

38th OTDK General Call

Supplement 2

Eligibility Criteria for the 38th National Student Research Conference

1. General Information

The General Call of the 38th OTDK aims to provide TDT chairs and participants preparing a TDK paper with the most relevant information on how to submit an entry. This document covers the main administrative tasks. In addition to the call, TDT chairs and applicants can also follow the latest additional information about the 38th OTDK on the OTDT website.

Contact details of the OTDT Office:

Website: <https://otdk.hu/>

E-mail: otdk@otdt.hu

Postal address: National Association for Student Research
1095 Budapest, Mester utca 36.

2. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, the TDK paper and all its authors must meet the conditions set out in the General Call and its supplements.

For the 38th OTDK, students are eligible who **at the time of the first round of the qualifying science/art field, faculty or institutional student research conference** (hereinafter referred to as student research conference) **following the registration period of the 37th OTDK and preceding the registration period of the 38th OTDK** attended

- an integrated master's program,
- a BA/BSc program,
- an MA/MSc,
- a BProf (Bachelor of Profession) program;
- higher education vocational training,

and meet all the requirements of the General Call and the Section Call they are applying for.¹ Further, high school students who meet the criteria set out in the General Call and its supplements are also eligible to apply for the 38th OTDK.

2.1. Content requirements

- A TDK paper (written work or artistic creation) documenting scholarly/artistic activity carried out during the period of study for the purpose of independent academic development,
- containing the academic achievements of their undergraduate training,
- personally presented by the applicant(s) at the student research conference
- between spring 2025 and February 2027 at the latest in the semester of the final degree for BA/BSc/MA/MSc/integrated master's² program students in Hungary; for students who have qualified in cross-border trainings at the student research conferences of the 37th National

¹ Eligibility for the 38th OTDK may be obtained at an institutional TDK conference in the second semester of the 2024–2025 academic year, in the first and second semesters of the 2025–2026 academic year, and in the first and second semesters of the 2026–2027 academic year.

² Certificate of completion (pre-degree certificate): certifies the successful completion of the examinations prescribed in the curriculum and, with the exception of the thesis, the fulfilment of other study requirements and the acquisition of the credits prescribed in the training and outcome requirements, which certifies, without qualification and evaluation, that the applicant has fully met the study and examination requirements prescribed in the curriculum in the degree program covering the subject of the TDK paper. The date of the pre-degree certificate can be found in the electronic study system.

Student Research Conference (ETDK, EMTE and PKE conferences, FTDK, KTDK, VMTDK); for participants in higher education vocational programs, before the final exam,

- presented in person by the participant(s),
- and there its presentation was recommended by the Session Panel to apply for the 38th National Student Research Conference.

Only those TDK papers that and for which all the authors meet all the requirements set out in point 2 of this Supplement, shall be eligible for the 38th OTDK.

Students (authors) must, at the time of submitting their paper, provide a written declaration in the online system confirming **compliance with the rules of research ethics**. *The Declaration*: "I hereby declare that in my TDK paper I have fully complied with the research ethics requirements set out in the OTDT Code of Ethics, and that I will continue to observe them during my participation in the OTDK."

The Section Committees operate ad hoc ethics panels of 3–5 members, in accordance with the OTDT Code of Ethics, to assess conduct that may be in breach of the Code.

A thesis produced in the course of continuous TDK activity during BA and BSc education, can be entered to the 38th OTDK, if it meets the requirements of the Call and its Supplements and has been presented at a student research conference either during the BA/BSc or the subsequent MA/MSc training and has there been delegated to the OTDK.

Compulsory assignments prescribed in the curriculum during university or college studies, seminar papers, as well as – in the case of students in integrated master's or MA/MSc programs – theses already defended by the time of the institutional TDK conference, and scientific works prepared and/or presented by doctoral students after obtaining their university degree may not be submitted to the National Student Research Conference, as they do not fall within the scope of higher education self-study.

Furthermore:

- a) students who already hold a previously obtained PhD/DLA degree at the time of the student research conference are not eligible for the 38th OTDK;
- b) the participation of students who, at the time of the student research conference, are enrolled in one of the program types listed in point 2 but already hold a diploma obtained in one of these programs (with the exception of participation in a master's program following the first BA/BSc degree, which cannot be excluded) may be regulated by the disciplinary sections in their own calls;
- c) students who already hold a degree obtained in a master's program or an integrated master's program and who were also enrolled in doctoral program at the time of the institutional TDK conference may not participate in the 38th OTDK with a TDK paper on the same topic as their doctoral research. These students must declare the topic of their doctoral research during the application to the 38th OTDK.

The content of the TDK paper submitted to the 38th OTDK must be identical to the paper with which the author(s) of the paper has (have) qualified for participation in the OTDK at student research conference. (Changes required by the formal requirements set out in the section calls shall not be considered as substantive modifications.)

The OTDT Board issues general guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence (AI), [which](#) are included in Supplement 6 of present General Call; further specific guidance on the use of AI may be provided in the calls of the individual scientific field sections. The author(s) must declare the use of AI in the OTDT online system during the application of the TDK paper to the 38th OTDK. OTDT also reminds students who wish to apply that **the TDK papers will be checked by plagiarism detection software**.

