

E-book for supervisors - How to do SOČ (Secondary School Research)

What is SOČ:

Secondary School Research is a competition of high school students in solving specific problems of 18 scientific disciplines. The competition takes place in the form of presentations at competition shows. The most successful researchers often represent the Czech Republic at similar international contests.

- cooperation with active high school students
- financial support 10,000 – 30,000 CZK
- support for scientific and technology disciplines
- the possibility of supporting the SOČ coordinator

The JCMM, in cooperation with universities, institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and companies, offers topics for Secondary School Research thesis, and at the same time provides financial support for these theses. High school students from the South Moravian Region choose topics every March and April, which they solve at their supervisors' workplaces from July to February. The output of their research is the written Secondary School Research thesis and participation in the contest.

The JCMM helps students of the South Moravian secondary schools and their lecturers to achieve excellent results in Secondary School Research (SOČ) with a focus on science and technology. Thanks to a good placement in the Secondary School Research contest (SOČ), students have the opportunity to automatically be admitted to a university or enter the prestigious PPNS programme (support of talented students). Ultimately, the JCMM helps to maintain quality human resources in the region.

Secondary School Research (SOČ) for supervisors (step by step)

1. List the topic. You either have a student or you are looking for one.
(You can assign the topic even if you are interested in cooperating with the student, but you do not want to draw a grant.)
2. When assigning a topic, you can choose from 3 categories:
 - the supervisor already knows his student (financially supported)
 - the supervisor is looking for a student (financially supported)
 - the supervisor is looking for a student without financial support.
3. The Commission for working with Talented Students evaluates the topics and decides which ones to support and which ones not.
4. We will let you know if your topic has received support.
(You can continue working on the topic even if your topic has not received support yet, you just do not have entitlement for the grant.)
5. We will recruit students for published topics for which any student has not been registered yet.
6. You will choose a researcher according to the covering letters which will convince you. Then the JCOMM will sign a contract with the student and your institution.
7. You agree on what, how, and when to charge at the economic department of your institution (schools, organizations, companies).
8. You start working.
9. You report the progress of your work with the researcher (continuous questionnaire).
10. You will ensure that the student enrolls in the Secondary School Research (SOČ) school round. You can find the application for the school round including instructions here. It is not your task, but of the school coordinator.
11. You will write the one-page final report and submit it either directly to the JCOMM or to the coordinator at your institution.
12. You will be rewarded by the JCOMM.
13. You support your student from school to international round :-)

Duties of the supervisor

The supervisor:

- Is obliged to manage finances in accordance with fulfilling the project objectives.
- Is obliged to cooperate effectively with the student and is responsible for the smooth running of SOČ's thesis.
- Prompts the student to start working.
- Informs the JCMM immediately of the student's non-cooperation.
- Maintains contact with the researcher during the thesis.
- Creates a time schedule for the student's SOČ.
- Completes an ongoing questionnaire.
- Ensures the successful completion and submission of SOČ.
- Ensures transmission of the "Final Report - Annotation" to the JCMM or its coordinator in time.
- Ensures that the researcher states in his thesis the source of funding in the chapter "Acknowledgments", as follows: "This thesis was prepared with the financial support of the South Moravian Region".

Support of SOČ from the South Moravian Region

For high school students in the South Moravian Region, the support of Secondary School Research (SOČ) is attractive thanks to the offered topics and the easy connection with the supervisor.

This support allows the supervisor to participate in presentation skills training organized by the JCMM. It is an interesting opportunity for the supervisors and an easy and functional connection with high school students.

The administrative area is not demanding. For institutions, the Secondary School Research Support (SOČ Support) represents a reconnection with high school students, the promotion of individual fields of study, and the means for the implementation of this activity at home.

Means of financing

The reward of 10,000 CZK will be paid in the form of a DPP contract.

