
TEXT OF THE GUIDELINES FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF A SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH, AND SPORTS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

(April 28, 2026)

University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague	
Designation	**Directive No. A/S/961/3/2026**
Subject	**RESTART Project Rules and Guidelines for the Competition for Return Grants at the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague**
Scope	university-wide
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Cancelled	
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PART ONE

Introductory Provisions

Article 1

1. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as "MEYS"), as the funding authority, approved the RESTART project submitted by the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague (hereinafter referred to as "UCT Prague") for the public call for proposals under the Jan Amos Komenský Operational Program (hereinafter referred to as "OP JAK"), call for proposals "Returns." UCT Prague received a grant for the RESTART project.
2. The University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague (hereinafter referred to as "UCT Prague") hereby establishes the RESTART project fund and sets forth a scheme for return grants to facilitate the return of researchers to research after a career break, which will be provided from the RESTART project fund (hereinafter referred to as the "Guidelines").
3. The return grants to be implemented at UCT Prague are intended to support researchers returning after a career break who are expected to pursue their professional careers at UCT Prague and who hold promise for future development and strengthening of quality in the fields of science and research represented at the faculties and university-wide departments of UCT Prague.
4. The guidelines establish the principles, conditions, and procedures for providing support for return grants.

Article 2

Definitions

1. **The applicant/recipient of the** RESTART **project grant** is the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague.
2. **The RESTART project** is being implemented by the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, as the recipient of a grant provided by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports under the OP JAK program, "Returns" call. The aim of the project is to verify the implementation of the return grant scheme, which is designed to facilitate the return of researchers to scientific and research activities (hereinafter "R&D") following a career break.
3. **The return grant scheme** is defined by this directive, which sets the parameters of the support system for return grants for researchers within the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague.
4. **A return grant** is a research grant funded from the RESTART project fund, which is awarded by the Research and Technology Transfer Office of the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague to researchers returning (i) from maternity leave, (ii) parental leave, (iii) after a career interruption due to long-term care, or (iv) long-term illness.
5. **The proposer of the return grant / principal investigator of the return grant** is a researcher returning from a career break to R&D activities who intends to carry out, is carrying out, or under whose leadership the return grant is being carried out.
6. **Long-term care** is essential long-term personal care provided to a child until the start of compulsory preschool education, i.e., until the end of August of the calendar year in which the child reaches the age of 5, or to a close relative as defined in Section 22(1) of the Civil Code who is in a long-term adverse health condition as defined in Section 3(c) of Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services, as amended.
7. **A career break** is a period lasting at least 180 calendar days during which a researcher was unable to fully perform R&D activities due to maternity or parental leave, long-term care, or long-term illness.

   A researcher is permitted, during their career break, to concurrently perform R&D activities under an employment relationship with the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, for a maximum of 0.3 FTE per month, calculated as an average over the number of months during which this work is performed. However, the researcher's R&D workload during a career break may not exceed 0.5 FTE in any given month. The month in which a researcher begins R&D activities at the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, following their career break is taken into account for the purposes of calculating FTE from the date the researcher begins performing this work. The month in which a researcher ceases their R&D activities at the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, is taken into account up to the date of termination of this work.

   A career break may be interrupted for a period during which the reasons for the personal impediment on the researcher's part have temporarily ceased to exist. The duration of the career break immediately before and after the interruption is added together, provided that the total duration of the interruptions does not exceed 30 calendar days. The minimum duration of a career break of 180 calendar days is extended by the number of calendar days of its interruptions (i.e., in the case of an interruption of 30 calendar days, the career break, including all interruptions, must last at least 210 days).
8. **An eligible applicant (principal investigator)** for **a return grant** is a researcher who, as of the date of submission of the return grant application, has duly completed a doctoral program, i.e., holds a Ph.D. (or its equivalent) and is currently on a career break or no more than 12 months have elapsed since the end of such a break. These facts must be documented by a confirmation from the relevant authority or another equivalent document.