Applications that are proven to infringe copyright will be excluded from the 38th OTDK by the OTDT, with simultaneous notification to the nominating institution.

A paper can be entered for the OTDK only once and in one section. If a participant submits more than one paper, they must declare at the time of application that there is no substantive and significant overlap between the TDK papers; the section committees and the organizing committees will also examine any overlap between the submitted TDK papers when verifying the applications. The section committee may decide that the extent of overlap is not permissible; in this case, the participant must choose which TDK paper to present, and the other applications will be deleted. If a section concerned does not require a TDK paper, the decision must be based on whether substantive and significant overlap can be excluded on the basis of the abstracts. If the participant fails to make the statement at the time of application, all of their papers will be disqualified.

TDK papers with restricted access are not eligible for the 38th OTDK!

Attention is drawn to the OTDT Code of Ethics, which sets out the ethical principles of the TDKs and the OTDK and the ethical procedures to be followed by participants engaged in scientific and artistic student research, by professors and researchers undertaking tasks, as well as by the various bodies of the OTDT at different levels. The current Code of Ethics is available on the OTDT website.

3. Documentation of student research conferences

OTDT operates an electronic data management system (hereinafter: online system) for managing student research conferences, as well as OTDK, and Pro Scientia Gold Medal applications. The online system is available on the OTDT website: <https://otdk.hu>.

The documents of the student research conferences must be recorded in the OTDT online system/submitted to the OTDT Office by the institution/faculty TDK chair, secretary or referent (hereinafter: TDK chair) no later than two weeks after the conference, in the manner set out below:

- A record in the format specified by the OTDT is required for the student research conference. The record entry interface and the related completion guide are available on the OTDK website: <https://tdkjegyzokonyv.otdk.hu>.
- The completed records, duly filled in with all the required data and saved in XML format, must be uploaded to the OTDT online system.
- The completed records, signed by the Session Panel members, must be scanned and uploaded to the online system or sent to the OTDT Office by e-mail.

Upon receipt of the documentation, the OTDT Office will check the signed document against the data contained in the XML file uploaded in the OTDT online system and, if the content is identical, approve the record. If there is a discrepancy between the signed record and XML version, the OTDT Office will request a correction from the TDK Chair concerned and, upon receipt of the correction, will approve the record if it clearly contains the requested information and data.

4. Students' tasks in connection with participation in the 38th OTDK

Upon receipt of the record of the student research conference by the OTDT Office, students will receive automatic notification to the e-mail address given in the record that their TDK paper has been proposed for the 38th OTDK (for students who became eligible in the second semester of the academic year 2024–2025 or the first semester of the academic year 2025–2026, the letters will be sent after the publication of the 38th OTDK Section Calls). **Students have 30 days from the date of sending the e-mail to upload their TDK paper, which is identical in content to the one presented at the student research conference and proposed for the 38th OTDK, in PDF format to the OTDT online system and to select the section** in which they would later like to enter the TDK paper. Students who qualify with their TDK papers at a student research conference held within 30 days before the registration deadline for the relevant section of the 38th OTDK must upload their TDK papers to the online system by the registration deadline at the latest.

The formal and content requirements of the TDK papers by section are set out in the relevant supplements to each Section Call. A short summary of the student's self-assessed achievements must be included in the abstract uploaded during the registration process, up to a maximum of 2,500 characters (see the relevant supplements to the Section Calls for more detailed information on abstracts). TDT chairs are invited to organize the student research conferences in accordance with the OTDK Sections' guidelines, and to set the formal requirements for the TDK papers in accordance with the Sections' specifications and the evaluation should also be based on the criteria of the Sections.

4.1. Steps of registration for applicants

4.1.1. Pre-registration of TDK papers

Following the student research conference, **the TDK paper must be uploaded and the section must be selected** within 30 days of sending the e-mail indicated in point 4. TDK papers must be uploaded to OTDT's online system in PDF format. The maximum file size is 10 megabytes.

ATTENTION! Uploading a TDK paper does not constitute an entry to the OTDK, applications must be submitted during the registration period, following the steps described in the next section.

4.1.2. The application

The registration period will start on 16 November 2026 and will end on the registration deadline indicated in the Section Calls (see point 4.3).

All students wishing to apply for the 38th OTDK are requested to **submit their applications responsibly**, that is, to finalize their application in the OTDT online system only if they genuinely intend to participate in the event. If you have finalized your application but are unable to attend the conference, please inform the organizers of the section concerned as soon as possible.

Students' tasks during this period are:

- Filling in the information related to the uploaded application.
- Uploading the abstract as specified in the Section Calls.
- Entering five keywords not included in the title of the TDK paper in the upload area of the abstract.
- Finalizing the application in the OTDT online system.
- Uploading of any additional documents requested by the section (if applicable, details are provided in the Section Calls).

