

Kellner Research Chair Programme

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

Call: Kellner Research Chair 2026

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1) INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the **Kellner Research Chair Programme**, a prestigious initiative jointly established by **Charles University (CU)**, **Charles University Endowment Fund (CUEF)** and **The Kellner Family Foundation (TKFF)** to attract **excellent researchers** of international distinction.

The programme supports **scientists** who have achieved excellence abroad and wish to establish or expand their research groups at Charles University in the Czech Republic.

The initiative aims to contribute to the university's long-term **excellence, international visibility**, and **societal impact**, while promoting responsible and open research in line with the principles of the **European Research Area (ERA)**.

2) PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The Kellner Research Chair Programme aims to:

- Attract **researchers of international distinction** to Charles University.
- Establish **internationally competitive research groups** in all scientific areas.
- Increase CU's **participation in international funding programmes** (e.g., Horizon Europe, ERC).
- Promote **Open Science and responsible research**, including FAIR data management and gender equality.
- Ensure **long-term institutional impact** through mentoring, collaboration, and integration of research excellence.

3) FUNDING OF THE PROGRAMME

Each Kellner Research Chair is supported through an initial three-year Foundation-funded phase, with total support of CZK 7,60 million allocated as CZK 2,85 million in Year 1, CZK 2,85 million in Year 2, and CZK 1,85 million in Year 3.

The Foundation does not provide financial support for the fourth and fifth year of the researcher's engagement in the Programme. Continuation in Years 4 and 5 is subject to the conditions of the Programme and the relevant contractual arrangements at Charles University (the maximum contribution from the institutional resources of the faculty is CZK 1M annually). Investment costs are not eligible.

Each Chair is expected to secure external competitive funding (e.g., ERC or equivalent) during the Foundation-funded phase and/or in connection with the continuation of their research activities after that phase.

4) RESEARCH AT CHARLES UNIVERSITY

With seventeen faculties and institutes covering a rich diversity of academic disciplines, Charles University is the largest research and academic institution in the Czech Republic, serving over 50,000 students and employing 10,000 staff. It accounts for approximately 14.3% of the country's total research output and 23.3% of research conducted at Czech public universities. Recognized for its research excellence, Charles University is ranked among the world's top 250 universities (QS Ranking).

Charles University's Faculties and Institutes

<u>Catholic Theological Faculty</u>	<u>Faculty of Medicine in Plzeň</u>	<u>Faculty of Social Sciences</u>
<u>Protestant Theological Faculty</u>	<u>Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové</u>	<u>Faculty of Physical Education and Sport</u>
<u>Hussite Theological Faculty</u>	<u>Faculty of Pharmacy in Hradec Králové</u>	<u>Faculty of Humanities</u>
<u>Faculty of Law</u>	<u>Faculty of Arts</u>	<u>Institute of the History of CU and Archive of CU</u>
<u>First Faculty of Medicine</u>	<u>Faculty of Science</u>	<u>Centre for Theoretical Study</u>
<u>Second Faculty of Medicine</u>	<u>Faculty of Mathematics and Physics</u>	<u>Centre for Economic Research and Graduate Education</u>
<u>Third Faculty of Medicine</u>	<u>Faculty of Education</u>	<u>Environment Centre</u>

5) SUPPORTED SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES

The Kellner Research Chair programme is **open to all disciplines**. Proposals may be submitted in any field of research represented at Charles University, in line with the bottom-up principle of investigator-driven excellence.

6) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must fulfil the following conditions:

- **Researcher profile:** Researcher with demonstrated international excellence and 3 to 12 years after receiving Ph.D. Researchers who have not resided or worked in the Czech Republic for more than 12 months during the 36 months preceding the call deadline.
- **Affiliation and workload:** Selected applicants must take up employment at Charles University with a workload of at least 0.8 FTE within the Kellner Research Chair Programme. The total workload of the selected researcher at Charles University across all types of work may not

exceed 1.0 FTE. These activities should contribute to the development of Charles University, and to the objectives of this programme.

- **Commitment to CU:** Applicants must accept a position at Charles University. The detailed employment conditions of selected applicants will be governed by the applicable contractual and employment documentation.
- **Openness:** Research results must comply with [CU's Open Access policy](#).
- **Host Faculty:** Each proposal must include a **Letter of Commitment** from the **Dean of the hosting faculty/or Head of the Institute**, confirming readiness to host and support the Chair.

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Applications that do not meet one or more eligibility criteria will be rejected and will not advance to the scientific evaluation stage.

Selected candidates must provide documentary proof of their eligibility regarding researcher status (doctoral degree and research experience) before the relevant contractual and employment arrangements are finalized. This can be demonstrated through verified copy of the diploma or confirmation of dissertation defence.