9. **A researcher** generates new knowledge or expands existing knowledge, typically by directing and/or performing activities involving the conception or creation of new knowledge, processes, methods, and systems, and by applying scientific concepts and theories. The characteristics of work activities and minimum qualification requirements are defined in the UCT Prague Job Catalog and its Annex 1, "Designation of Pay Grades 'A,' 'AV,' and 'V' at UCT Prague According to the European Framework for Research Staff (R1–R4)."

10. **A junior researcher** is defined as a researcher who has held a Ph.D. degree for no more than 7 years. This period is extended by the duration of maternity and parental leave, long-term illness (more than 90 days), caregiving for a family member (more than 90 days), pre-certification training, or military service. The applicant for a return grant is required to highlight these facts in their CV and provide supporting documentation (proof of maternity/parental leave, etc.) in the event of an on-site inspection. The 7-year period is calculated from the date of submission of the return grant application.

11. **A senior researcher** is defined as a researcher for whom more than 7 years have elapsed since the award of their Ph.D. degree. This period is extended by the duration of maternity and parental leave, long-term illness (more than 90 days), care for a family member (more than 90 days), pre-certification training, or military service. The applicant for the return grant is required to highlight these facts in their CV and provide supporting documentation (proof of maternity/parental leave, etc.) in the event of an on-site inspection. The 7-year period refers to the date of submission of the return grant application.

12. **The project manager** is responsible for the proper implementation of the RESTART project, coordinates the work of the entire team, and shares responsibility for it with the RESTART project's technical manager, with whom they communicate on an ongoing basis. They directly manage and supervise the activities of the RESTART project's administrative team. They evaluate compliance with the RESTART project schedule and are responsible for ensuring adherence to it, as well as for fulfilling the objectives and purpose of the RESTART project. They are responsible for administering change management processes for the RESTART project and for submitting reports on the implementation of the RESTART project. They are responsible for the formal correctness of submitted outputs. Ensures compliance with publicity rules. Works closely with the financial manager and administrative staff. Communicates with the funding provider and, where applicable, with other supervisory bodies. Provides cooperation in the event of inspections/audits of the RESTART project.

13. **Open Science (OS)** refers to various procedures and principles that help build an open scientific space. The first key pillar of OS is open access to scientific publications, known as Open Access (OA). The second key pillar of OS is open access to research data and responsible research data management throughout the entire research lifecycle, which includes, among other things, organization, storage, preservation, security, quality assurance, assignment of persistent (i.e., permanent) identifiers (PIDs), and licensing. In the process of managing and sharing research data, emphasis is placed on adhering to the so-called FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable). Another fundamental element of open access to research data is that it follows the principle of "as open as possible, as closed as necessary." In addition to the two key pillars mentioned above, open science also encompasses a range of other practices and procedures, such as open source software, the use of Creative Commons open licenses, and the use of electronic laboratory notebooks (ELNs).

PART TWO

Principles for the Management of RESTART Project Funds

Article 3

The RESTART Project Scientific Committee

1. The RESTART Fund Scientific Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “RESTART Scientific Committee”) is hereby established. In order to utilize expertise and streamline the evaluation of the scientific parameters of return grants, it is hereby determined that the role of the RESTART Scientific Committee shall be assumed by the Scientific Committee of the Dagmar Procházková Fund, established in accordance with the rules set forth in internal regulation A/N/961/2/2025 or the regulation replacing it https://www.vscht.cz/veda-a-vyzkum/fond-dagmar-prochazkove. The RESTART Scientific Committee evaluates proposals for return grants and the results of supported return grants, comments on proposed changes to return grants, and decides on measures related to violations of the terms and conditions of return grants.
2. The number of members, the composition of the committee (including the appointment of the chair), and the procedures for their nomination, appointment, and removal correspond to the rules established for the Scientific Committee of the Dagmar Procházková Fund.
3. Meetings of the RESTART Scientific Committee are convened by its chair as needed.
4. The RESTART Scientific Committee makes decisions by vote with at least two-thirds of its members present; a majority of members is required for approval. Within the scope of its authority, it:

    a) discusses proposals for return grants, decides on the assignment of return grant proposals to rapporteurs from among the members of the RESTART Scientific Committee, and approves independent evaluators;

    b) conducts the final evaluation of return grant proposals;

    c) submits proposals for the funding of return grants to the Vice-Rector for Research and Development;

    d) evaluates interim and final reports on return grants;

    provides feedback on proposed changes to return grants.