4.1.3. Supplementation of the application

Following the participants' registration deadline:

The **TDT Chair of the institution must be provided with the** documentation and TDK papers related to the application in the format requested by each section, as specified in the Section Calls.

4.2. Additional tasks for students who have obtained a pre-degree certificate or are expected to obtain a pre-degree certificate in the semester of registration

Students who have obtained a pre-degree certificate between the student research conference and the 38th OTDK must declare the date of obtaining their pre-degree certificate in the OTDT online system during the registration (those who expect to obtain their pre-degree certificate in the semester of registration after the registration deadline, must indicate that they expect to obtain their pre-degree certificate in the semester of registration).

For students qualified at the ETDK, FTDK, KTDK and VMTDK, the expected finalization date of their application to the 38th OTDK must be given as the date of the pre-degree certificate, since in their case this was already verified upon admission to the qualifying conference.

4.3. Registration deadlines for participants for the 38th OTDK

Section Calls will include a specific date chosen by the organizing institutions from the following options:

- December 9, 2026 (Wednesday)
- January 8, 2027 (Friday)
- January 11, 2027 (Monday)
- January 13, 2027 (Wednesday)
- January 20, 2027 (Wednesday)
- January 27, 2027 (Wednesday)
- February 22, 2027 (Monday) – Medical and Health Sciences Section

5. Tasks of the TDT Chairs in relation to the 38th OTDK

5.1. Following the student research conference:

Uploading the documents of the student research conference as detailed in point 3 above. TDK papers proposed for the OTDK and included in the records of student research conferences and their authors must comply with the requirements set out in the General Call of the current OTDK, in particular the student status clause.

5.2. Following the participants' registration deadline:

- Approval of applications in the OTDT online system. (Applications are automatically approved, the TDT Chair only has to deal with this if they do not approve an entry.)
- Approval of the summary list of the **approved submissions by section** in the OTDT online system and/or its generation from the online system and signature with a qualified electronic signature/printing and signing/, subsequent electronic upload to the OTDT online system. By approving/signing the summary list, TDT Chairs also declare that all the applications and their authors comply with the requirements of this call.
- In the case of sections where their own call stipulates it, sending the applications (TDK papers) and the requested additional documents to the institutions organizing the section in the copy and format specified in their call.

The deadlines for the uploading of the necessary documents into the OTDT online system by the institutional and faculty TDT Chairs and, if requested by the section, for their submission:

- December 14, 2026 (Monday)
- January 14, 2027 (Thursday)
- January 18, 2027 (Monday)
- January 25, 2027 (Monday)
- February 1, 2027 (Monday)
- 26 February, 2027 (Friday) – Medical and Health Sciences Section

6. Acceptance of applications

Sessions of the 38th OTDK may only be attended having a formal application submitted to and accepted by the OTDT Office and the institution organizing the section in due time. The OTDT, the relevant section committee and the institution organizing the section decide jointly on the acceptance of the application, of which the applicants are notified via the OTDT online system. The TDT Chairs/Referents of the sending institutions can follow up the acceptance, rejection and submission of the applications through the OTDT online system.

Once the application has been accepted, applicants must submit their presentation to the organizing institution in the manner published by the sections.

7. Written and oral evaluation of TDK papers

TDK papers submitted to the 38th OTDK (in the case of the Art and Art Theory Section, only the theoretical papers, not the written description of the creative process) are evaluated in writing by at least two reviewers. The purpose of the written evaluation is to examine the applicant's independent achievements, which meet the criteria of academic rigor in the field, and to provide feedback in the form of a written assessment that elaborates on the content. The criteria for the written evaluation are set by the OTDT section committees of the relevant scientific fields and are part of their Section Calls. In all cases, the written evaluation will be recorded by the reviewers in OTDT's online system and published by the Sections in the manner and at the time specified in their Section Calls.

The invitation of reviewers and panel members is made by the section organizers with the approval of the section committees. The professional criteria for the appointment of the reviewers/panel members are set by the section committees.

The oral evaluation is carried out by the Session Panels. The number of panel members in each session shall consist of at least three voting members and one non-voting secretary responsible for administration. The oral evaluation will always consist of two parts: a presentation by the author(s) and a subsequent discussion with questions from the panel members. The time slots for each session are indicated in the Section Calls, along with the evaluation criteria.

The organizers will pay particular attention to avoiding any conflict of interest in the selection of both reviewers and panel members.

In both the written and oral evaluation, care should be taken to ensure that the professional feedback given to the participants relates to the scientific/professional merits of the TDK paper and the presentation, serves the participants' further development, provides useful inspiration for them to continue their scientific research and is in no way offensive or insulting. OTDT reminds the organizers and the section committees to make these criteria known to the reviewers/panel members when they are invited and to provide training for reviewers and panel members to ensure that the authors of TDK papers receive high quality feedback.

8. Registration fee for the 38th OTDK

The registration fees for the 38th OTDK will be determined at a later stage, subject to the availability of funding. Information on registration fees will be provided in the supplement to the General Call, on the OTDT website and by e-mail to the TDT Chairs.