



The Dean of the Faculty of Law of Palacký University in Olomouc
hereby announces the opening of
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 of 2023 (hereinafter “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 “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 Study Programmes can become a participant in the competition, either individually or as a member of a competition team of students of the Faculty (hereinafter “competitors”). Participation in the competition shall mean 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 enter 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 registered in the competition. Previous complete or partial publication of the 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 can register more than one paper in the competition provided that the papers prove a substantial difference in topic and content.

Article 3 Registration

- 1) The competitors shall enrol in the competition not later than on the 28th February 2023.
- 2) The application shall be sent electronically to svoc.pf@upol.cz. The application shall contain:
 - a) name, surname and email 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.
- 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, and it sums up the answers to the research questions. Other requisites and formal layout of the paper are governed by the applicable internal Directive 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 front page, the content and list of references shall not be included in the number of characters.

- 4) The competition paper must be submitted not later than on the 17th April 2023.
- 5) The work shall be submitted in two copies in hard or other suitable binding (e. g. spiral) to the hands of the relevant employee of the Office for Science, Research and Project Support and, in addition to that, in the form of a data file in .doc format to the e-mail address svoc.pf@upol.cz. The competitor is responsible for the accord of the printed and electronic versions.
- 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 front 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 is responsible for SVOČ 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 of the issue addressed,
 - b) the scheme and methodology of the paper,
 - c) the content of the paper as to its factual correctness and the way the author of the paper addresses the potential differing viewpoints, if such viewpoints had been published,
 - d) the ability to formulate their own opinion and the ability to present arguments,
 - e) the level of processing literary and other sources,
 - f) the formal level of the paper, especially with regard to the use of language, structuring and text layout.
- 3) The reviewer's report shall be processed on the form that makes 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 verbal defence of the paper.

- 5) The reviewers shall submit their report in the 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 verbal defence.

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 SVOČ, or by a member of the academic staff appointed by the Vice Dean responsible for SVOČ. The Vice Dean shall appoint from among the academic staff of the Faculty of Law of Palacký University or, if need be, from among other experts, other members of the evaluating committees. At the same time, the Vice Dean responsible for SVOČ shall appoint at least one substitute for each committee.

Written Round of the Competition

- 3) The Vice Dean responsible for 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 Art. 5 (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, verbal round. Not more than five competition papers can be advanced to the verbal round in each category.

Verbal Round of the Competition

- 5) The Vice Dean responsible for SVOČ shall determine the date of the verbal round of the competition at the Faculty level. This round shall consist in the verbal defence of the competition papers. The date shall be determined well in advance, especially with regard to meeting the set period under Art. 5 (6).
- 6) A competition paper of a student who will not participate in the verbal 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 can be enabled through the distance form of a videoconference.
- 7) The verbal defence is common to all competition papers within the given category.
- 8) The verbal defence shall be open to the public.

- 9) At the verbal defence the competitor shall briefly, within a set time limit, present his or 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 then anyone from the public may ask questions and make comments.
- 11) After the defences of the competition papers are completed, the committee shall do 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 (2)),
 - b) the quality of the performance of the competitor during the verbal 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 evaluating committee shall nominate the best three competition papers in each category for the award. In justified cases the relevant evaluating committee in the given category is entitled not to nominate any competition paper for the award, or it can nominate less than three competition papers for the award. In exceptional justified cases the committee can nominate more than three competition papers for the award.
- 13) The nominations for the award shall get the support of the majority of the votes; in the case where there is a tie in the votes the vote of the president of the committee shall decide.

Article 7

Prizes

- 1) Students whose competition paper is nominated for the award shall be awarded a one-off scholarship by the Dean of the Faculty amounting to 20,000 CZK for first place, 12,000 CZK for second place and 7,000 for third place. In the case that the nomination for the award concerns a team, the prize shall be divided between the team members in equal parts.
- 2) In the case that the nominated competition paper is a work of a student who had systematically been consulting the paper with a member of the academic staff at the Faculty of Law of Palacký University, the staff member shall be awarded a one-off award amounting to 4,000 CZK given that the consulted competition paper takes

first place, 3,000 CZK given that the consulted competition paper takes second place and 2,000 CZK given that the consulted competition paper takes third place. In the case that there are more consultants, the award shall be divided in equal parts. In order that the award be paid out, the competition paper shall contain the names of the consultants on the front page.

Article 8

Common Provisions

- 1) The Vice Dean responsible for 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 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 evaluating committee under these rules.
- 4) There shall be no legal claim to an award.

In Olomouc on the 20th December 2022

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