Article 4

Principles for Providing Financial Support from RESTART Project Funds

1. Funds from the RESTART project are provided for return grants with a minimum duration of one year and a maximum duration of three years, with a maximum annual amount of CZK 3,500,000 per return grant. The budget for each return grant is assessed as part of the submitted proposal and is prepared in accordance with the terms of this directive.
2. The competition for the award of financial support for a maximum of five return grants is announced at least once per calendar year by the Vice-Rector for Research and Development on a date set by him; see Article 5 below.
3. The Vice-Rector for Research and Development decides on the allocation of financial support based on a proposal from the RESTART Scientific Committee.
4. A condition for the allocation of funds to a return grant from the RESTART project is that the principal investigator is employed as a research staff member at the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, as of the start date of the return grant, and that the return grant has been approved by the head of the department and confirmed by the dean/director of the Technopark/the relevant vice-rector in the case of a university-wide department.
5. A prerequisite for commencing the implementation of a return grant and drawing down the allocated funds is the conclusion of an agreement on the implementation of the return grant between the principal investigator and the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, represented by the Vice-Rector for Research and Development. An employment contract will be concluded on the basis of this agreement.

6. Funded return grants will be governed by the open science policy and the internal document Principles for Open Science and Research Data Management in the RESTART Project (Appendix No. 3). Research data obtained under the return grant will be published in accordance with the "as open as possible, as closed as necessary" policy.
7. Activities excluded from financial support:
    a) new construction, building work;
    b) purchases of real estate;
    c) economic activities involving the offering of goods and services on the market (e.g., contract research, provision of research services, etc.);
    d) outsourcing of project activities (the implementation of a supported activity as a whole cannot be assigned to another entity);
    e) instruction within the framework of study programs.

PART THREE

Rules for the Competitive Grant

Article 5

Announcement and Organization of the Competition

1. Support is provided for a scientific return grant, the successful completion of which promises promising research in accordance with the strategic objectives of the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague. The objectives and methodology are determined by the applicant for the return grant in accordance with the infrastructure and personnel resources available at the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, where the return grant is to be implemented.
2. The competition for funding from the RESTART project is not a public competition pursuant to Section 17 et seq. of Act No. 130/2002 Coll., on support for research, experimental development, and innovation from public funds and on amendments to certain related acts (the Act on Support for Research, Experimental Development, and Innovation) or pursuant to Section 1772 et seq. of Act No. 89/2012 Coll., the Civil Code.
3. Funding may not be awarded to a return grant whose implementation or anticipated results constitute classified information within the meaning of Act No. 412/2005 Coll., on the Protection of Classified Information and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended.
4. The competition is announced by a decree of the Rector, which applies across the whole university and the announcement is published, at the earliest possible date after the signing of the decree, on the website of the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, or via other social media. The competition is announced in English. Proposals are accepted in English.
5. The competition announcement specifies:
    a) the maximum number of return grants that may be supported;
    b) the method for submitting a return grant proposal and the requirements for the proposal;
    c) the deadline for submitting return grant proposals;
    d) the date of the announcement of the competition results;
    e) the latest date for commencing work on the return grant.
6. The competition is coordinated by the Vice-Rector for Research and Development and administered by the Department of Research and Technology Transfer at the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague.

Article 6

Eligible Applicants and Principal Investigators for Return Grants

1. An eligible principal investigator is a researcher who has obtained a Ph.D. (or equivalent) and meets the criteria listed below:
   a) is on a career break (see Article 2);
   b) the applicant may be a citizen of the Czech Republic or a foreign national from an EU/EEA country, Switzerland, or a third country with a valid residence permit in the Czech Republic, who has studied in the Czech Republic or has previously worked as a researcher and meets the general conditions for an eligible applicant for a return grant as specified in the call .
2. Each applicant may submit only one return grant proposal in response to this call.
3. Applicants are not restricted from submitting other grant applications to other funding agencies, and the fact that an applicant is or will be a principal investigator or co-investigator of a project at the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, funded by another agency does not constitute grounds for discrimination in the awarding of a return grant.
4. The applicant is not currently the principal investigator of another grant project from calls aimed at supporting researchers returning to work after a career break.
5. An applicant who becomes a principal investigator upon the conclusion of the return grant agreement must, no later than the start date of the return grant, be employed by the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, with a total workload of 0.5 to 1.0, with a job description corresponding to R&D activities at the workplace where the return grant will be implemented.