Please note that a sworn statement is not sufficient to verify eligibility.

Failure to provide the necessary certifications will result in the rejection of the grant award.

7) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications must include the following components:

Part A – Administrative Form (online)

A3 – Budget table (Template in Annex A3)

Part B – Technical Application (PDF):

B1 – Project Description (Template in Annex B1)

- *Excellence* (max. 6 A4 pages),
- *Impact* (max. 3 A4 pages),
- *Implementation* (max. 3 A4 pages).

All excess pages will be disregarded.

B2 – CV and Track Record

- **Curriculum Vitae** – overview of positions, awards, and postdoctoral stays (max. 2 A4 pages).
- **Career Overview and Track Record** – academic achievements and leadership experience (max. 2 A4 pages).

- **Publication List** – full list of peer-reviewed publications, with 10 most important marked; include H-index and citation data.

All excess pages will be disregarded.

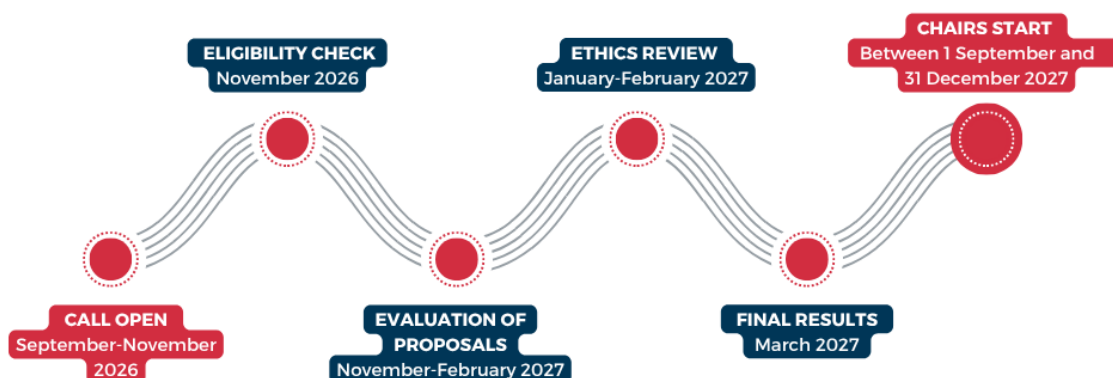
B3 – Ethics & Security - Ethics Issues Table and Self-assessment form related to the ethical principles (Template in Annex B3)

Part C – Letter of Commitment signed by dean of respective faculty explaining how the candidate's activities fit the faculty's research strategy (Template in Annex C1)

All documents must be submitted via the [ONLINE FORM](#) within the application period specified in Section 8 (Timeline).

8) CALL TIMELINE

Call Timeline:



9) SELECTION PROCESS/

Charles University is committed to the principles of **equal** treatment, non-discrimination and open, transparent and merit-based recruitment.

The selection process includes the following stages:

a) Eligibility check

Each proposal will be reviewed against the eligibility criteria outlined in Chapter 6 and 7 of this guide. This assessment will be conducted by the programme coordinator at CU.

b) Individual remote evaluation

Proposals that pass the eligibility check will undergo an independent remote evaluation by two experts specializing in the proposal's scientific field (international evaluators, outside CU), based on predefined evaluation criteria (detailed below). For highly interdisciplinary projects, a third evaluator may be assigned if necessary.

In the proposal, applicants will also have the possibility to indicate up to five individuals whom they prefer not to act as evaluators. This information will be treated as strictly confidential and will be accessible only to the designated administrator responsible for managing conflicts of interest.

An online consensus meeting between the two independent experts will be held to determine the final score for each application. Only proposals that achieve a minimum score of 80% will advance to next stage; this threshold ensures that only the highest-quality applications are considered, with a maximum of ten proposals invited to the interviews.

Criteria for individual evaluation

Criterion	Sub-criterion	Weight
Excellence	1.1. Quality, originality, and credibility of the proposed research; scientific merit, coherence, and ambition of objectives; methodological soundness and consideration of interdisciplinary aspects.	50%
	1.2. International standing and leadership of the applicant; evidence of significant research achievements, supervision experience, and capacity to establish or strengthen a high-level research group.	
	1.3. Potential of the proposed research to advance the state of the art, generate new directions in the field, and contribute to Charles University's international visibility.	
2. Impact	2.1. Expected contribution to Charles University's excellence and competitiveness, including potential to attract further international funding (e.g. ERC, Horizon Europe).	30%
	2.2. Contribution to mentoring, capacity-building, and knowledge transfer within the university; support for early-career researchers and dissemination of best practices.	
	2.3. Societal and institutional impact, including contribution to addressing major societal challenges, Open Science, and responsible research principles.	
3. Implementation	3.1. Feasibility and coherence of the work plan; appropriateness of the approach, milestones, and resource allocation.	20%
	3.2. Institutional commitment and adequacy of the hosting faculty's support, including infrastructure, integration strategy, and sustainability beyond the Foundation-funded phase.	
	3.3. Risk identification and mitigation strategy ensuring the robustness and continuity of research activities.	

