

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

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2028

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 Białystok:

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 Białystok.

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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:
podplomowe.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: podplomowe.filia@chopin.edu.pl. Each work may be submitted separately.
- Required vocal programme range (max 20 min.):
 1. solo piece (Renaissance song or Old Italian aria or Baroque aria),
 2. selected voice part from a polyphonic piece a cappella (Renaissance motet or madrigal or any secular or sacred work of the 19th-21st centuries).

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.

Timeline:

Registration of candidates in IRK	1 -15 June 2026
Paying the recruitment fee	Until 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

Price list:

Postgraduate Vocal Consort Studies (*four - semester studies*)

1600 EUR- fee for one semestr with a minimum of six participants

2250 EUR- fee for one semestr with three participant

Minimum number of participants required to start studies: 3

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

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