Article 7

Requirements for the Return Grant Proposal

1. The return grant proposal shall contain all information regarding the material and financial conditions necessary to achieve the objectives of the return grant, which are essential for assessing the scientific contribution, and the ability of the return grant applicant to carry out the project.
2. The return grant proposal shall include:
   a) the title of the return grant;
   b) an abstract of the return grant;
   c) the expected start date of the return grant;
   d) a factual description of the return grant, namely:
      i) the objectives of the return grant
      ii) a description of the significance of the return grant for the advancement of knowledge in the given field
      iii) Analysis of the concept and methodological approaches to the solution
      iv) Expected outputs of the return grant
      v) plan for working with scientific data – open science
      vi) description of planned optional activities (e.g., mobility, training),
      vii) specification of the institute where the return grant will be carried out and

information on the workplace's readiness to implement the return grant

e) the applicant's career development plan at the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, for the 3-year period following the completion of the return grant (expected future career path in the field);

f) information about the applicant;

g) information about the research team (if planned as part of the project implementation) and their roles in the return grant; only the following categories of employees/students may be members of the research team:

i) research staff,

ii) Ph.D. students,

whereby the names of the research team members need not necessarily be known at the time of project proposal submission; instead, a description of the relevant positions of the research team members, the team composition, the number of full-time equivalents (FTEs), and the types of positions must be provided. The team size limit (i.e., excluding the principal investigator) is a maximum of 4 persons, with a maximum of 2 FTEs;

h) Information about the mentor (if planned as part of the project implementation) and the mentor's involvement (up to a maximum of 0.2 FTE)

i) a preliminary budget proposal for the return grant based on the basic breakdown of items, the structure and justification for the selection of the given units and their number, in accordance with the data provided in the file "Activity 3 Calculator_Return Grant Application," which is Annex 2 to this guideline;

j) the opinion of the head of the institute/organizational unit regarding participation in the return grant

3. Description of alignment with the RIS3 strategy, see "Thematic Area Cards" https://www.ris3.cz/sites/default/files/2024-07/Priloha_1_Karty_tematickch_oblasti_v06.pdf .
4. The gender dimension in research content according to the guide Gender Dimension in R&D Projects under OP JAK https://opjak.cz/dokumenty/genderova-dimenze/, the publication How to Address the Gender Dimension in Research Content and the Guide for Evaluating the Gender Dimension in Research and Innovation Content, which are available at https://gro.vscht.cz/publikace.

Article 8

Mandatory attachments to the return grant application

1. A statement from the head of the institute where the return grant will be implemented regarding the integration of the return grant applicant into the workplace, their potential for the development of the workplace, and their potential for career development;
2. The CV and cover letter of the applicant for the return grant.
3. A sworn statement by the applicant for the return grant that the topic of the return grant is not identical to the topic of the dissertation.
4. Affidavit stating that the applicant is not currently a principal investigator on another project funded through calls aimed at supporting R&D after a career break.
5. Documents substantiating the career break.

PART FOUR

Evaluation of Applications

Article 9

Evaluation of Applications for Return Grants

1. The evaluation of return grant proposals includes an assessment of formal eligibility (Article 10) and an assessment of scientific merit (Article 11).
2. The acceptance of return grants into the competition includes an evaluation of the completeness and formal compliance of return grant proposals with the competition conditions; incomplete proposals and proposals found to have serious discrepancies with the competition conditions will be excluded from the competition without further evaluation.
3. In evaluating the scientific merit of a return grant proposal, in addition to overall quality, the following are assessed:

   a) the clarity of the definition and novelty of the research plan of the proposed return grant;