Each criterion will be valued on a scale 0-5 (0=missing information, 1=the criterion is not adequately addressed, 2=the criterion contains significant weaknesses, 3=the criterion is addressed with a number of shortcomings, 4=the criterion is very well addressed with only

minor shortcomings, 5=the criterion is excellently addressed). The maximum value is 15 points (100%). The value can be stated to one decimal place. In order to avoid a recruitment of underqualified applicants, an overall threshold, applying to the sum of the 3 individual scores, is 12 (80%) points.

In case of equal results, the preference will be given to the proposal scored higher in the criterion 1. Excellence. In case both proposals scored equal points in the criterion 1. Excellence, the preference will be given to the proposal scored higher in criterion 2. Impact.

c) Ethics reviews

The ethics review will be conducted by Charles University's Research Integrity Officer based on the ethics self-assessment questionnaire included in the application.

Proposals recommended for funding, along with those on the reserve list, will undergo an ethics review to ensure compliance with established ethical principles. The process will adhere strictly to Horizon Europe's ethical standards for research. It will begin with an Ethics Screening, and if necessary, proceed to an in-depth Ethics Assessment. The review may result in ethics requirements that become contractual obligations. For a list of prohibited and restricted research activities, refer to Chapter 10 of this Guide.

d) Final evaluation score

The final evaluation score will be determined as follows: the individual evaluation score (maximum 15 points) will contribute 50%, and the interview score (maximum 15 points) will account for the remaining 50%. In the event of a tie, preference will be given to the proposal with a higher score under Criterion 1 – Excellence; if still equal, the proposal with the higher score under Criterion 2 – Impact will prevail.

e) Interviews

Up to ten applicants (or fewer if fewer than ten cross the 80 % threshold), that received the highest score during the Individual evaluation stage will be invited to present their proposed project at an interview panel.

The Interview committee will consist of two independent experts and two members of the Programme's Steering Committee. The Programme coordinator will be present to keep notes of the interview. The interviews will be executed online, in English, with an oral presentation of the applicant followed by the Q&A session.

The interview will last 30 minutes, with 15 minutes dedicated to the applicant's presentation and 15 minutes to a Q&A section.

During the interviews, the following criteria will be evaluated:

Criterion	Description	Weight
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1. Scientific vision and excellence	The depth and originality of the candidate's research vision; scientific maturity, strategic orientation, and capacity to lead an innovative research programme of international significance.	40%
2. Strategic fit and institutional alignment	Relevance and complementarity of the proposed research to the hosting faculty's strategy and Charles University's long-term priorities; potential to establish or strengthen an internationally competitive research group.	30%
3. Leadership, communication, and mentoring capacity	Ability to articulate research concepts clearly and convincingly; evidence of team leadership, mentoring experience, and commitment to knowledge sharing and institutional development.	30%

Each criterion will be evaluated on a scale of 1-5, where 0 indicates missing information and 5 represents excellent performance.

f) Final decision

The Kellner Research Chair Programme's Steering Committee will approve the results of the individual evaluations and interviews, after which the final list of proposals recommended for funding, along with those on the reserve list, will be published on the programme's website. The final results must be approved by the Programme's Steering Committee in accordance with the Programme's governing rules. For the avoidance of doubt, approval requires a two-thirds majority of the Steering Committee.

g) Redress procedure

Within 10 calendar days, a reasoned objection may be submitted against the evaluation result on the grounds of a breach of the evaluation procedure, a conflict of interest, or an obvious administrative error. The objection does not serve as grounds for a new professional or substantive evaluation of the project proposal.

h) Equal opportunities

Female researchers are encouraged to apply. To promote gender balance, the programme administrator will ensure that at least 50% of the appointed independent evaluators are women. Additionally, all independent evaluators will receive training on Unconscious Bias to minimize gender biases and stereotypes during the selection process.

10) ETHICS GUIDELINES

Applicants must complete the Ethics Issues Table, which is included in Part B3 of the application. For the template, please refer to Annex B3 of this Guide.

The Kellner Research Chair Programme strictly prohibits and will not fund the following research activities:

1. Prohibited research activities related to human cloning and human embryos:

- Human Cloning for Reproductive Purposes: Any research aimed at creating human clones for reproductive purposes.
- Genetic Modification of Human Germline: Research that intends to modify the genetic heritage of human beings in a way that can be inherited by future generations.
- Creation of Human Embryos for Research Purposes: The creation of human embryos exclusively for research or stem cell procurement.
- Destruction of Human Embryos: Any research that involves the destruction of human embryos, even if the embryos were initially created for another purpose.

