

Corvinus Research Excellence Award 2021 (CKK-21)

Committee Report and Feedback

April 2021

The Corvinus Research Excellence Award (in Hungarian, CKK) was designed to provide incentives to increase the University's international research visibility and thus contribute to Corvinus University's goal to move up in relevant international university rankings.

The Research Excellence Evaluation Committee

The Corvinus Research Excellence Evaluation Committee (Committee) is chaired by the Vice-Rector for Research and its members are elected from Corvinus University's Academic Advisory Board. The Committee does not re-assess or re-evaluate the articles (this job was undertaken by the reviewers and editors of the journals where the papers were published) or the journals (their "value" is shown by the "eigenfactor" score). However, a comprehensive understanding of the professional context of the journals and the articles allows the Committee to take special factors into consideration which would stay hidden if the raw scores alone were considered. The Committee's professional competence, as well as their familiarity with CUB's strategic objectives, help to determine the number and distribution of the awards while staying within the Award budget.

Corvinus Research Excellence Evaluation Committee Members in 2021

Professor Dr Bart MacCarthy, Nottingham University Business School, United Kingdom

Professor Dr Tamás Magyarics, School of English and American Studies, ELTE, Hungary

Professor Dr Gabor Virag, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, Canada

Professor Dr Gyula Vastag, Chair, Vice-Rector for Research, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

Evaluation Process

Applications for the Corvinus Research Excellence Award were open to Faculty through the online application system, "Workflow", between January 4th, 2021 (9.00 a.m. CET) and February 1st, 2021 (9.00 a.m. CET). Altogether 55 applications were submitted by the deadline. Out of these applications two were duplications, one did not meet the application requirements and, consequently, was excluded from the evaluation process. Thus, 52 applications were "scored" by the Research Management Office and the University Library. The applicants' obligatory MTMT publication records of the preceding three years, namely 2018, 2019 and 2020, were verified and assessed according to the CKK evaluation methodology guidelines. During this process, when deemed necessary, several applicants were contacted and requested to submit additional information. The applicants' data were

then finalised and entered into individual folders, which were shared with the Evaluation Committee members upon them signing a non-disclosure agreement, on March 12th, 2021.

During the evaluation process, three online meetings were held with the participation of the Committee members:

- An introduction into the evaluation process was held on March 18th, 2021.
- On March 26th, the Committee discussed admissible journals based on their fit with the Corvinus mandate. An agreement was reached on the policy of treating special issues and supplemental issues.
- On April 9th, an agreement was reached on the number and distribution of the awards.

Issues Emerging during the Evaluation Process

Lively discussions took place regarding two important matters: (i) journal lists and (ii) the role of special issues and supplemental issues. Both questions were discussed by the Committee.

Committee members unanimously agreed that, in accordance with the call for applications, only those journals would be considered which were relevant to Corvinus University's educational and research portfolio. In the section regarding the application requirements, the CKK-21 call states the following,

"3. The journal(s) in which their publication(s) is(are) published is(are) related to CUB's research portfolio and its strategic focus areas of research. Only journals acknowledged in the evaluation of research performance at peer institutes serving as models for CUB will be considered."

It was noted that in this context (an individual research award aimed at enhancing the international research visibility of an institution in specific fields versus an assessment of an individual's comprehensive performance) the above constitutes a straightforward rule without any exceptions.

The recognition of special issues and supplemental issues is a somewhat controversial matter. Publishing in Special Issues or editing Special Issues may be easier but, in most cases, Special Issues also imply recognition. For example, Special Issue editors are frequently chosen in recognition of their achievements or for the novelty of ideas they proposed for the Special Issue. Similarly, publishing in Special Issues, if done sparingly, may be considered a good entry point into major journals and an opportunity to appear together with well-known scholars. Also, in recent years all major publishers have made serious efforts to eliminate any potential quality differences between papers in regular and special issues by streamlining and strengthening the review process. Consequently, the Committee agreed not to differentiate between papers published in regular and special issues.

Supplemental issues, on the other hand, can be commissioned to bring international visibility to a project or to a university. While there is nothing wrong with this practice, it was agreed that "double dipping" (that is rewarding a publication twice) is not a practice that should be encouraged. As a result, papers in such publications were excluded from the evaluation.