   b) the applicant's previous scientific work, capabilities, and qualifications to carry out the return grant;

   c) the feasibility of the set objectives and the achievement of the planned results in the context of the concept and adequacy of the proposed methodology and timeline;

   d) the proportionality of the scope of the problem proposed for solution in relation to the requested funding, the involvement of collaborators, and the infrastructure at the institute where the return grant is to be carried out;

   e) assessment of the relevance of the research topic's results to gender or sex aspects within the research content;

   f) compliance of the return grant with the general framework and conditions of the OP JAK call (in particular, verification of excluded activities under the call, see Article 4, point 7);

   g) The results and outputs of the return grant must comply with the publicity rules of the OP JAK (https://opjak.cz/publicita/).
4. The RESTART Scientific Committee will select a reviewer from among its members for each submitted return grant proposal, taking into account the need to avoid conflicts of interest. The reviewer will prepare an evaluation of the return grant proposal.
5. The RESTART Scientific Committee will discuss each return grant proposal and, based on the rapporteurs' reviews, select a maximum of 8 proposals to advance to the next round of evaluation, while maintaining the competitive nature of the subsequent round.
6. Each returning grant proposal that advances is evaluated in the subsequent round of the competition by two independent evaluators nominated by the rapporteur, at least one of whom is a researcher at a foreign institution. These must be experts who have no conflict of interest, i.e., they are not in an employment relationship with the University of Chemistry and Technology (except for relationships whose purpose is to ensure evaluation in competitive titles) nor do they have other obligations that would compromise their impartiality.
7. Evaluators are experts in the relevant field and must hold at least a Ph.D. or its equivalent. A sample form of the return grant Evaluation Criteria is attached as Appendix 1 to this directive.
8. Proposers whose return grant proposals have been evaluated by independent evaluators shall present their return grant proposal to the RESTART Scientific Committee, preferably in person, or online in justified cases.
9. The RESTART Scientific Committee will propose a ranking of the return grant proposals in the competition and recommend whether or not to award support to a return grant, and may also

decide not to award this support to any of the evaluated return grants. It will submit its opinion to the Vice-Rector for Research and Development, who will decide on the allocation of funds to return grants.

10. The decision of the Vice-Rector for Research and Development is final and cannot be appealed. There is no legal entitlement to the award of funding or the allocation of financial resources.
11. The decision to award funding will be communicated to the applicant in writing within 15 days of the publication of the competition results, via email. The results will also be published on the website of the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague. At the same time, a draft agreement for the return grant will be sent to the applicant. This notification and the draft agreement for the return grant will also be sent in the same manner to the head of the department where the project is to be carried out, and to the dean of the relevant faculty/director of the Technopark/relevant vice-rector in the case of a university-wide department.

Article 10

Evaluation of the formal eligibility of the return grant proposal Exclusion criteria / yes-no /

The Department of Research and Technology Transfer conducts the review of the formal eligibility of the return grant proposal.

1. Verification of the eligibility of the return grant applicant (compliance with defined parameters),
2. Compliance of the return grant with the general framework and conditions of the OP JAK call (in particular, verification of excluded activities under the call; see Article 4, point 7).
3. Declaration of the return grant's compliance with the RIS3 strategy;
4. Submission of a sworn statement that there is no duplicate or combined funding from other sources. / See Article 8, points 3 and 4 /.
5. Assessment of the gender impacts of the research topic, if relevant to the topic.
6. The review will be conducted no later than 10 business days after the close of the call.

Article 11

Evaluation of the scientific quality /0–10 points/

1. Potential of the return grant – the professional level and quality of the research proposal, relevance and benefit to the institution, objectives and activities of the return grant (e.g., mobility, training, etc.), and related results and outputs, as well as the timeline for implementing the return grant;
2. Motivation, qualifications, skills, and experience of the return grant applicant in relation to the focus of the return grant (including potential for team leadership, if relevant);
3. The potential for the return grant applicant's further career development and continued engagement in the field (career plan) following the return grant;
4. 3E (economy, efficiency, and effectiveness) of the budget, its specificity, justification, and link to the activities of the return grant, including consistency with the data provided in the "Activity 3_Return Grant Application" calculator file;
5. Relevance of the team composition (if applicable), and the realism and adequacy of team

members' workloads.