2. Activities Violating Fundamental Rights

- Breach of Data Privacy and Protection: Research that violates GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) or other privacy laws is not eligible.
- Discrimination and Exploitation: Studies that involve discrimination based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion, or political beliefs.
- Unethical AI and Digital Technologies: Projects using AI for mass surveillance, deepfake manipulation, or social scoring similar to China's social credit system.
- Non-Consensual Research on Vulnerable Populations: Studies that involve minors, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable groups without proper consent mechanisms.

3. Military and Defence-Related Research

- Development of Weapons or Military Technologies: Any research with direct military applications is ineligible.
- Dual-Use Technologies (Military & Civilian): Projects with potential military applications require extra screening, and purely military projects are excluded.
- Research Benefiting Non-Democratic Regimes: Projects that could be exploited by authoritarian governments or used in human rights abuses.

4. Environmental and Health Concerns

- Research Causing Severe Environmental Harm: Projects leading to deforestation, biodiversity loss, or excessive CO₂ emissions without mitigation strategies.
- Risky Biomedical Experiments: Research involving gain-of-function studies on pathogens that could enhance their virulence or transmission.

5. Financial and Legal Violations

- Money Laundering or Fraudulent Financial Practices
- Involvement in Corruption or Conflict of Interest
- Links to Sanctioned Entities or Individuals
- Research Conducted in Breach of International Law (e.g., in occupied territories without proper authorization)

Some activities are not outright banned but require additional ethical scrutiny before they can be funded:

Restricted Activities (Requiring Special Ethical Review)

- Use of Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs): While research using hESCs is allowed under certain conditions, it requires a rigorous ethics review, including compliance with national laws.
- Animal Testing: Projects involving primates and endangered species must justify the necessity and comply with the 3Rs principle (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement).

- **Security-Sensitive Research:** Research that could misuse AI, biotechnology, or surveillance technologies for military or unethical purposes undergoes a dual-use and security screening.

11) STRUCTURE OF THE APPLICATION

The Kellner Research Chair grant application consists of the administrative forms (part A), the description of the proposed Project description (part B1), CV & Track Record (part B2) and the Ethics issues table (part B3). All parts are submitted via [ONLINE FORM](#).

Important: Once the proposal is submitted, no modifications can be made, even if the deadline has not yet passed. An applicant may submit only one project proposal within a given call.

a) Part A – administrative forms

Part A is a predefined online form.

It consists of the following tabs:

A1 – Project Information: Next to some predefined fields such as the call identifier, the applicant will fill in the proposal name, acronym, abstract, keywords, scientific discipline(s), and an affiliation to the one of the CU's faculties.

A2 – Applicant Information

A3 – Budget of the proposed project (Template of this table is available in Annex A3 of this Guide)

For detailed information on budget categories and their calculations, please refer to Chapter 12 of this Guide.

b) Part B – Technical Application (uploaded documents: B1-B3)

Part B consists of three documents to be uploaded in PDF format.

The structure of Part B1 is following:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. Excellence | <p>1.1. Quality, originality, and credibility of the proposed research; scientific merit, coherence, and ambition of objectives; methodological soundness and consideration of interdisciplinary aspects.</p> <p>1.2. International standing and leadership of the applicant; evidence of significant research achievements, supervision experience, and capacity to establish or strengthen a high-level research group.</p> <p>1.3. Potential of the proposed research to advance the state of the art, generate new directions in the field, and contribute to Charles University's international visibility.</p> |
| 2. Impact | <p>2.1. Expected contribution to Charles University's excellence and competitiveness, including potential to attract further international funding (e.g. ERC, Horizon Europe).</p> |

2.2. Contribution to mentoring, capacity-building, and knowledge transfer within the university; support for early-career researchers and dissemination of best practices.

2.3. Societal and institutional impact, including contribution to addressing major societal challenges, Open Science, and responsible research principles.

3. Implementation
- 3.1. Feasibility and coherence of the work plan; appropriateness of the approach, milestones, and resource allocation.
- 3.2. Institutional commitment and adequacy of the hosting faculty's support, including infrastructure, integration strategy, and sustainability beyond the Foundation-funded phase.
- 3.3. Risk identification and mitigation strategy ensuring the robustness and continuity of research activities.

Detailed instructions for filling in the Part B1 of the application can be found in the Part B1 template (see Annex B1 of this Guide).

Part B2 CV & Track Record (no fixed template)

- Curriculum Vitae (max. 2 pages)
- Career overview and key achievements (max. 2 pages)
- Publication list (highlight top 10)

Part B3 is self-assessment form related to the ethical principles of the proposed research activities (ethical issues table). Template of this form is available in Annex B3 of this Guide.

