit the certificate referred to in the previous indent by September 24, 2026 at the latest.

⁷ For candidates who have studied in a second-level study programme at the University of Primorska, proof will be obtained in official duties and therefore these candidates do not have to provide the proof themselves.

If the candidate is not enrolled in a third-cycle study programme for the academic year 2026/27, they provide also:

- official proof of all examinations passed, with grades of examinations and coursework as well as the grade of the Master's thesis,⁸

If the candidate is already enrolled in a third-cycle study programme, they provide also:

- certificate of enrolment in the third-cycle study programme,⁹

If the applicant is claiming an extension of the maximum period of time between the date of graduation and the entry into the young researchers funding system (condition N° 2), they provide also:

- a photocopy of the proof of leave under parental leave insurance, or longer (more than six months) documented sick leave.

8.2. Other supporting documents (optional annexes):

1. proof of prizes or awards received:

- a photocopy of prizes and awards, OR
- a photocopy of the decision to grant the prize or award.

2. proof of published scientific articles (authorship or co-authoring is taken into account):

- printout from the WoS and SCOPUS database, AND/OR
- links to the articles published in magazines or conference publications.

3. a description of participation in research work:

- a letter describing the candidate's previous participation in research work (e.g. research work during the study, research papers, etc.), which must be certified by a professor with whom they collaborated and stamped by a research or higher education organisation.

9. Deadline and method of application

Candidates submit applications and annexes in electronic format (scanned documents in PDF format) **to the e-mail address: razpis.mr@upr.si by June 16, 2026** (sixteenth of June 2026), by the end of the day.

Candidates should indicate in the subject line of the email that it is an application to the Call for the Young researchers at the UP in 2026 and specify the mentor they are applying to work with.

10. Selection of candidates

Timely and complete applications of candidates who meet the call conditions will be included in the selection procedure.

Timely applications are those received at the e-mail address razpis.mr@upr.si by June 16, 2026.

⁸ For candidates who have studied in a second-level study programme at the University of Primorska, proof will be obtained in official duties and therefore these candidates do not have to provide the proof themselves.

⁹ For candidates enrolled in a third-cycle study programme at the University of Primorska, proof will be obtained in official duties and therefore these candidates do not have to provide the proof themselves.

Incomplete applications are those for which it is not possible to tell whether the candidate fulfils the call conditions, or applications for which there is no evidence of compliance with the call conditions (mandatory annexes). Incomplete applications will not be taken into account.

Candidates will be informed of the selection in [accordance with the Employment Relationships Act](#).

11. Communication and information on the results of the call

Communication with candidates will be carried out by e-mail and, if necessary, by telephone, in particular for organisation of a possible personal interview.

Notices of selection will be sent to candidates by e-mail.

The contact details provided in the application form will be used to communicate with candidates. Candidates are recommended to be available at these contacts throughout the selection process and at the time of the selection notice, that is, by August 2026 or early September 2026.

12. Protection of personal data

By submitting the application, the candidate voluntarily provides the required personal data necessary for the purpose of carrying out this call, that is, the evaluation of applications in the selection procedure and the conclusion of an employment contract. In doing so, the candidate gives their consent to the processing of their personal data. UP will ensure the protection of personal data in accordance with sectoral legal acts.¹⁰

The processing of the personal data of the unselected candidates shall cease within 2 years of the date of the final selection decision. Personal data of the selected candidates will be kept permanently in accordance with the Employment Relations Act.

13. Call documentation

The call documents are comprised of:

1. Call for young researchers at the University of Primorska in 2026, with
 - Annex 1: Presentations of mentors and description of the general content of the training
2. Application form UP-MR-Application/2026

The call documents are published on the UP website on March 16, 2026, which is also the opening date of this call.