6. Consistency of the return grant with the research objectives/topics addressed within the applicant's organizational unit (e.g., institute),
7. Consistency of the return grant proposal with the infrastructure and equipment of the workplace where the return grant will be implemented,
8. The evaluation of the scientific quality will be conducted within 30 calendar days of the completion of the formal eligibility evaluation.

PART FIVE

Implementation of the Return Grant

Article 12

Conditions for the Implementation of the Return Grant

1. During the implementation of the return grant, the principal investigator shall submit an application to a grant competition in the field of research and development announced by either a Czech or foreign funding provider, particularly a European one (e.g., Horizon Europe, Eureka, etc.), or to a similar program in accordance with currently announced calls.
2. During the implementation of the return grant, the principal investigator shall participate in an international conference at least once a year, at which they will present their contribution.
3. During the duration of the return grant, the principal investigator will publish partial results of their research in a journal indexed in the Web of Science database, preferably in the 1st and 2nd quartiles and with a foreign co-author.
4. Within 6 months of the start of the return grant, the principal investigator shall prepare and submit a Data Management Plan.

Article 13

Agreement on the Implementation of the Return Grant

1. Details regarding the conditions for implementing the return grant are governed by the agreement on the implementation of the return grant, which is concluded between the principal investigator and the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, represented by the Vice-Rector for Research and Development.
2. The principal investigator is responsible for implementing the return grant in accordance with the objectives set forth in the return grant proposal and for the proper and economical use of the allocated funds.
3. The principal investigator undertakes to commence work on the return grant by the agreed deadline, to handle the results of the return grant in accordance with applicable laws and the interests of the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, to submit interim activity reports, including reports on the progress of mobility (if relevant), final reports on the activities of the return grant and on the use of funds. If the principal investigator, of their own volition, fails to commence the return grant project, the funds allocated to the return grant shall be returned to the RESTART project for use in the following period.
4. The head of the department/university-wide unit where the return grant is being implemented undertakes to provide the principal investigator with appropriate infrastructure support for the duration of the return grant and to conduct ongoing oversight of the expenditure of funds.

5. The department of the relevant faculty or university-wide unit at the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, where the return grant is being implemented, shall provide a 10% co-funding contribution and, if necessary, undertakes to provide support (e.g., for material supplies, a business trip to a conference with a registration fee, etc.) for the duration of its proper implementation.

Article 14

Changes to the return grant and reports on the implementation of the return grant

1. The principal investigator of the return grant shall implement the return grant from a professional standpoint and with regard to the use of funds and adherence to the established deadlines for achieving the objectives in accordance with the return grant proposal submitted by him/her and approved by the RESTART Scientific Committee.
2. If objective circumstances arise that require a change in the terms of the return grant, the principal investigator is required to immediately inform their supervisor and, with the supervisor's approval, submit a written request to the RESTART Scientific Committee for an assessment of the proposed change to the return grant.
3. The request must include a justification for the change; if the change involves a suspension of the return grant, it must also include the proposed duration of the suspension, the impact on the return grant (e.g., postponement of deadlines and changes to deliverables), and a proposed new timeline.
4. The RESTART Scientific Committee will review the request for a change and recommend its acceptance, rejection, or modification. It will issue this recommendation no later than 21 calendar days after receiving the request for a change and will send written notification to the project manager, who will process the change.
5. The Vice-Rector for Research and Development will decide on the change. The project manager will notify the principal investigator of the return grant and their supervisor.
6. An amendment to the return grant agreement will be concluded.
7. The return grant may be suspended for a period of 6–12 months, depending on the status of the return grant's implementation. In the event of a suspension of the return grant, its funding is suspended. Before resuming the return grant, the project manager for return grants and the head of the department must be informed.
8. Upon acceptance of the request for a change, the principal investigator of the return grant is required to include the change in the next interim activity report; if the change, e.g., a suspension, occurred between interim reports, the principal investigator shall prepare a partial interim report as of the date of suspension, which shall include an overview of progress, achievement of results, and funds utilized to date.
9. Early termination of a return grant is possible upon submission of a request by the principal investigator. The procedure outlined in Section 8 must be followed.
10. The principal investigator of the return grant may make minor changes with the approval of the project manager and the RESTART Scientific Committee. These changes include, for example, changes within the return grant team (number of members or changes to their workloads); changes to the research methodology; and changes to the return grant schedule.