12) WHAT DOES THE FUNDING COVER

Each selected candidate may receive up to **CZK 7,600,000** over a period of **three years**, subject to compliance with programme conditions.

The continuation of funding is conditional upon:

- the active employment and performance of the Chairholder,
- satisfactory use and reporting of previously allocated funds,
- compliance with programme rules, including the absence of unauthorised double funding,
- and the continued implementation of the Programme.

Eligible costs:

- The Foundation-funded budget covers eligible costs associated with the employment and scientific activities of the selected Chair during the initial three-year Foundation-funded phase. These may include in particular:
- personnel costs of the selected Chair (up to 1,8 mil CZK);
- personnel costs of junior collaborators supporting the Chair's research activities (up to 600 000 CZK);

- research-related costs directly linked to the proposed scientific activities (i.e. purchase of materials, lab supplies, chemicals, and other consumables necessary for the research activities, travel and subsistence for research activities, publication and dissemination costs, access to research infrastructure);
- relocation-related costs for the selected Chair, where applicable;
- family support costs, where relevant and justified¹.

Funding:

Category	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Personal cost (including taxes)	1 800 000 CZK	1 800 000 CZK	1 200 000 CZK
Personal cost for junior researcher	600 000 CZK	600 000 CZK	400 000 CZK
Research costs contribution	200 000 CZK	300 000 CZK	200 000 CZK
Mobility allowance	100 000 CZK	0 CZK	0 CZK
Family allowance	150 000 CZK	150 000 CZK	100 000 CZK
Total	2 850 000 CZK	2 850 000 CZK	1 900 000 CZK

* Support during upcoming 4th a 5th year up to 1M CZK based on confirmation with hosted faculty.

Limited flexibility is allowed between selected budget categories. Unused funds from salary, relocation, or family support may be reallocated to research costs, in line with the Programme rules.

Any reallocation of funds across funding periods or between individual Chairholders requires prior approval from the Programme funder. Unused funds that are not approved for reallocation must be returned.

The Programme does not provide financial support beyond the first three years. Host institutions are expected to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Chairholder position, including funding for years four and five.

¹ Family allowance is granted to a candidate who, at the relevant date or during the fellowship, has family obligations, meaning a spouse, a partner with a status equivalent to marriage under the applicable law, and/or dependent child(ren) actually maintained by the candidate.

13) EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

The initial employment arrangement under the Programme is expected to be concluded for three years, with the possibility of continuation for up to two additional years, or longer where justified, subject to the successful progress and performance within the project, and in accordance with the conditions applicable to the Programme and the relevant internal and contractual arrangements.

The selected researcher must be employed within the Programme at a minimum workload of 0.8 FTE. The total workload of the selected researcher at Charles University across all types of work may not exceed 1.0 FTE.

The detailed distribution of duties, including any teaching and other activities, will be governed by the relevant employment documentation and internal arrangements of the host unit, in line with the conditions of the Programme.

Extension of the Eligibility Period

Maternity leave

The eligibility period shall be extended by **18 months for each child** born before or after the successful defence of the applicant's PhD degree.

Where an applicant can demonstrate a longer period of leave, including maternity leave alone or maternity leave combined with parental leave, the eligibility period shall be extended by the total documented duration of such leave.

The extension shall be calculated either on the basis of the 18-month flat-rate extension or on the basis of the actual documented duration of leave, whichever is more favourable to the applicant. Where an extension is claimed for more than one child, the same principle shall apply.

Paternity leave

The eligibility period shall be extended by the documented duration of paternity leave taken before the call deadline for each child born before or after the successful defence of the applicant's PhD degree.

Parental leave

The eligibility period shall be extended by the documented duration of parental leave taken before the call deadline for each child born before or after the successful defence of the applicant's PhD degree.

A list of CU's benefits which every employee is entitled to can be found [here](#).

14) ON-ARRIVAL SUPPORT

Upon arrival, Chair requiring assistance with on-arrival matters may use the Charles University [Staff Welcome Centre](#) services.

15) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ section is available [here](#)

16) CONTACT

Programme Coordination:

Charles University – Rectorate, Research Support Office

Email: kcr@cuni.cz

Website: [Kellner Research Chair](#)

Annex A3 – Budget Table Template

Call: Kellner Research Chair 2026
Annex A3 - Budget table

Project title*:				
Project Investigator*:				
BUDGET	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	Total
STAFF COST				
Personal cost (including taxes)				€ 0
Junior co-worker - personal cost (including taxes)				€ 0
TRAVEL COST				
Mobility allowance		N/A	N/A	€ 0
OTHER COST				
Family allowance				€ 0
Research costs contribution				€ 0
Total	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0

* Required

Annex B1 – Project Description Template

“Proposal acronym”

General instructions for filling in Part B1 of Kellner Research Chair Programme Application:

All parts of the application must be written in English.