If you have already supervised SOČ, you have certainly come across what the payment of the fee for running SOČ looked like; especially at universities. By having a work agreement (DPP) with the JCMM, you get more money in your account. Contracts, these reports, and all the necessary documents will be provided by the JCMM (cooperation with Mrs. Hynková) and you will only need to sign the papers that will appear on your desk.

Eligible costs

- Directly related to the implementation work of SOC thesis.
- For example: laboratory consumables, chemicals or components for the assembly of experimental equipment, for theoretical work it is the cost of e.g. office supplies and copying.
- Student license of software, e.g. CAD for a student who designs an interior.

Ineligible costs

- External services - the university is a guarantor of excellence and will provide all professional background; if the thesis cannot be performed without the delivery of an external service, it is necessary to change the topic of the SOČ already at the time of listing the topics.
- Transportation fare for the researcher to the supervisor's workplace or to work in the field.
- Laptop, tablet, smartphone, camera, etc.
- Purchase of programmes and equipment for the workplace - it is assumed that the institution is equipped with devices and programmes to carry out the thesis.
- Administration and costs.
- Printing and binding a thesis up to 1,000 CZK

How much can Secondary School Research (SOČ) cost?

SOČ thesis costs:

- The maximum amount for one Secondary School Research (SOČ) is 30,000 CZK, including VAT.
- Costs must be directly related to the implementation of student's work, see eligible and ineligible costs.
- All the above amounts already include a flat rate of 10,000 CZK to cover the supervisor's wage costs.

1. Up to 10,000 CZK - thesis of a predominantly theoretical nature, for which material costs are incurred exceptionally, e.g. copying services for a questionnaire survey of the work of the SOČ, printing and binding of the SOČ.

2. Up to 15,000 CZK - thesis with a balanced share of theoretical and experimental part or purely experimental work without high financial demands.

3. Up to 30,000 CZK - mostly experimental thesis with above-average financial demands. We urge supervisors to consider the financial demands of their thesis judiciously. The JCMM is interested in supporting as many SOČ as possible, and unnecessarily claimed funds prevent us from accepting more students.

How can be Secondary School Research further used?

What is the result of the work? The researcher (student) can:

- Continue working for several years. He works on his research in collaboration with experts.
- Compete with research results in international contests.
- Present the work as a co-investigator at scientific conferences.
- Be admitted to some fields of selected universities without entrance exams.
- Some universities accept Secondary School Research (SOČ) authors who advanced to the national round without entrance exams, while other universities add points for their elaborated and properly defended work.
- Use Secondary School Research (SOČ) as a basis for a bachelor's / master's diploma thesis and become a full member of the team.

Semi-dynamic part of the e-book

This means the content in which we acknowledge that the information may have changed over time (since the e-book was printed) and that we will write it briefly here, and that it is necessary to go and have a look at the website anyway - at a special subpage)

Good advice and tips when finishing Secondary School Research (SOČ).

JCMM template for SOČ rate and other documents for download:

[Template](#)

[Logos in curves](#)

Preparing a presentation

The JCMM in cooperation with the Court of Moravia has prepared a guide for you on how to create an attractive presentation.

[How to create a video successfully](#)

[How to create a presentation successfully.](#)

[Poster preparation](#)

You can find more information on the website www.sockari.cz or www.soc.cz

Preparation for international competitions:

https://www.soc.cz/soc-krok-za-krokem/#Priprava_na_zahranicni_soutez

Other links related to the SOČ competition (Secondary School Research competition)

- > www.chces-soutezit.cz - results of contests (district, regional)
- > <https://talentovani.cz/souteze/stredoskolska-odborna-cinnost>
- > <http://snptm.cz/>

Inspire yourself for SOČ (Sočkohledač)

Interactive interface for searching in the database of past Secondary School Research works (SOČ). The Secondary School Research (SOČ) database contains the best thesis of students placed on 1st - 3rd places in the national competition of Secondary School Research (SOČ) from all 18 scientific disciplines.

It serves as an inspiration for what a successful thesis can look like.

Coordinators

You can find here a [list of high school coordinators](#) within the South Moravian Region.