

Koper, March 11, 2025

N°: 2991-1/2025

### Unofficial translation

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 and 102/24), 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, 88/15, 63/16, 2/17, 31/17, 77/18, 75/19, 28/21, 115/21, 122/22, 100/23, 36/24 and 3/25), 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 2025

### 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 programmes<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

In 2025, three vacancies are available for young researchers.

This call is open from March 17, 2025 (seventeenth of March 2025). The call closes on June 16, 2025 (sixteenth of June 2025), 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 table<sup>3</sup>:

Mentor	Research field of mentor	Research programme	UP faculty/institute where the young researcher will be trained
<a href="#">Bojan Kuzma</a>	Mathematics	<a href="#">P1-0285: Algebra, discrete mathematics, probability account and game theory</a>	UP IAM, UP FAMNIT
<a href="#">Ademir Hujdurović</a>	Mathematics	<a href="#">P1-0404: Mathematical modelling and encryption: from theoretical concepts to everyday applications</a>	UP IAM, UP FAMNIT
<a href="#">Žiga Kozinc</a>	Sport	<a href="#">P5-0443: Kinesiology for the effectiveness and prevention of musculoskeletal injuries in sports</a>	UP FVZ

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,<sup>4</sup> ranked at the 8<sup>th</sup> level, or a comparable study programme achieved abroad.
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.<sup>5</sup> If the candidate has taken leave arising from parental leave insurance for at least six months, the number of years can

<sup>2</sup> See paragraph 4 of Article 23 of [Rules on Stable Funding of Scientific Research Activities of UP](#) (002-21/22 on July 21, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> The table contains links to the SICRIS page, which provides information about the mentor and research programme.

<sup>4</sup> For further information see the Slovenian [ENIC-NARIC centre](#).

<sup>5</sup> Planned date of the entry into the young researchers funding system is the date of employment, which is October 1, 2025.

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).

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, 2025.

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/2025) 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: <sup>6</sup>
  - 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 10, 2025 at the latest.

If the candidate is not enrolled in a third-cycle study programme for the academic year 2025/26, 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,<sup>7</sup>

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

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<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

- certificate of enrolment in the third-cycle study programme,<sup>8</sup>

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](mailto:razpis.mr@upr.si) by June 16, 2025** (sixteenth of June 2025), by the end of the day.

### 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](mailto:razpis.mr@upr.si) by June 16, 2025.

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.

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<sup>8</sup> 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.



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 2025 or early September 2025.

## 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.<sup>9</sup>

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 2025, with
  - Annex 1: Presentations of mentors and description of the general content of the training
2. Application form UP-MR-Application/2025

The call documents are published on the UP website on March 17, 2025, 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:

Mentor and faculty/institute	Telephone N° of faculty/institute	Professional service e-mail	Mentor e-mail
UP IAM, UP FAMNIT	+386 (5) 611 75 90	Sandra Penko sandra.penko@upr.si	<a href="mailto:bojan.kuzma@upr.si">bojan.kuzma@upr.si</a>
UP IAM, UP FAMNIT	+386 (5) 611 75 90	Sandra Penko sandra.penko@upr.si	<a href="mailto:ademir.hujdurovic@upr.si">ademir.hujdurovic@upr.si</a>
UP FVZ	+386 (5) 662 64 72	Monika Marinko monika.marinko@fvz.upr.si	<a href="mailto:ziga.kozinc@fvz.upr.si">ziga.kozinc@fvz.upr.si</a>

Prof. Klavdija Kutnar, PhD  
Rector of the University of Primorska

<sup>9</sup> For more information, see: <https://www.upr.si/si/o-univerzi/predpisi-in-dokumenti-varstvo-osebni-podatkov/>



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

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- **Prof. Bojan Kuzma, PhD**
- **Prof. Ademir Hujdurović, PhD**
- **Assist. Prof. Žiga Kozinc, PhD**



## Mentor

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Prof. Bojan Kuzma, PhD

## Research field

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Mathematics

## UP faculty/institute and the research programme

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UP Andrej Marušič Institute

UP Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies

Research programme: P1-0285 Algebra, discrete mathematics, probability and game theory (Leader Prof. Štefko Miklavič, PhD)

## Other information about the mentor

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E-mail: [bojan.kuzma@upr.si](mailto:bojan.kuzma@upr.si)

## A brief description of the future young researcher training

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### The framework of the training programme:

The Young Researcher (YR) will join the research program P1-0285 focused on Algebra, Discrete Mathematics, Probability Calculus, and Game Theory. In addition to this program, YR will participate in various listed research projects and numerous bilateral projects implemented at UP IAM (<https://www.iam.upr.si/en/research>) and UP FAMNIT (<https://www.famniti.upr.si/en/research>). YR will also be involved in applying for new projects and organizing international conferences at both UP IAM and UP FAMNIT. The research team that YR will be part of has extensive collaborative efforts with similar groups around the world, including in the USA, Canada, Spain, China, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Austria, Russia, Slovakia, Italy, and Hungary. YR will actively engage in international scientific and research collaborations.

The research program encompasses several areas at the intersection of functional analysis and graph theory. YR's primary focus will be investigating the graph related to the Birkhoff-James orthogonality relation as part of his training. The objective of this research is to determine the extent to which Birkhoff-James orthogonality can classify finite-dimensional  $C^*$ -algebras among all normed spaces and to explore its isomorphisms in the context of real, finite-dimensional  $C^*$ -algebras. Additionally, we aim to assess whether Birkhoff-James orthogonality can classify reflexive Banach spaces. The main tools used for this research will include local symmetry, which involves classifying left-symmetric or right-symmetric elements in the Birkhoff-James orthogonality graph. We will also count the lengths of chains formed by outgoing neighborhoods and ordered relative to set-inclusion.