Page limit: Sections 1, 2 and 3 together should not exceed 12 pages. Startpage, endpage and a page containing a Table of content does not count into this limit. The total document should have no more than 15 pages. All tables, figures, references and any other element pertaining to these sections must be included as an integral part of these sections and are thus counted towards this page limit. The page limit for this part of the proposal will be applied automatically; therefore, you must **remove instruction (in green colour) before submitting**. After the deadline, excess pages (in over-long proposals) will be automatically made invisible, and therefore will not be taken into consideration by the experts. Note that experts will be instructed to ignore hyperlinks to information that is specifically designed to expand the proposal, thus circumventing the page limit.

The following formatting conditions apply:

- The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).
- The reference font for the body text of proposals is Times New Roman (Windows platforms), Times/Times New Roman (Apple platforms) or Nimbus Roman No. 9 L (Linux distributions).
- The use of a different font for the body text is not advised and is subject to the cumulative conditions that the font is legible and that its use does not significantly shorten the representation of the proposal in number of pages compared to using the reference font (for example with a view to bypassing the page limit).
- The minimum font size allowed is 11 points. Standard character spacing and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. This applies to the body text, including text in tables.
- Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions, formulas, etc. may deviate, but must be legible and not be less than 8 points.

Please note that the explanatory notes included in the part B1 proposal template serve to explain the award criteria without being exhaustive. Applicants must structure their proposal according to the headings indicated in the Part B1 proposal template. Please be aware that proposals will be evaluated as they were submitted, rather than on their potential if certain changes were to be made. This means that only proposals that successfully address all the required aspects will have a chance of being funded.

1. Excellence

1.1 Quality and credibility of the research and innovation objectives; level of novelty, methodology, interdisciplinarity, and gender aspects

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- Present clear, coherent, and ambitious objectives, explaining their significance and how they align with the five-year Chair.
- Explain the scientific merit and originality of the research questions and expected results.
- Describe the methodological approach and why it is sound and appropriate. Identify potential methodological challenges and how you will address them.
- Explain how relevant interdisciplinary perspectives will be integrated (or justify why they are not needed).
- Where applicable, discuss the use of advanced tools (e.g., AI, data-intensive methods) and how you will ensure transparency, reproducibility, and ethical use.
- If you plan to use, develop and/or deploy artificial intelligence (AI) based systems and/or techniques you must demonstrate their technical robustness. AI-based systems or techniques should be, or be developed to become:
 - technically robust, accurate and reproducible, and able to deal with and inform about possible failures, inaccuracies and errors, proportionate to the assessed risk they pose
 - socially robust, in that they duly consider the context and environment in which they operate
 - reliable and function as intended, minimizing unintentional and unexpected harm, preventing unacceptable harm and safeguarding the physical and mental integrity of humans
 - able to provide a suitable explanation of their decision-making processes, whenever they can have a significant impact on people's lives.

Open science practices: Describe how open science principles will be integrated into your research methodology, such as open data, open access, reproducibility, and collaborative research. If these practices are not relevant, justify your reasoning.

Research data management: Explain how research data and outputs will be managed in line with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable). For guidance on open science practices and research data management, please refer to the relevant section of the [HE Programme Guide on the Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

1.2. International standing and leadership of the applicant; evidence of significant research achievements, supervision experience, and capacity to establish or strengthen a high-level research group

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- Summarize your international recognition and leadership (e.g., awards, invited talks, editorial roles, leadership in consortia).

- Highlight major research achievements and their impact on the field.
- Describe your supervision and mentoring experience (PhD/postdoc supervision, team leadership, lab management).
- Explain your plan to establish or strengthen a high-performing research group at CU, including roles, recruitment, and mentoring strategy.

1.3. Potential of the proposed research to advance the state of the art, generate new directions in the field, and contribute to Charles University's international visibility

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- Describe how your results will advance the state of the art and open new research directions.
- Explain the expected contribution to CU's international visibility (e.g., high-impact publications, strategic partnerships, leadership in international initiatives).
- Indicate how you will position CU as a hub of excellence in your field.

2. Impact

2.1. Expected contribution to Charles University's excellence and competitiveness, including potential to attract further international funding (e.g., ERC, Horizon Europe)

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- Explain how the Chair will enhance CU's excellence and competitiveness at European and global levels.
- Describe your funding strategy (e.g., ERC, Horizon Europe, national and international grants) and how the Chair increases the likelihood of success.
- Outline how the Chair will catalyse strategic collaborations and networks (within CU and internationally).

