

CNB Research Cooperation Programme with University Students

Information webinar for applicants and supervisors
8 OCTOBER 2026



What we will cover



- 1 What the programme offers
- 2 Who can apply — and the role of your university
- 3 The three thematic areas
- 4 What data are available and how you work with them
- 5 How to apply and how proposals are assessed
- 6 Timetable, then your questions

The programme in brief



What you get

Access to CNB microdata that are not publicly available, a CNB consultant throughout the project, and the option to publish in CNB publication series.

What it is for

A master's thesis, doctoral dissertation or other final thesis. Also AI projects that deliver a working prototype.

No funding

The programme pays no stipend and no remuneration. This is not a paid internship.

Legal basis

Section 43f(1)(g) of Act No. 6/1993 Coll. and Article 8(3)(e) of Regulation (EC) No 2533/98. Data are provided in a form that does not allow direct identification.

Who can apply

- Primarily students in follow-up master's and doctoral programmes.
- A bachelor's thesis proposal is possible, but is not the primary target of the programme.
- Academic supervision is a prerequisite. The supervisor's statement is part of the proposal.
- Czech citizenship is not required. What matters is the legal status of your institution.
- A project is carried out by one researcher. Joint projects by several students are not possible.

The supervisor cannot access the data

Only the researcher named in the annex has access. Methodology and publishable outputs can be discussed with the supervisor — the data themselves cannot.

The agreement is with your university, not with you



The single most common misunderstanding — please check this first

The CNB concludes the data access agreement with your university or research institution. In the contractual documents you are referred to as the researcher.

Under Article II, the data recipient must be an entity whose core activities include scientific research and which is also:

- a public higher education institution under Act No. 111/1998 Coll., or
- a public research institution under Act No. 283/1992 Coll. (Academy of Sciences), or
- a public research institution under Act No. 341/2005 Coll., or
- a legal entity whose primary mission is research, listed by Eurostat as a recognised research entity.

Pass the model agreement to your university's legal department now, not after the results are announced. Signature by the dean or a statutory representative is required.

Three thematic areas

Your proposal must fall within at least one of them

A Economic and financial research

- Inflation dynamics and structural trends
- Risks in banking and non-bank sectors
- Borrower resilience and housing market
- External shocks and geopolitics
- AI and data approaches in research

research@cnb.cz

B Statistics

- Four concrete topics set by CNB
- Each with its own data, expected skills and contact person
- Listed in full on the next slide

Contacts on the next slide

C AI and data prototypes

- Natural-language search in data
- AI assistants over CNB knowledge
- Data quality checks, anomaly detection
- Unstructured documents and results
- Own use case welcome

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Area A builds on the CNB research priorities for 2026–2028. In area C you may also propose your own topic.

Area B: concrete topics from CNB statistics



Automated extraction of indicators from company annual reports

Extracting key economic indicators from unstructured public documents, e.g. using NLP.

Contact: anacredit@cnb.cz

Machine learning for AnaCredit data quality checks

Testing and comparing ML methods to extend existing quality checks on granular credit data.

Data: AnaCredit · Skills: Python · Contact: anacredit@cnb.cz

Forecasting credit portfolio developments

Predictive analysis on historical data and verification against observed developments.

Contact: anacredit@cnb.cz

Distributional wealth accounts for households (DWA)

Experimental calculations for the Czech Republic, time series and methodology. Builds on ECB work.

Data: FSD/HFCS · Skills: basic R · Contact: vaclav.rybacek@cnb.cz

What data are available



Examples of databases — not a complete or binding list

AnaCredit

Individual credit claims of banks, monthly, from 6/2019

SHSDB

Securities holdings, security-by-security, holder side

CSDB

Issued securities, security-by-security, ECB-administered

UVIS

Consumer credit secured by residential property

FSD

Household financial situation, Czech version of HFCS

SILC

Income and living conditions of households

SDAT (ICD)

ČNB statistical and supervisory reporting

Consumer barometer

EC consumer survey and CZSO business cycle survey

TRACE

Derivatives (EMIR) and securities financing (SFTR)

The final scope of variables is set individually in the annex to the agreement. Not every variable in these datasets is automatically available.

How to find out what is really available

Do this before you start writing

1

Programme Terms and Conditions

Section 2 lists each database with a description of its content, coverage and frequency.

2

CNB Working Paper Series

Our papers describe the data sources used, their coverage and their limitations. The clearest picture of what can be answered with these data.

