The Doctoral School of Medical and Health Sciences

**Communication No. 8**

**of the Director of the Doctoral School of Medical and Health Sciences**

**of 15 May 2024**

**on: recommendation on the fulfilment of the requirement of knowledge of a modern foreign language by PhD students in the School of Medical and Health Sciences, which is necessary for initiating the proceedings for the award of a doctoral degree**

I would like to kindly inform you that, in accordance with § 3(1)(2) of Resolution No. 51/V/2023 of the Jagiellonian University Senate of 31 May 2023 on: Procedure for awarding academic degrees at the Jagiellonian University, as amended:

*"The Discipline Board shall initiate proceedings for the award of the doctoral degree at the request of a candidate who:*

*(...) 2. has achieved the learning outcomes for the qualification at level 8 of the PRK [Polish Qualification Framework], whereby the learning outcomes for the knowledge of a modern foreign language are confirmed by a certificate or diploma of graduation or a passed examination, referred to in Article 186(1a) of the Act, which certifies the knowledge of this language at the level of at least B2 (...)".*

PhD students in the Doctoral School of Medical and Health Sciences pursuing doctoral programmes conducted in Polish, starting in the academic years 2019/2020 to 2022/2023, have 'Biomedical English' course as one of the compulsory subjects in their education programme, for which they receive a B2 credit. Passing the course is not an exam and PhD students do not receive a certificate of language proficiency. The JU MC Language Centre may exempt a PhD student from attending the course on the basis of a certificate of language proficiency. It is up to the JU MC Language Centre to decide whether the certificate submitted meets the relevant requirements.

In the doctoral programme conducted in English for study cycles starting in the academic years 2021/2022 to 2022/2023, the presentation of a language proficiency certificate at level B2 was a formal requirement for participation in the admission procedure. The accepted certificates are listed in Annex 2 of the relevant resolutions on the admission rules for the Doctoral School of Medical and Health Sciences, issued in 2021-2022, with the proviso that the admission committee may, in justified cases, waive the requirement to provide proof of English language proficiency on the basis of a documented request from candidates who are: 1. citizens of countries where English is the main official language, or
2. graduates of universities in countries where English is the main official language.

At the same time, we would like to inform that with regard to the **university diploma certifying knowledge of a modern foreign language at the level of at least B2**, referred to in the above provision of the Resolution, it should be noted that, as the law stands at present, this requirement is met by persons who have completed a first cycle of studies or single master's studies, since the diploma awarded on completion of these studies certifies knowledge of a foreign language at this level, i.e. the acquisition of learning outcomes at this level.

With this in mind, we recommend that you proceed as follows:

1. for PhD students who hold a certificate in a foreign language or a diploma certifying knowledge of a modern foreign language at a proficiency level of at least B2, contacting the relevant discipline board and establishing whether this is sufficient to initiate proceedings for the award of the doctoral degree,
2. for PhD students who do not have the certificate or diploma mentioned above, we propose that JU MC Language Centre organises an English exam at B2 level in the first half of June 2024, consisting of a written and oral part, after which you will be awarded a certificate. If you are interested in taking the exam, please apply to the Doctoral School Office by **28 May 2024.**
3. PhD students who do not have the certificate or diploma referred to above may also apply to the relevant discipline board for an examination in a modern foreign language confirming their knowledge of a foreign language at B2 level in accordance with § 4(5-7) of Resolution No. 51/V/2023 of the Jagiellonian University Senate of 31 May 2023 on: Procedure for awarding academic degrees at the Jagiellonian University as amended.

 Director of

 o‌f the Doctoral School of Medical and Health Sciences

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