2.2. Contribution to mentoring, capacity-building, and knowledge transfer within the university; support for early-career researchers and dissemination of best practices

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- Describe your mentoring approach for PhD candidates, postdocs, and junior staff, including inclusive and gender-sensitive practices.
- Explain how you will contribute to capacity-building at CU (e.g., new courses, seminars, methods workshops, shared infrastructure use).
- Detail mechanisms for knowledge transfer (internal seminars, joint supervision, cross-faculty collaborations) and dissemination of best practices.

2.3. Societal and institutional impact, including contribution to addressing major societal challenges, Open Science, and responsible research principles

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- Identify the **societal challenges** your research addresses and the expected benefits for stakeholders (policy, industry, culture, health, environment).

- Describe your **Open Science** approach (open access to publications, FAIR data, reproducibility, pre-prints/registered reports where relevant).
- Explain how you will ensure **responsible research and innovation (RRI)**, including research integrity, ethics, gender equality, and EDI considerations.
- Outline your **communication and public engagement** plan tailored to different audiences.

3. Implementation

3.1 Feasibility and coherence of the work plan; appropriateness of the approach, milestones, and resource allocation

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- Present a **coherent five-year work plan** with phases, **milestones**, and **deliverables** aligned to objectives.
- Include a **Gantt chart** (counts toward the page limit).
- Justify the **approach and resource allocation** (team roles, equipment/services access, budget rationale).

A Gantt chart must be included and should indicate the proposed Work Packages (WP), major deliverables, milestones, secondments, placements, if applicable. This Gantt chart counts towards the 12-page limit. The schedule in the Gantt chart should indicate the number of months elapsed from the start of the action (Month 1).

3.2 Institutional commitment and adequacy of the hosting faculty's support, including infrastructure, integration strategy, and sustainability beyond the Foundation-funded phase

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- Describe the **hosting faculty's commitment and support** (space, facilities, research services, admin support).
- Explain the **integration strategy** (how your team will be embedded within departmental structures and CU-wide initiatives).
- Outline a **sustainability plan** beyond the Foundation-funded phase (Years 4–5 faculty support; external funding strategy).

3.3 Risk identification and mitigation strategy ensuring the robustness and continuity of research activities

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- Identify key scientific, operational, recruitment, and compliance risks.
- Provide a risk register with likelihood, severity, and mitigation/contingency actions.

Description of risk (indicate level of (i) likelihood, and (ii) severity: Low/Medium/High)	Proposed risk-mitigation measures

Ethics & security

Ethics Issues Table

1. Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Human Embryos		
Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?	☐ Yes	☐ No
2. Humans		
Does this activity involve human participants?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, etc.) on the study participants?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014)? (using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products)	☐ Yes	☐ No
3. Human Cells / Tissues (not covered by section 1)		
Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues?	☐ Yes	☐ No
4. Personal Data		
Does this activity involve processing of personal data?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of preexisting data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries? Specify the type of personal data and countries involved	☐ Yes	☐ No
Is it planned to import personal data from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? Specify the type of personal data and countries involved	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does this activity involve the processing of personal data related to criminal convictions or offences?	☐ Yes	☐ No
5. Animals		
Does this activity involve animals?	☐ Yes	☐ No
6. Non-EU Countries		
Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries?	☐ Yes	☐ No
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?	☐ Yes	☐ No
It is planned to use local resources (e.g. animal and/or human tissue samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Is it planned to import any material (other than data) from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? For data imports, see section 4	☐ Yes	☐ No

Is it planned to export any material (other than data) from the EU to non-EU countries? For data exports, see section 4.	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does this activity involve low and/or lower middle income countries , (if yes, detail the benefit sharing actions planned in the self-assessment)	☐ Yes	☐ No
Could the situation in the country put the individuals taking part in the activity at risk?	☐ Yes	☐ No
7. Environment, Health and Safety		
Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to the environment, to animals or plants. (during the implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does this activity deal with endangered fauna and/or flora / protected areas?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to humans, including those performing the activity. (during the implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)?	☐ Yes	☐ No
8. Artificial Intelligence		
Does this activity involve the development, deployment and/or use of Artificial Intelligence? (if yes, detail in the self-assessment whether that could raise ethical concerns related to human rights and values and detail how this will be addressed).	☐ Yes	☐ No
9. Other Ethics Issues		
Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration?	☐ Yes	☐ No

I confirm that I have [taken into account](#) all ethics issues above and that, if any ethics issues apply, I will complete the ethics self-assessment as described in the guidelines [How to Complete your Ethics Self-Assessment](#).

Ethics Self-Assessment

Ethical dimension of the objectives, methodology and likely impact
Explain in detail the identified issues in relation to: - objectives of the activities (e.g. study of vulnerable populations, etc.) - methodology (e.g. clinical trials, involvement of children, protection of personal data, etc.) - the potential impact of the activities (e.g. environmental damage, stigmatisation of particular social groups, political or financial adverse consequences, misuse, etc.)