14. Additional information

Candidates may obtain additional information concerning the call from the professional services or at the mentors at these contacts:

¹⁰ For more information, see: <https://www.upr.si/si/o-univerzi/predpisi-in-dokumenti/-varstvo-osebnih-podatkov/>

Mentor and faculty/institute	Telephone N° of faculty/institute	Professional service e-mail	Mentor e-mail
Assist. prof. dr. Slobodan Filipovski UP IAM	+386 (5) 663 66 81	Nataša Bubnič natasa.bubnic@iam.upr.si	slobodan.filipovski@famnit.upr.si
Dr. Aleksander Simonič UP FAMNIT	+386 (5) 663 66 81	Nataša Bubnič natasa.bubnic@iam.upr.si	aleksander.simonic@famnit.upr.si
Assoc. Prof. dr. Michael Burnard UP IAM	+386 (5) 663 66 81	Nataša Bubnič natasa.bubnic@iam.upr.si	michael.burnard@iam.upr.si
Assoc. Prof. dr. Jana Hojnik UP FM	+386 (5) 61 02 007	Mihaela Kosančič mihaela.kosancic@fm.upr.si	jana.hojnik@fm-kp.si

Prof. Dr. Klavdija Kutnar
Rector of the University of Primorska



Annex 1: Presentations of mentors and description of the general content of the training

- **Assist. prof. dr. Slobodan Filipovski**
- **Dr. Aleksander Simonič**
- **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Michael Burnard**
- **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jana Hojnik**



Mentor

Assist. prof. dr. Slobodan Filipovski

Mentor's research area

1.01 Natural sciences and mathematics / Mathematics

UP Member and research programme

UP Andrej Marušič Institute

Research programme P1-0285: Algebra, discrete mathematics, probability and game theory

More information about the mentor

E-mail: slobodan.filipovski@famnit.upr.si

Website: <https://www.famnit.upr.si/sl/o-fakulteti/osebje/slobodan.filipovski/>

Brief description of the research work of the future young researcher

The young researcher will join the research program P1-0285: Algebra, discrete mathematics, probability and game theory. The young researcher will work in the field of **graph theory**, with particular emphasis on **algebraic, structural, and chemical graph theory**. The proposed research may address topics such as extremal problems in graph theory, properties of graphs with prescribed symmetry or regularity, graph invariants, spectral parameters, chemical graph invariants and descriptors, as well as selected questions concerning special classes of graphs and their combinatorial structure. The project is intended to provide advanced training in contemporary discrete mathematics through rigorous theoretical work, the development of original methods, and, where appropriate, the use of computational techniques in support of mathematical investigation.

Projects and programmes on which the young researcher will be trained:

Project ID	Project name and link	Project dates
P1-0285	Algebra, discrete mathematics, probability and game theory	1.1.2022 to 31.12.2027

Desirable field of study of the candidate for young researcher:

Enrolment in the doctoral study program Mathematical Sciences (3rd cycle) at UP FAMNIT (<https://www.famnit.upr.si/en/education/doctoral/mathematical-sciences/>)

Research area:

Mathematics

Other desired skills and competencies:

Active knowledge of the English language

Useful links

- Website of UP FAMNIT (UP Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies): <https://www.famnit.upr.si/en>
- Website of UP IAM (UP Andrej Marušič Institute): <https://www.iam.upr.si/en>



Mentor

Dr. Aleksander Simonič

Mentor's research area

1.01 Natural sciences and mathematics / Mathematics

UP Member and research programme

UP Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies

Research programme P1-0285: Algebra, discrete mathematics, probability and game theory

More information about the mentor

E-mail: aleksander.simonic@famnit.upr.si

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/simonicaleksander>

Brief description of the research work of the future young researcher

The young researcher will join the research program P1-0404: Mathematical modelling and encryption: from theoretical concepts to real-life applications.

The young researcher will work in analytic number theory, with a focus on the Riemann zeta-function and related Dirichlet L-functions, especially on questions concerning their values, logarithmic derivatives, zeros in and near the critical strip, and the implications of these phenomena for the distribution of prime numbers. The project can combine classical methods from complex analysis with explicit and effective techniques, aiming not only for theoretical results but also for concrete numerical bounds and formulas. This research area offers a strong entry point into modern number theory.

