# GUIDE FOR CANDIDATES FOR POSTGRADUATE VOCAL CONSORT STUDIES OF THE UMFC BRANCH IN BIAŁYSTOK

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

### General information

**Organiser:**
UMFC Branch in Białystok
Faculty of Instrumental and Pedagogical Education, Music Education and Vocal Studies

**Head of Postgraduate Studies at the UMFC Branch in Bialystok:**
**Katarzyna Makal-Żmuda, Prof. UMFC, PhD**
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**Activities of recruitment and conduct of Postgraduate Instrumental Studies are coordinated by the Secretariat of the UMFC Branch in Bialystok.**
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### Aim of the studies:

The aim of the studies is to fill the gap of specialisation in the field of ensemble a cappella singing, included in the area of broadly understood choral studies. The ensemble's a cappella singing, which has been developing for several decades, should now be considered the leading trend in the performance of vocal polyphony of the Renaissance era. One of the objectives of the study programme is to protect the repertoire of old masters and to shape the perception of this type of work as one of the canons of European music. Ensemble singing in performance practice is not limited only to the music of old times, but also functions in compositions created from the late nineteenth century to modern times. One of the consequences of this state of affairs is the need to give new performance patterns to the music of later epochs.

The wide range of repertoire dedicated to this type of vocal ensemble requires thorough preparation in both the history of the development of a cappella vocal polyphony forms, knowledge of the wealth of performance styles appropriate to the repertoire, the history of the development of word-music relationships in choral music, and the acquisition of vocal competences specific to ensemble singing.

**Candidates:**

- persons holding a diploma of completion of at least first-cycle (undergraduate) music studies;

- graduates of foreign universities with a bachelor's or master's degree
- a legalized or apostille-bearing diploma or another document of graduation of a higher education institution abroad is required, entitling to undertake postgraduate studies in the country in which it was issued, recognized in accordance with the provisions on the nostrification of diplomas of graduation of higher education institutions obtained abroad or on the basis of an international agreement, as internal to the relevant Polish diploma of graduation of first or second-degree studies;
- polish citizenship is not required;
- the language of studies is English or Polish (at the student's request).
- postgraduate studies are paid. The fee for Postgraduate Studies is determined annually by the Rector of the University.

**Educational offer:**
**Date: October 2026 – June 2028 (four-semester studies)**

**List (form) of classes**

- Ensemble singing (classes conducted by one of the specialists of a given repertoire department in groups of 3 to 8 people),
- Voice production techniques (individual classes),
- Specialised literature (group classes),
- Stage performance practice (group classes).

**Lecturers**
**Ensembles singing:**
Cezary Szyfman, Prof., PhD
Anna Moniuszko, Prof., PhD
Ewa Barbara Rafałko, PhD
Piotr Zawistowski, Prof. UMFC, PhD
Karolina Mika, PhD

**Voice emission techniques:**
Cezary Szyfman, Prof., PhD
Ewa Barbara Rafałko, PhD
Przemysław Kummer, MA

**Specialised literature:**
Anna Moniuszko, Prof., PhD
Piotr Zawistowski, Prof. UMFC, PhD
Karolina Mika, PhD

**Stage performance practice:**
Anna Moniuszko, Prof., PhD
Piotr Zawistowski, Prof. UMFC, PhD

In order to obtain a diploma of completion of Postgraduate Vocal Consort Studies, it is necessary to pass all subjects in the study programme. Methods and conditions of crediting are included in the course cards.

**Recruitment**

- Registration in the IRK system is mandatory and will be available via irk.chopin.edu.pl from June 1, 2026.
The amount of the fee for the procedure related to admission to postgraduate

studies in the academic year 2026/2027 is 250 PLN. Your account number will be automatically generated after logging into the IRK system.

- Documents necessary for the recruitment process should be sent to the following address: podyplomowe.filia@chopin.edu.pl

**Entrance exam:**

- The entrance exam takes place remotely. Vocal skills are checked on the basis of the submitted recordings - required sending of links to audio-video recordings on YouTube or Bilibili along with a link to the sheet music files of the performed works to the following address: podyplomowe.filia@chopin.edu.pl . Each work may be submitted separately.
- Required vocal programme range (max 20 min.):
  - solo piece (Renaissance song or Old Italian aria or Baroque aria),
  - selected voice part from a polyphonic piece a cappella (Renaissance motet or madrigal or any secular or sacred work of the 19th-21st centuries).

**Timeline:**

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| Registration of candidates in IRK | 1–15 June 2026 |
| Paying the recruitment fee | do 15 June 2026 |
| Uploading links to audio-video recordings on YouTube or Bilibili | 17 June 2026 |
| Candidate qualification | 23 June 2026 |
| Provision of a complete set of documents by e-mail - only for qualified candidates | 25 June 2026 |

**Admission conditions – recruitment documents for foreigners:**

1. application for admission to postgraduate studies (according to the template),
2. personal questionnaire (according to the template),
3. 2 photographs (size 3 x 4 cm),
4. a copy of the diploma of completion of first-cycle or second-cycle studies, or uniform master's studies – original for inspection,
5. obligation to bear the costs of postgraduate studies (included in the application form for admission to postgraduate studies),
6. a copy of the insurance policy against illness or accidents for the period of education in Poland or a copy of the European Health Insurance Card or a signed certificate of joining the insurance in the National Health Fund immediately after the commencement of education,
7. a copy of a legalized or apostille-bearing diploma or other document of graduation of a university abroad, entitling to undertake postgraduate studies in the country in which it was issued, recognized in accordance with the provisions on the nostrification of graduation diplomas of higher education institutions obtained abroad or on the basis of an international agreement for internships with the relevant Polish diploma of graduation of first or second degree studies or uniform master's studies,

Documents in a foreign language are submitted together with a sworn translation. The compliance with the original documents submitted by the candidate is confirmed by the employee of the UMFC accepting the documentation.

**Admission conditions – recruitment documents for candidates from Poland:**

1. application for admission to postgraduate studies (according to the template),
2. personal questionnaire (according to the template),
3. 2 photographs (size 3 x 4 cm),
4. a copy of the diploma of completion of first-cycle or second-cycle studies, or uniform master's studies – original for inspection,
5. obligation to bear the costs of postgraduate studies (included in the application form for admission to postgraduate studies),

**Further information:**

- In addition, a CV containing a brief description of musical education and artistic experience should be submitted.
- Should you choose the postgraduate studies in the field of string quartet, only registrations of the groups that establish string quartet will be accepted.

**Price list:**

**Postgraduate Vocal Consort Studies** *(four – semester studies)*
1400 EUR- fee for one semestr with a minimum of six participants
1850 EUR- fee for one semestr with three participant
Minimum number of participants required to start studies: 3
The fees indicated are indicative and are based on the price list for 2025/2026.

**For questions regarding content issues, please contact the Head of Postgraduate Studies**
**at the UMFC Branch in Bialystok:**
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