(max 5000 characters)

Compliance with ethical principles and relevant legislations

Describe how the issue(s) identified in the ethics issues table above will be addressed in order to adhere to the ethical principles and what will be done to ensure that the activities are compliant with the EU/national legal and ethical requirements of the country or countries where the tasks are to be carried out. It is reminded that for activities performed in a non-EU country, they should also be allowed in at least one EU Member State.

(max 5000 characters)

Security issues table

1. EU Classified Information (EUCI) ¹		
Does this activity involve information and/or materials requiring protection against unauthorised disclosure (EUCI)?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does this activity involve non-EU countries which need to have access to EUCI?	☐ Yes	☐ No
2. Misuse		
Does this activity have the potential for misuse of results?	☐ Yes	☐ No
3. Other Security Issues		
Does this activity involve information and/or materials subject to national security restrictions? If yes, please specify: (Maximum number of characters allowed: 1000)	☐ Yes	☐ No
Are there any other security issues that should be taken into consideration? If yes, please specify: (Maximum number of characters allowed: 1000)		

¹ According to the Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information, "European Union classified information (EUCI) means any information or material designated by an EU security classification, the unauthorised disclosure of which could cause varying degrees of prejudice to the interests of the European Union or of one or more of the Member States".

Classified background information is information that is already classified by a country and/or international organisation and/or the EU and is going to be used by the project. In this case, the project must have in advance the authorisation from the originator of the classified information, which is the entity (EU institution, EU Member State, third state or international organisation) under whose authority the classified information has been generated.

EU classified foreground information is information (documents/deliverables/materials) planned to be generated by the project and that needs to be protected from unauthorised disclosure. The originator of the EUCI generated by the project is the European Commission.

Security self-assessment

Please specify: (Maximum number of characters allowed: 5000)

[Institution's Letterhead]

LETTER OF COMMITMENT

To the Charles University's programme coordinator:

The [name of faculty], as part of Charles University,

confirms its awareness and full support for the establishment of a Kellner Research Chair within its structure, to be held by [Name of Chairholder], should the proposal [Project Title] be selected for funding under the Kellner Research Chairs Programme.

The faculty acknowledges the strategic importance of the Kellner Research Chairs initiative in strengthening the university's research excellence and international visibility and expresses its commitment to provide the necessary institutional and infrastructural support for the successful implementation of the Chair.

The faculty commits itself to the following obligations:

- a. Hosting and employment – to host and employ the Chairholder for the full duration of the appointment, ensuring stable working conditions in accordance with the internal rules of Charles University and the European Charter for Researchers.
- b. Scientific independence – to guarantee the Chairholder's scientific autonomy in defining and implementing the research agenda, including:
 - i. full authority over the use of the allocated budget in line with the approved work plan;
 - ii. freedom to publish and determine authorship in accordance with academic standards;
 - iii. independence in selecting and supervising team members;
 - iv. autonomy in applying for complementary external funding;
 - v. access to suitable research facilities and infrastructure.
- c. Administrative and institutional support – to provide adequate administrative, technical, and research support for the management and implementation of the Chair's activities, including assistance with financial and scientific reporting.
- d. Integration and visibility – to ensure that the Chairholder and their research group are appropriately integrated within the faculty's research environment and that their work is visible and aligned with the strategic goals of both the Faculty and Charles University.

- e. Ethical and integrity standards – to uphold the highest standards of research integrity and good research practice, in accordance with the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, and to take appropriate measures in case of any breaches.
- f. Working conditions – to guarantee adequate conditions for work, leave, health and safety, and access to social security, in line with applicable Czech legislation and university policies. Financial sustainability – the Faculty commits to providing CZK 1,000,000 per year for two additional years following the three-year Foundation-funded phase, to sustain the Chair's activities and team.
- g. Project implementation – to actively contribute to the effective implementation of the Kellner Research Chair project at the faculty level, including ensuring the timely execution of planned activities, facilitating internal coordination among relevant departments and units, and providing the necessary institutional conditions for achieving the project's objectives and expected outcomes. In the event of a successful outcome of the initial three-year period, to express interest in extending the employment contract beyond this period.
- h. Continuity and communication – to maintain close communication with the Rectorate and relevant university bodies regarding the progress and status of the Kellner Research Chair.

The faculty acknowledges the overall coordination and monitoring role of Charles University – Rectorate and Charles University Endowment Fund in implementing the Kellner Research Chairs Programme and commits to cooperate fully in ensuring compliance with programme objectives and reporting requirements.

For the Faculty of [name of faculty]:

Date: _____ 2026

Name and Function: Prof. [Full Name], Dean

Email and legally binding signature: _____

Stamp of the Faculty