ORDER # 16/2011
of the Dean of Charles University in Prague – the Faculty of Science

on the STARS programme to support talented PhD students

1 Launching the programme

The Faculty considers the training and education of PhD students as one of the priorities within its activity. For quality scientific and research work, engagement of talented students in activities of research teams is highly beneficial, and in turn, essential for their prospective professional careers. Further, the Faculty pursues the aim of recruiting talented students interested in PhD studies both from the Czech Republic, the Faculty pursues the aim of recruiting talented students interested in PhD studies from both the Czech Republic and abroad.

Therefore the Faculty launches a programme to support talented students in Doctor degree studies – STARS, Supporting Talented PhD Research Students (thereinafter “STARS programme”).

The objectives of the STARS programme are:

(i) Financial support of talented students in Doctor degree programmes accredited at the Faculty.

(ii) Innovation of forms and enrichment of the contents of education in Doctor degree study programmes.

Specifically so:

(i) Financial support of talented students in PhD studies

The Faculty will grant the student participating in the STARS programme extra financial resources to increase his/her bursary or net salary by at least CZK 10,000 per student monthly. This amount is composed of two sources: one half is the Faculty’s finance, and the other half is provided by the research team or institution where the student will be involved. The prerequisite for obtaining the financial support is that the student is admitted to studies and enrolled to the first year of the full-time form of PhD studies at the Faculty.

The Faculty as well as the research team or institution provides the student with finance during the entire standard duration of his/her studies on the condition that he/she is marked with the “A” grade on annual evaluation of PhD students done by the Field Board of the doctoral study programme (i.e. “fulfils his/her study obligations”) and that no other circumstance arises which may be considered as impediment to payment of the due bursary according to the Scholarship Regulations of Charles University. The same obligation is taken by the respective research team or institution. A sine qua non of a student’s admission to the STARS programme is the consent by the principal of the institution where the given PhD project will be implemented. Thereby, continuity of the financial support for the student is guaranteed in case the financial resources of the research team are exhausted.
The financial support for the student can be provided in two ways:

(a) as monthly bursary – this bursary is granted as one financed from other sources according to the Scholarship Regulations of Charles University, understanding that “other sources” include the sources to support research, experimental development and innovations (flow 55) as well;
(b) in the form of salary, based on a contract of employment with the Faculty (as a rule, for a part-time position of Scientific Researcher).

(ii) Innovation of forms and enrichment of the contents of education in PhD programmes

The Faculty organizes and introduces new forms of tuition to widen the current scope in the accredited PhD programmes. In particular, this means advanced methodological courses, advanced language courses and courses of scientific writing, courses of presentation skills, courses in IT, programing, data management, workshops focused on career planning, offer of options to enhance PhD students’ mobility and professional contacts. The Faculty also supports PhD student conferences and giving lectures by outstanding experts.

2 Participants in the STARS programme

Free to apply for the STARS programme are:

(a) The Faculty’s research teams or institutions with a specific topic for a PhD project. Selection of projects for the programme will be done by Section Scientific Councils and judged by the Scientific Council of the Faculty.
(b) Applicants for PhD studies. Selection of applicant for the programmes will be done by selected research teams or institutions at the Faculty. The applicants chosen will enrol for the first year of full-time form of PhD studies at the Faculty and undergo the admission procedure.

3 Organizational backup for the STARS programme

The STARS programme is organized by the Vice-Dean for Doctoral Studies. Further, Faculty co-ordinators are appointed, directed by the Vice-Dean for Doctoral Studies.

The co-ordinator’s duties include:

(a) to organize (in co-ordination with the vice-deans and Dean) the choice of the Faculty’s research teams or institutions that apply for participation in the programme in the given year;
(b) to promote the programme both in the Czech Republic and abroad (in co-ordination with the Public Relations Department and the Vice-Dean for Doctoral Studies);
(c) to organize (in co-ordination with selected research teams or institutions) the selection from among the students applying for the programme;
(d) to propose and initiate introduction of new forms of education in Doctor degree study programmes.
The studies of PhD students chosen for participation in the STARS programme are directed by the Rules for Organization of Studies at the Faculty of Science and the Studies and Examination Regulations of Charles University in Prague.

In Prague on 11th October 2011

Prof. RNDr. Bohuslav Gaš, CSc.
Dean