



The Dean of the Faculty of Law of Palacký University in Olomouc
hereby announces
the Student Research and Professional Activities Competition
and provides for the rules thereof

Announcement:

The Dean of the Faculty of Law of Palacký University in Olomouc hereby announces the opening of the Student Research and Professional Activities Competition for the year 2024 (hereinafter referred to also as “the competition”, in Czech also referred to as “SVOČ”).

SVOČ is an annual competition of research papers by students of the Faculty of Law of Palacký University in Olomouc (hereinafter referred to as “the Faculty”).

The objective of the competition is to enhance students’ interest in current legal issues, participation in public debate and research activity and to provide them with an opportunity and the motivation to improve their professional knowledge and skills.

The following rules shall be observed in the course of the competition:

Article 1

Participation

Any student of the Faculty enrolled in the Bachelor’s, Master’s or Doctoral Degree Study Programmes may become a participant in the competition, either individually or as a member of a competition team of students of the Faculty (hereinafter referred to as the “competitors”). Participation in the competition shall involve the registration of the competition paper, its submission and its defence under set conditions and within the scheduled dates.

Article 2

Competition Paper

- 1) The competition paper shall relate to a field of study of law or to social-science fields of study taught at the Faculty. The topic shall be chosen by the competitor.
- 2) Only one’s own original paper shall be submitted into the competition, i.e. the paper shall have been produced individually by the registrant or registrants. Previous consultation with academic staff of the Faculty or other professionals in the course of work on the paper shall not constitute an impediment to the authenticity of the paper.
- 3) A paper or a part of paper defended as a Bachelor’s, Master’s or other academic qualification thesis shall not be admitted into the competition. Previous complete or partial publication of a paper shall not constitute an impediment to the registration in the competition. An identical paper registered in this, or other similar competitions shall be excluded from the competition.
- 4) The competitor may submit more than one paper into the competition provided that the papers prove a substantial difference in topic and content.

Article 3

Registration

- 1) The competitors shall register into the competition not later than on 16th February 2024.

- 2) The application shall be sent electronically to the e-mail address svoc.pf@upol.cz. The application shall contain the following information:
 - a) name, surname and e-mail address of the competitor,
 - b) study programme and the year of study,
 - c) draft title of the paper and categorization of the field of study of the competition paper,
 - d) name and guarantor of the study subject in the case the competition paper was registered because of fulfilling the conditions of some of the subject studied at the PF UP.
- 3) By registering in the competition, the competitors commit themselves to submit the competition paper and express their consent with these competition rules.

Article 4

Paper Requisites, Submission of the Competition Paper

- 1) The competition paper shall be written in the Czech, Slovak or English language.
- 2) The competition paper shall consist of the title page; declaration of authenticity of the paper; content, or the list of abbreviations; introduction; the actual text of the paper; conclusion and a list of references. The introduction shall contain an explanation of the topic of the paper and the objectives of the paper, it shall give reasons for the choice of the research method, provide the definition of hypotheses and research questions. The conclusion shall state whether the hypotheses formulated in the introduction proved correct or were disproved, while summing up the answers to the research questions. Other requisites and formal layout of the paper are governed by the applicable Internal Standard of the Dean of the Faculty of Law of Palacký University, which stipulates the requisites of qualification theses at the Faculty of Law of Palacký University in Olomouc.
- 3) The minimum extent of the paper shall be 36,000 characters including spaces, the maximum extent shall be 54,000 characters including spaces. Footnotes shall constitute a part of the total extent of the paper. The title page, the content and list of references shall not be included in the number of characters.
- 4) The competition paper shall be submitted not later than on 29th March 2024.
- 5) The paper shall be submitted in electronic form only in the form of two data files in the .doc and .pdf format to the e-mail address svoc.pf@upol.cz.
- 6) The names of the academic staff of the Faculty, or other professionals who provided the competitor with professional advice in the course of the work on the paper shall be stated on the title page of the competition paper.
- 7) Papers submitted in conflict with this Article, as well as those not meeting the requirements laid down in Article 2 shall not be accepted for registration in the competition.

Article 5

External Examination

- 1) For each competition paper submitted in accordance with these rules, the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law, Palacký University responsible for the SVOČ competition shall appoint two reviewers from among the academic staff of the Faculty of Law of Palacký University or other professionals.
- 2) The reviewer shall give a report in which he/she shall evaluate in particular:
 - a) the topicality, practical applicability and theoretical significance of the paper; usability of the paper in theory and practice and its relevance;
 - b) systematic structure, logical structure, methodology, work with sources;
 - c) the formal aspect of the paper (language level, division and graphic editing of the text);

- d) the content of the paper (objective comments on the text, confrontation with other possible opinions, overall mastery of the topic, assessment of the conclusions of the paper, to what extent they may be the subject of discussion during the oral round).
- 3) The reviewer's report shall be processed on the form constituting part of the appendix to this announcement.
- 4) The conclusion of the reviewer's report shall contain the overall evaluation of the paper and, as the case may be, a proposal for the focus of discussion at the oral defence of the paper.
- 5) The reviewers shall submit their report in a set form and within the set period to the Vice Dean responsible for the organization of SVOČ.
- 6) The reviewer's report shall be sent to the competitor without any delay and not later than one week before the date set for the oral defence.
- 7) The opponent shall not be a person who was a consultant to the competitor(s) during the preparation of the competition paper.