Projects and programmes on which the young researcher will be trained:

Project ID	Project name and link	Project dates
P1-0404	Mathematical modelling and encryption: from theoretical concepts to real-life applications	1.1.2022 to 31.12.2027

Desirable field of study of the candidate for young researcher:

Enrolment in the doctoral study program Mathematical Sciences (3rd cycle) at UP FAMNIT (<https://www.famnit.upr.si/en/education/doctoral/mathematical-sciences/>)

Research area:

Mathematics

Other desired skills and competencies:

Active knowledge of the English language

Useful links

- Website of UP FAMNIT (UP Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies): <https://www.famnit.upr.si/en>



Mentor

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Michael Burnard

Mentor's research area

4.01 Biotechnical sciences / Forestry, wood science, and paper science

5.04.00 Social Sciences / Administrative and Organizational Sciences

UP Member and research programme

UP Andrej Marušič Institute

Research programme P4-0459 **Renewable materials for healthy built environments**

More information about the mentor

E-mail: michael.burnard@iam.upr.si

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9357-0819>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=QRGCgfEAAAAJ&hl=en>

Brief description of the research work of the future young researcher

The young researcher will investigate how perceptions of underutilised wood shape opportunities for its use to better link recovered wood and species with limited use to better use cases. These findings will flow into experiments in office-like environments built in the lab involving human subjects that investigate how multisensory experiences of wood influence comfort, cognitive performance and psychophysiological indicators of wellbeing. The findings will be used to provide designers with guidance on design with wood in interior settings to optimise these spaces for occupant wellbeing and performance.

Projects and programmes on which the young researcher will be trained:

Project ID	Project name and link	Project dates
Horizon 101181021	WoodStock	1.11.2024 to 31.10.2028
P4-0459	Obnovljivi materiali za zdrava grajena okolja	1.1.2025 to 31.12.2027
N2-0386	Dizajn, ki ga navdihuje narava za dobro počutje ljudi	1.1.2024 to 31.12.2026
I0-0035	Infrastrukturna skupina Univerze na Primorskem	1.1.2022 to 31.12.2027
N5-0487	Where do you go to recharge your mind? Exploring restorative environments in two historic towns in Hungary and Slovenia	1.3.2026 to 28.2.2029

Desirable field of study of the candidate for young researcher:

Enrolment in the doctoral study program Renewable Materials for Healthy Built Environments (3rd cycle) at UP FAMNIT (<https://www.famniti.upr.si/en/education/doctoral/renew-mat>)

Research area:

Cognitive Neuroscience

Psychology



Architecture
Design

Useful links

- Website of UP IAM (UP Andrej Marušič Institute): <https://www.iam.upr.si/en>



Mentor

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jana Hojnik

Mentor's research area

5.04.00 Social Sciences / Administrative and Organizational Sciences

UP Member and research programme

UP Faculty of Management

Research program P5-0454 **Synergies between health, work and education**

More information about the mentor

E-mail: jana.hojnik@fm-kp.si

ResearchGate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jana-Hojnik>

Brief description of the research work of the future young researcher

The young researcher will work at the intersection of the research program entitled Synergy between Health, Work and Education and the mentor's field of research related to sustainability and entrepreneurship. The research work will focus on one of the following areas: sustainable development, entrepreneurship, digitalization. In research, the young researcher will study the relationships between the concepts posed. Work with research data, qualitative and quantitative studies is expected. Therefore, knowledge of structural modeling (SEM) and other methods is highly desirable. The researcher will have the opportunity to participate in the research group and in other projects where the mentor is involved. The researcher will also be involved in international research networks and actively participate in the preparation of scientific publications and research project applications.

Desirable field of study of the candidate for young researcher :

The field of management. Enrolment in the doctoral study program Management 3rd degree at UP FM https://www.fm-kp.si/en/study/programmes_in_english/doctoral_study_programme_in_management

Research area:

5.04.00 Social Sciences / Administrative and Organizational Sciences

Other desired knowledge and competences:

Active knowledge of English

Proficiency in programs such as SPSS and SEM and other similar

Skills in MS Office

Useful links

- Website of UP Faculty of Management: <https://www.fm-kp.si/en>