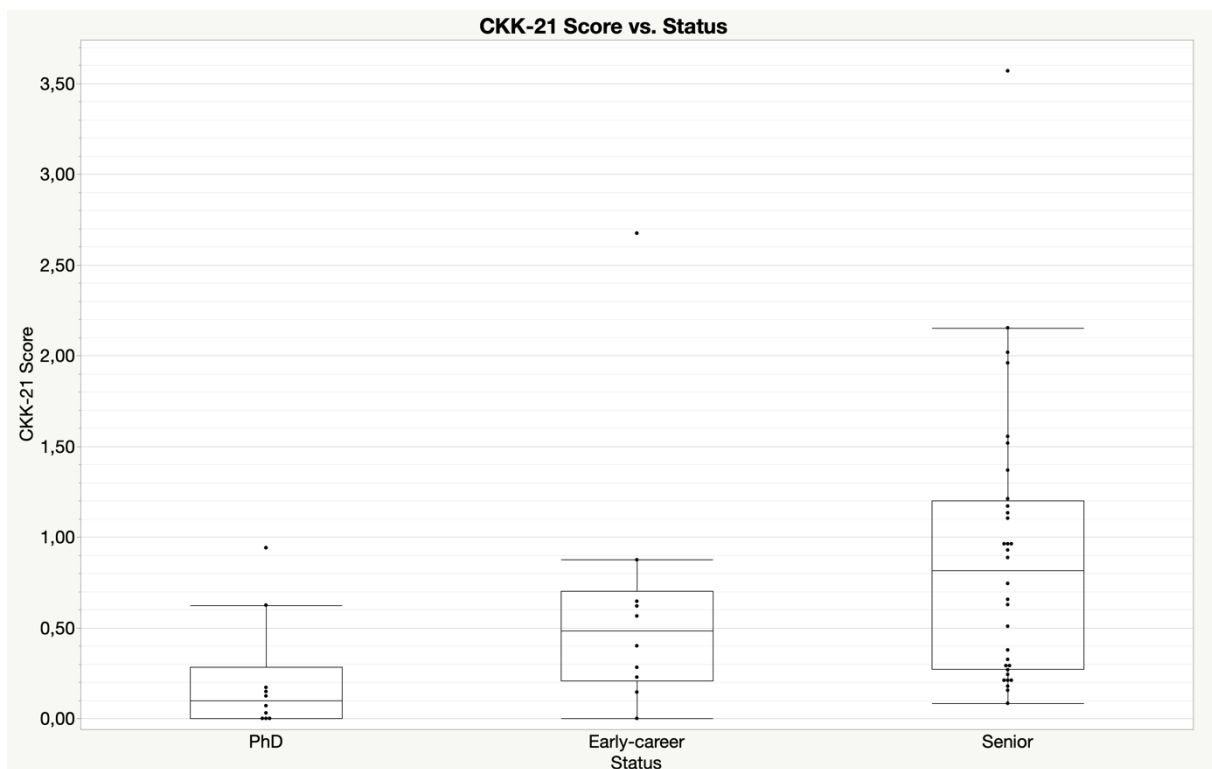
Awards

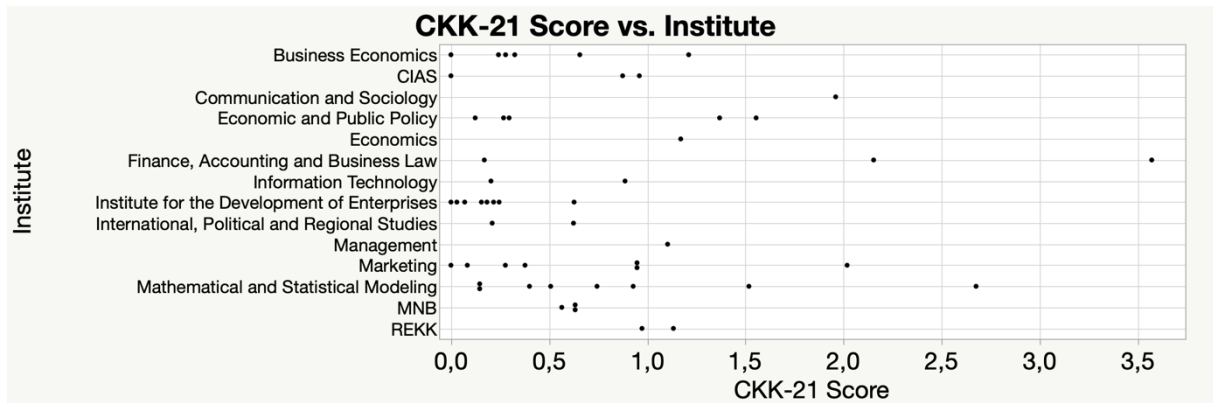
There are three categories of the Corvinus Research Excellence Award:

- (1) PhD students (abbreviated as PhD),
- (2) Early-career faculty members (abbreviated as Early-career) who received their PhD degree between 2016 and 2020,
- (3) Mid-career or senior faculty members (abbreviated as Senior) who received their doctorate more than five years before the award (in case of the 2021 award this means before 2016).

For the three categories, the following cut-off points were determined: 0.1 (PhD), 0.2 (Early-Career), 0.5 (Senior). The cut-off point score in the Senior category is the same as in Groningen (Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen) where this evaluation system has its origin. However, it must be noted that in Groningen only English language publications are considered; no papers in Dutch and no PhD supervisions are counted in the scores. Consequently, our approach, while numerically using the same cut-off value, is less stringent.

The next two graphs summarize the distribution of the CKK-21 scores by status with the boxplots showing the upper, lower quartiles, median and the outliers and by institute. [All graphs in this report were prepared by **JMP® Pro 15.2.1**; a software package by SAS available for all students, faculty and staff members of Corvinus University.]





The number of applicants, awardees and the range of the award by status are shown in the table below.

Status	Applicants	Awardees	Award Range (Million HUF)
PhD	10	5	0.5-3.0
Early-career	10	8	1.0-5.0
Senior	32	20	2.0-5.0
Total	52	33	---

The sum eventually received by the award winners reflects the extent of their employment at Corvinus University and, consequently, may be lower than the awarded sum.

In closing, we would like to reiterate that the road to research excellence is long, bumpy and filled with many barriers. However, we are hoping that “CKK” (and the newly introduced tenure system at Corvinus) may provide sufficient incentives for the faculty and PhD students to actively pursue research endeavours as they progress in their career. We are hoping that CKK-22 next year will attract even more applicants for an increased award budget.

WE REWARD EXCELLENCE!