Article 6

Assessment of the Competition Papers

- 1) With regard to the number of competition papers, these may be divided into categories according to their subject focus or according to the study programmes of the competitors.
- 2) In accordance with the categories, one or more evaluating committees shall be set up for the assessment of the competition papers. The committee shall consist of at least three members. All committees shall be presided over by the Vice Dean responsible for the SVOČ competition, or by a member of the academic staff appointed by the Vice Dean responsible for the SVOČ. The Vice Dean shall appoint members of the evaluating committees from among the academic staff of the Faculty of Law of Palacký University or, as the case may be, from among other experts. At the same time, the Vice Dean responsible for the SVOČ shall appoint at least one substitute for each committee.

Written Round of the Competition

- 3) The Vice Dean responsible for the SVOČ shall set the date of the written round of the competition at the Faculty level. The date shall be determined well in advance, especially with regard to meeting the set period under Article 5, paragraph 5).
- 4) In the first round of assessment, only aspects related to the written form of the competition papers shall be considered. The committee, with regard to the reviewers' reports, shall assess the qualities of each paper and shall choose papers that will advance to the next, oral round. Not more than five competition papers may be advanced to the verbal round in each category.

Oral Round of the Competition

- 5) The Vice Dean responsible for the SVOČ shall determine the date of the oral round of the competition at the Faculty level. This round shall consist in the oral defence of the competition papers. The date shall be determined well in advance, especially with regard to meeting the set period under Article 5, paragraph 6.
- 6) A competition paper of a student who will not participate in the oral defence shall not be assessed by the committee and shall not be nominated for an award. In exceptional justified cases, the defence of the paper may be enabled through the distance form of a videoconference.
- 7) The oral defence is common to all competition papers within the given category.
- 8) The oral defence shall be open to the public.
- 9) At the oral defence, the competitor shall briefly, within a set time limit, present his/her competition paper and the main issues addressed and shall respond to comments and questions stated in the reviewers' reports.

- 10) In the course of the subsequent discussion, members of the committee and anyone from the public may ask questions and make comments.
- 11) After the defences of the competition papers are completed, the committee shall perform the final evaluation in the given category while focusing on the following:
 - a) the competition paper itself (in its entirety, with regard to the criteria described in Article 5, paragraph 2),
 - b) the quality of the performance of the competitor during the oral defence, including the formal aspects of the discourse,
 - c) the way the competitor succeeded in addressing comments and responding to questions,
 - d) the overall addressing of the issue.

The committee shall also consider the assessment of the competition paper by the reviewer.

- 12) The assessment committee shall nominate the best three competition papers in each category for the award. In justified cases the relevant assessment committee in the given category is entitled not to nominate any competition paper for the award, or it may nominate less than three competition papers for the award. In exceptional justified cases, the committee may nominate more than three competition papers for the award while determining which papers have been awarded split places.
- 13) The nominations for the award is decided upon the majority of the votes; in the case where there is a tie in the votes, the vote of the chairman of the committee shall decide. The committee may sit and make decisions in the presence of a majority of its members.

Article 7

Bursaries and rewards for participation in the competition

- 1) A competitor (competition team) who submits their paper to this competition and who properly submits a written paper in accordance with all the above requirements, is entitled to a bursary in the amount of CZK 1,000.
- 2) A competitor (competition team) whose paper advances to the oral round is entitled to an additional bursary in the amount of CZK 4,000.
- 3) A competitor (competition team) whose paper is placed after the oral round:
 - a) in the 3rd place is awarded another bursary in the amount of CZK 5,000
 - b) in the 2nd place is awarded another bursary in the amount of CZK 10,000
 - c) in the 1st place is awarded another bursary in the amount of CZK 15,000.
- 4) When a bursary is awarded to a competition team, the bursary is divided equally among the team members.
- 5) If the competition paper of a student who has systematically consulted with an academic staff member of PF UP is placed successfully in the competition, then this academic staff member is entitled to a one-time reward:
 - a) in the amount of CZK 5,000 in the event that the consulted competition paper is placed in the 1st place,
 - b) in the amount of CZK 4,000 in the event that the consulted competition paper is placed in the 2nd place,
 - c) in the amount of CZK 3,000 in the event that the consulted competition paper is placed in the 3rd place.

If there are more than one consultant, the reward is divided equally between them. In order for the reward to be paid, the names of the consultants shall appear on the opening page of the competition paper.

Article 8
Common Provisions

- 1) The Vice Dean responsible for the SVOČ is entitled to set more detailed organizational rules of the competition if it is to ensure the proper running of the competition.
- 2) In justified exceptional cases, the Vice Dean responsible for the SVOČ is entitled to pardon the failure to meet the due terms set under these rules.
- 3) There shall be no legal remedy against the decisions of the assessment committee under these rules.
- 4) There shall be no legal claim to the award.

In Olomouc on 4th December 2023

doc. JUDr. Václav Stehlík, LL.M., Ph.D.
the Dean of the Faculty of Law of Palacký University