3

Ask us

Check the availability of the specific variables you need at research@cnb.cz, or at the contact given for the topic. A proposal based on data we cannot provide cannot be selected.

How you work with the data



On site

A designated computer at CNB headquarters in Prague or at the Brno or Ostrava branch, under supervision. Visits arranged with your consultant.

Remotely

A laptop lent by the CNB, used solely to connect to the secure environment via VPN. The number of laptops is limited.

The data never leave the CNB secure environment

- No downloading, copying, exporting or transferring the data out of the environment.
- No storing on the laptop's local drive, your own devices, external media or cloud storage.
- No linking with other confidential data, and no attempts to identify individual entities.
- No sharing of access or data with anyone — including fellow students, co-authors and your supervisor.

Your activity in CNB systems is monitored and logged. The confidentiality declaration you sign is unlimited in time.

How the cooperation works in practice



What happens once your project is selected

- 1 Access**

In January you go through security training, we set up your access and, where relevant, hand over the laptop. Your project runs 6 to 12 months from there.
- 2 Your CNB consultant**

Every project is assigned a consultant from the CNB, named in the annex. They help you specify the data and understand their structure and methodology, and are available throughout the project.
- 3 Expert guidance**

You can consult your analysis, methodology and interpretation of the results with them. Our interest is that the work is done well and that the conclusions hold.
- 4 Publication**

If the output is of sufficient quality, it can be published in the CNB publication series. Other outputs, such as an article, are agreed with your consultant in advance.

The consultant works alongside your supervisor; academic responsibility for the thesis stays with you and your university.

From the secure environment to a published thesis

One formal step to plan for in your timetable

Because the data are confidential, every output leaving the secure environment is checked before publication or submission — thesis, article, conference paper, presentation. The check is about disclosure, not about your findings.

- We respond within 15 working days of receipt, so build this into your project timetable.
- Universities are required to publish defended theses, so the text has to be publishable from the outset: no non-aggregated data on individual entities, nothing that allows re-identification.
- You agree the thresholds for publishable outputs with your consultant at the beginning, and check publishability as you go rather than at the end.
- The written output is prepared in English. If your university requires Czech, say so in the proposal and we will find a solution.

How to apply

The call has two rounds



Round 1 — by 31 October 2026

A short proposal. No signed agreement and no completed annex at this stage.

Round 2 — November to December

Selected applicants prepare the annex with us, obtain signatures and sign the confidentiality declaration.

What to submit in round 1

- Project proposal, max. 4 standard pages: research question and its relevance, link to the thematic focus, methodology, why non-public data are necessary, the data requested, timetable.
- Structured CV, max. 2 pages — quantitative courses and software you are proficient in.
- Supervisor's statement, max. 1 page.
- Area C also: the intended prototype, its users, how its benefits will be verified, and your technical requirements.

Submitted via the web form. Proposals in Czech or English; the written output is in English.

How proposals are assessed



Relevance and contribution to the CNB's activities

30%

Professional, methodological and technical quality

25%

Feasibility with the available data and timetable

25%

Applicant's professional readiness

20%

A proposal whose research question can be answered with publicly available data will not be selected. Access to non-public data must be necessary for the project, not merely useful.

Timetable



- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ● 8 October 2026 | This webinar |
| ● 31 October 2026 | Deadline for proposals, 23:59 |
| ● November 2026 | Evaluation, follow-up interviews where necessary |
| ● by 21 November 2026 | Applicants notified of the results |
| ● November–December 2026 | Annex, agreement and confidentiality declaration |
| ● January 2027 | Security training and start of data access |

Project duration is normally 6 to 12 months, set in the annex to the agreement.

Before you apply

Four things worth checking this week



Is your institution eligible?

Check its legal status against Article II and talk to your legal department early.

Do you really need non-public data?

If the question can be answered from public sources, the proposal will not be selected.

Do the data you need exist, in the form you need?

Ask us before you write. It takes one email and can save you the whole proposal.

Does your timetable fit?

Data access starts in January, the project runs 6–12 months, and output review takes up to 15 working days.

Put your questions in the chat, or raise your hand and speak up.

Feel free to ask in Czech if you prefer.

Where to find everything

- Programme website: call, terms and conditions, model agreement, annex, confidentiality declaration and the application form
- CNB Working Paper Series — for a realistic picture of the data

Contact

research@cnb.cz — the call, area A and area C

anacredit@cnb.cz · vaclav.rybacek@cnb.cz — area B topics