11. The principal investigator of the return grant may make **substantial changes** upon request and with the approval of the project manager and the RESTART Scientific Committee. These changes include, for example, transfers between budget items/units exceeding 20% of the value of the given item/unit; changes to implemented activities, e.g., a change in destination or duration of mobility; changes in the planned results and outputs of the return grant.

12. The following are considered **unchangeable parameters**:

    a) a change in the position of the principal investigator of the return grant;

    b) a change in the objective and main research topic of the return grant;

    c) an increase in the total amount of funding for the return grant;

    d) setting personnel costs lower than specified in the OP JAK call (Activity 3 Calculator: Return Grant Application and Activity 3 Calculator: Return Grant Implementation);

    e) a change in the version of the Activity 3 Calculator_Return Grant Implementation (the calculator set at the time of grant approval remains valid throughout the entire duration of the return grant).

13. The principal investigator shall submit an interim activity report and an overview of funds spent within 15 calendar days of the expiration of 6 calendar months of project implementation. The report shall also include a work plan and a framework budget for the following period. The template for the Interim and Final Activity Reports for the return grant is attached to the Return Grant Implementation Agreement.

14. The principal investigator submits the final report on the return grant and a summary of expenditures within 40 calendar days of the return grant's completion.

15. The interim and final reports are evaluated by the RESTART Scientific Committee, and the following are informed of the evaluation results: the principal investigator, the head of the institute, the dean of the faculty/director of the Technopark/relevant vice-rector for university-wide units, and the project manager.

16. The RESTART Scientific Committee may request a summary of funds spent from the principal investigator at any time during the project.

Article 15

Penalties for Breaches of the Return Grant Agreement

1. The University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, as the recipient of the grant for the RESTART project, will impose sanctions on the principal investigator of the return grant in the event of serious violations of the rules in the following areas:

    a) breach of contractual obligations;

    b) fraud or the submission of false information;

    c) ethical and research misconduct;

    d) financial irregularities.

2. Violations of the provisions of the return grant agreement are assessed and addressed in accordance with the applicable internal regulations of the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague https://www.vscht.cz/uredni-deska/regulations-and-documents/internal-regulations, in particular the Work Regulations of the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague (Articles 11 and 12) and the Code of Ethics of the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, and further in accordance with Act No. 262/2006 Coll., the Labor Code.

   The aforementioned regulations are binding on the principal investigator as an employee of

the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague.

Article 16
Evaluation

The evaluation conditions apply to the recipient of the grant for the RESTART project (University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague) as a mandatory output of the OP JAK project, not to the principal investigator of the return grant.

Main criteria for the evaluation of the return grant scheme**:**

a) evaluation of the target group;

b) evaluation of calls—quantitative and qualitative assessment of return grants, success rate, quality of submitted return grants;

c) Evaluation of return grants: the number of successfully completed return grants and an assessment of the Final Activity Reports based on the achievement of objectives, the quality of outputs, and the implementation of the data management plan;

d) evaluation of the pilot testing of the entire grant competition scheme, including the methodology.

PART SIX

Article 17

Final Provisions

1. The interpretation, updating, and monitoring of compliance with the provisions of this directive fall within the purview of the Vice-Rector for Research and Development.
2. This directive enters into force on the date of its signature by the Rector of the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague.

Prof. Ing. Milan Pospíšil, CSc.
Rector

Appendices:
Appendix No. 1: Evaluation Criteria for the Return Grant
Appendix No. 2: Calculator-Activity-3_application-for-return-grant_4_1
Appendix No. 3: Open Science and Research Data Management in the RESTART Project
Appendix No. 4: Calculator-Activity-3_Implementation-of-Return-Grant-1