

REVIEW

on the application package submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" in the field of Higher education "**5. Technical Sciences**", Professional field: "**5.3. Communication and Computer Technology**", Scientific speciality "**Platform-based Design**", for the needs of the Dept of **Computer Systems and Technologies** of the **Faculty of Technical Sciences** at the **Burgas State University "Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov"**, announced in State Gazette No. 89/24.10.2025.

Candidate: Chief Assistant Prof. Radovesta Todorova Stewart, PhD.

Member of the Scientific Panel: Prof. Todor Dimitrov Ganchev.

1. Description of the application package

In the analysis of the application package submitted by Dr Stewart for participation in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, I have been guided by the requirements of "The Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions of Burgas State University "Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov", according to which the requirements for all groups of indicators were satisfied. The evidence provided under the groups of indicators "D" and "E" shows that the minimum requirements are exceeded significantly.

Specifically, to meet the requirements of the competition for the position of Associate Professor, Dr Stewart has presented a total of 22 research publications, 1 monograph and 1 book published based on her dissertation, which fully aligns with the thematic area of this competition. Dr Stewart's research publications can be described as 17 research papers (i.e. over 77%) in proceedings indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science, 1 article in a scientific journal and 4 reports in collections of peer-reviewed papers that are not indexed in world databases of scientific literature.

A total of 17 publications are in English and 5 in Bulgarian. Four of the publications were authored alone, and the remaining 18 were co-authored mainly with colleagues from the State University of Burgas "Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov", the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Regional Historical Museum in Burgas and others. Some of these publications were co-authored with colleagues from foreign universities. The interaction with a wide range of Bulgarian and international scientists is a reliable indication of the candidate's skills for teamwork and the creation of successful collaborations. In joint publications, Dr Stewart is first on the list of co-authors in 9 publications; in 2, she is second; in 3, she is third; in 1, she is fourth; and in 3, she is sixth.

In the application package submitted to the current competition for the Associate Professor position, Dr Stewart didn't include lists of her research publications used in the

acquisition of her PhD degree and Chief Assistant Professor position at the University. Therefore, within the available documentation, it cannot be checked whether there is any overlap between the publications used in these competitions.

In short, the applicant has provided the required volume of evidence to meet the minimum requirements for the relevant groups of indicators: "A", "B", "G", "D" and "E". In essence, I consider the requirement for indicator "A" to be satisfied, as Dr Stewart has defended her dissertation on the topic "Digitization of cultural heritage", coinciding with the thematic direction of this competition. To meet the requirements for the group of indicators "B", the candidate, Dr Stewart, has submitted a monograph, entitled "Digitalization of Bulgarian cultural heritage: Introduction, guidelines, standard" (2025), which thematically aligns with the competition thematic area.

To meet the requirements of the indicator group "G", the applicant has submitted two lists totalling 22 publications. Seventeen of these publications meet the requirements for indicator "G.7" – publications indexed in the global databases Scopus and/or Web of Science. Under the indicator "G.8", Dr Stewart presented a list of 5 publications that are not indexed in the world's scientific literature databases.

To meet the requirements of the indicator group "D", Dr Stewart has provided a list of 21 citations from other authors.

To meet the requirements of the indicator group "E", Dr Stewart has provided three lists with 23 projects, including 10 international projects funded under the European programs Horizon, Interreg, and Erasmus.

In summary of the analysis of the different groups of indicators, Table 1 shows the scores calculated based on the evidence provided by Dr Stewart in comparison with the institutional requirements of Burgas State University "Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov". The comparison presented in the table shows that Dr Stewart fulfils the minimum national and institutional requirements for the Associate Professor position in the specific field of higher education for all groups of indicators for "5. Technical Sciences". For the groups of indicators "D" and "E", she significantly exceeds them.

Table 1. Reference on the fulfilment of the conditions for the acquisition of an Associate Professor position by the groups of indicators for the field of higher education "5. Technical Sciences" according to the institutional requirements of BSU, "Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov".

Indicator group	Table of Contents by indicators	Minimum requirements for the acquisition of an Associate Professor	Scores Dr. Stewart
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 3 or 4	100	100
G	Sum of indicators from 5 to 11	300	318.37
D	Sum of indicators from 12 to 15	100	210
E	Indicator 16 to 28	100	490

2. General characteristics of the candidate's research and pedagogical activities

According to the provided evidence, Dr Stewart's pedagogical activity covered 3 academic years, from her appointment (November 2022) as a Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Systems and Technologies at Burgas State University "Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov" until September 2025. During these three academic years, her academic work amounted to 271, 170 and 212 hours, distributed across 4 disciplines in the curricula in the "Professional Bachelor's" and "Bachelor's" degree programs. A significant part of the indicated academic workload was lectures - 86 hours for 2022/2023, 136 hours for 2023/2024, and 92 hours for 2024/2025 in the disciplines "Client Web Application Programming" and "Web Services". For the period, Dr Stewart has developed two curricula in the disciplines "Specialised Practice – 4th year" and "Programming of client web applications". In 2024, she led the learning practices of 44 students, and in 2025, of 47 students, which shows a significant commitment to transferring specific knowledge and skills to learners.

I acknowledge that the 22 publications submitted to the competition reflect significant research and applied research activities. Based on the composition of the authors of the joint publications and considering the presence of dividing protocols signed by all co-authors, I can assume that Dr Stewart has made a concrete contribution to the results achieved in most joint publications. As for the significance of the contributions formulated in the publications with which Dr Stewart participates in this competition, I am guided by the number of citations by independent authors (21 citations) and by the participation in 23 projects, 10 of which are international. Current reference as of 19.01.2026 for citations visible in the Scopus database with autocitations excluded for all co-authors, shows a total of 17 citations, and Scopus h-index equals 2.

Based on the documentation provided, I can conclude that Chief Assistant Prof. Stewart has extensive experience in the preparation and implementation of national and international projects and has proven herself as a lecturer with the necessary skills for both teamwork and independent research.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks or recommendations for the candidate, Dr Stewart. Concerning the submitted application package, I note that the required lists of publications used in the acquisition of her PhD degree and her Chief Assistant Professor position at the University were not provided.

4. CONCLUSION

The application package submitted to the current competition provides an opportunity for an objective assessment of the qualities of Chief Assistant Professor Dr Radovesta Todorova Stewart. Formal comparison of the submitted evidence with the uniform national requirements for the acquisition of an Associate Professor position and the institutional requirements according to *The Rules for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions* at the Burgas State University "Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov" shows that all requirements have been met, and in the group indicators "D" and "E"

have been significantly exceeded. The above analysis gives me reason to support Dr Radovesta Todorova Stewart in this competition. The candidate possesses the necessary professional qualification to occupy the Associate Professor position in the field of Higher education "5. Technical Sciences", Professional field: 5.3. "Communication and Computer Technology", scientific speciality "Platform-based design".

Date: 28.01.2026

Scientific Pannel Member: _____

/Prof. Todor Ganchev/