

Terms and conditions for the international contest for students

“The Toruń Astrophysics / Physics Summer Program - TAPS”

1. The aim of the Contest is to trigger interest among talented students from Poland and abroad by participation in summer research projects and to promote research performed in the Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Informatics (FPAI) at the Nicolaus Copernicus University (NCU) in Toruń.
2. The contest is organized by the FPAI NCU in Toruń. The Dean of the FPAI in agreement with the Vice-dean for Research and Education appoint a 3-person Contest Commission composed of the FPAI employees in order to conduct the Contest.
3. The Contest is aimed at undergraduate, Master’s and graduate students of physics, astronomy, and related sciences from Poland and abroad, preferably with prior research experience and who show a strong motivation to perform research projects, in particular in the fields carried out by the employees of FPAI.
4. The Contest description
 - i. As part of the Contest, the summer research stays are awarded to the selected participants, who will be supervised by the expert in the field of the project chosen by the student during the application procedure. The research stays of duration 3 to 8 weeks will be conducted in the FPAI NCU in Toruń during the period from May to September 2017. The exact dates will be agreed on between the project advisor and the selected student. As part of the award, the organisers will cover the accommodation costs in Toruń as well as the living costs (food and local transportation) in a form of a lump sum of 50 PLN per day.
 - ii. In order to participate in the Contest, participants have to send their CV and motivation letter, where they present their research interests and the choice of the research summer project.
 - iii. In order to receive the award (the participation in the summer research project), the laureate has to send the letter of intent in order to confirm his / her interest in the research project by May 25th, 2017 (following the positive decision of the Contest Commission and the agreement on the topic of the research project and its dates) and, also, has to arrive to the FPAI NCU at the declared day of the beginning of the research project. The travel costs to/from Toruń have to be covered by the participant.
5. Important dates
 - i. The application deadline is May 5th, 2017.
 - ii. The results of the Contest will be announced on May 15th, 2017.
 - iii. The list of award winners will be announced at the website: <http://www.ca.umk.pl/taps2017>
6. Participation in the Contest
 - i. The following documents are required in order to apply to the Contest:
 - CV (up to 4 pages of the A4 format),
 - motivation letter (1 page A4 format) specifying the selection of the project(s) from the list of projects available on the website,
 - (optional) recommendation letter (1 page A4 format) from the scientific advisor of prior research projects (the advisor has to be employed by a university or research institute, in Poland or abroad).

All documents should be prepared in English.
 - ii. In the application form, the candidate will include the following sentences:

I am willing to participate in the Contest „The Toruń Astrophysics / Physics Summer Program - TAPS”.

I hereby inform that I read the Rules and Regulations of the Contest and that I agree for processing my personal data for the purpose of Contest, and in case of becoming one of the finalists, I agree that my first and last name will be published in the public ranking list that will be published at the website <http://www.ca.umk.pl/taps2017>. In case I agree to participate in the research stay, I also agree for processing my personal data for the purpose of the Contest realisation (as defined in the Act of August 29, 1997 on the Protection of Personal Data; entire text: Dz. U. from 2002 Nr 101, position 926 with changes).

First and last name

- iii. The applications including CV, a motivation letter and (optionally) a recommendation letter, should be sent by email to: agata.karska@umk.pl.
- iv. CV of the prospective participant should contain the true state of affairs. In case the presented information is not correct, the participant will be disqualified from the Contest at any stage.
- v. By sending the application, the participant agrees that his basic personal data will be processed by the organisers. The Contest winners have to agree that their name will be published at the website <http://www.ca.umk.pl/taps2017>, as well as that after they agree to participate in the project, their personal data will be processed for the purposes of the Contest (according to the Act of August 29, 1997 on the Protection of Personal Data; entire text: Dz. U. from 2002 Nr 101, position 926 with changes).
- vi. Sending the application means that the participant agrees to the Contest Rules presented in this document.

7. Evaluation of the applications

- i. The applications will be evaluated based on the formal (the number and the kind of the documents) and substantive basis. The formal basis will be evaluated as “passes / does not pass” the requirements, whereas on the substantive basis the scale will vary from 0 to 20 points. Applications which do not pass the formal requirements will not be evaluated on the substantive basis.
- ii. Based on the final scores, the Contest Commission will create a ranking of the Contest participants.
- iii. The Contest Commission selects the Contest laureates (no more than 20 participants), who obtained the highest scores. It is allowed that in cases where more than 1 candidate chooses the specific project, the person with the lower score will be offered a project led by a different advisor or a newly defined project of the same advisor.
- iv. The list of the Contest’s laureates will be published on TAPS website: <http://www.ca.umk.pl/taps2017>

8. Participation in the TAPS program

- i. The TAPS summer program will be realised at two locations: in the Institute of Physics NCU in Toruń at Grudziadzka 5 street, and at the Centre for Astronomy NCU in Piwnice near Torun (gm. Lysomice). The organisers will offer the participants of research projects a workplace and the scientific and electronic equipment needed for performing the project. Every participants will be advised by at least one scientific faculty member of the FPAI in Torun.
- ii. During the course of the project, the laureates are obliged to participated in the seminars and other activities organised for the TAPS participants.

- iii. During the last week of the research project, each participant is obliged to prepare a report from the project and to present it in an oral form for the rest of the Contest participants, their advisors, and guests. The duration of the presentation will be set by the organiser based on the number of laureates and organisational reasons. The duration will not be shorter than 15 minutes and not longer than 45 minutes.

9. Awards

- i. The awards are the invitations to perform selected research project in the research teams in FPAI under supervision of an expert in the field. The project will be realised at the FPAI NCU in Torun. The organisers offer to cover the costs connected with the participation and realisation of the research project as specified in point 4 i of the Rules, with the exception of the travel costs to and from Torun.
- ii. The necessary condition for the realisation of the award will be to receive from the laureates the letter of intent by May 25th, 2017 (after the candidates will be informed about the decision by the Contest Commission and the decision about the project topic and dates will be made), as well as the show up of the laureate on the first day of the planned research project in the FPAI in Torun.
- iii. In the situation of persistent lack of obeying the duties specified in points i-iii of the Rules, with the clear fault of the participant, the participant may be obliged to refund the stipend given by the organiser that are meant to cover his / her participation in the Contest.

10. Revocations

- i. It is possible to disagree with the decision of the Contest Commission in a written form within one week from the announcement of the Contest results. Such a revocation has to be supported by arguments, which could convince the Contest Commission to change its decision.
- ii. The decision of the Commission after the revocation is considered is final.

11. The organiser is allowed to change the Rules and Regulation, as long as it will not worsen the terms and conditions of the participation in the Contest.

12. Questions concerning the Contest can be sent to: agata.karska@umk.pl.

The terms and conditions were approved by:

Chair of the FPAI NCU in Torun

Prof. dr hab. Włodzimierz Jaskólski