### List of research programmes and projects:

Code	Title	Duration
P1-0285	<a href="#">Algebra, discrete mathematics, probability and game theory</a>	1/1/2022 – 12/31/2027

### Preferable area of study for the young researcher:

Mathematical Sciences, doctoral degree study programme Mathematical Sciences, UP FAMNIT  
(<https://www.famnit.upr.si/en/education/doctoral>)

**Other useful skills and competences for the position:**

English language (advance - intermediate level)

**Useful links**

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



## Mentor

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Prof. Ademir Hujdurović, PhD

## Research field

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Mathematics

## UP faculty/institute and the research programme

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UP Andrej Marušič Institute

UP Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies

Research programme: [P1-0404 Mathematical modelling and encryption: from theoretical concepts to everyday applications](#)

## Other information about the mentor

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E-mail: [ademir.hujdurovic@upr.si](mailto:ademir.hujdurovic@upr.si)

Website: <https://osebje.famnit.upr.si/~ademir.hujdurovic/>

## A brief description of the future young researcher training

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### The framework of the training programme:

The Young Researcher (YR) will join the research program P1-0404: “Mathematical modelling and encryption: from theoretical concepts to real-life applications” and the research projects listed below, as well as numerous bilateral projects conducted at UP IAM (<https://www.iam.upr.si/en/research>) and UP FAMNIT (<https://www.famnit.upr.si/en/research>).

The research group in which the YR will be trained has an extensive research collaboration with similar groups abroad (USA, Canada, Spain, China, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Austria, Russia, Slovakia, Italy, and Hungary). The YR will actively participate in international scientific research cooperation.

Within the research program and projects, various areas of algebraic graph theory are studied. The YR will primarily focus on researching the structural properties of graphs concerning graph symmetries. The research will involve characterizing graphs with special properties within certain classes of vertex-transitive graphs, such as Cayley graphs and circulants. Special emphasis will be placed on studying expected symmetries of canonical double covers and the asymptotic analysis of the number of graphs with a given type of symmetry.

### List of research programmes and projects:

Code	Title	Duration
P1-0404	<a href="#">Mathematical modelling and encryption: from theoretical concepts to real-life applications</a>	1.1.2019 – 31.12.2024
J1-60012	<a href="#">Linear codes through special classes of functions–relationship and design</a>	1.1.2025 - 31.12.2027
J1-50000	<a href="#">Hamilton cycles with rotational symmetry in connected vertex-transitive graphs</a>	1.10.2023 - 30.9.2026



N1-0353	<a href="#">Some applications of t-point counts in algebraic and combinatorial graph theory from the point of view of association schemes</a>	1.1.2024 - 31.12.2025
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**Preferable area of study for the young researcher:**

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

**Other useful skills and competences for the position:**

Active knowledge of the English language

**Useful links**

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



## Mentor

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Assist. Prof. Žiga Kozinc, PhD

## Research field

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5.10.03. Social Sciences / Sport/ Kinesiology - biomechanical, biometrical aspect

## UP faculty/institute and the research programme

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UP Faculty of Health Sciences

Research programme: [P5-0443 Kinesiology for the effectiveness and prevention of musculoskeletal injuries in sports](#)

## Other information about the mentor

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E-mail: [ziga.kozinc@fvz.upr.si](mailto:ziga.kozinc@fvz.upr.si)

ResearchGate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ziga-Kozinc>

## A brief description of the future young researcher training

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### The framework of the training programme:

The young researcher will work at the intersection of kinesiology, physiotherapy and medicine, with an emphasis on the diagnosis and rehabilitation of people with neurological disorders. The research work will focus on the evaluation and optimization of therapeutic interventions in selected populations with neurodegenerative or developmental neurological conditions. In the research, the young researcher will study neuromuscular function and evaluate the effectiveness of various physiotherapeutic approaches, such as medical and neurorehabilitation methods, targeted exercise therapy, manual techniques and technologically supported rehabilitation (e.g. functional electrical stimulation, robotic therapies, etc.). The researcher is expected to work with advanced diagnostic and research methods, such as electromyography, movement analysis, dynamometry, ultrasound imaging, neurophysiological methods and clinical scales for the assessment of functional capacity. The young researcher will have the opportunity to participate in clinical research and interdisciplinary projects that combine the fields of physiotherapy, neuroscience, rehabilitation medicine and kinesiology. The researcher will participate in the development of new therapeutic strategies and contribute to guidelines for more effective rehabilitation approaches. The researcher will also be involved in international research networks and actively participate in the preparation of scientific publications and research project applications.

### Preferable area of study for the young researcher:

Field of healthcare and medicine. Enrollment in the doctoral study program Prevention for Health, 3rd level, at UP FVZ (<https://fvz.upr.si/en/study-programmes-and-mobility/prevention-for-health-3rd-cycle/>)

Intertwining research areas:

3.03 Medicine / Neurobiology

5.10.02 and 5.10.03 Social Sciences / Sport/ Kinesiology - biomechanical, biometrical aspect



**Other useful skills and competences for the position:**

Active knowledge of the English language

Proficiency in MS Office software environments

**Useful links**

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- Web site of the UP FVZ: <https://fvz.upr.si/en/faculty/>
- Research areas of the UP FVZ: <https://fvz.upr.si/en/research-2/>

