

## NWO Talent Programme – ZonMw Veni 2023

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Deadline: **30 january 2024, 14.00 CEST**

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## 1 Summary

### Who can Apply

Applications can be submitted by candidates who have obtained their PhD, irrespective of whether they hold tenured positions and of whether they come from the Netherlands or abroad. Candidates may only submit an application if they have obtained their PhD in the three years preceding the reference date of this round, 1 January 2023, or between 1 January 2023 and 5 September 2023. An extension to the above career-dependent submission period may be possible under specific circumstances (see Call for Proposals).

### What for

The aim of the NWO Talent Programme is to provide creative space for adventurous, talented, pioneering researchers to do research of their choice, develop their own line of research and further develop their talent. The Veni target group consists of researchers at the stage of transitioning towards independence. The Veni grant can contribute to the researcher's development in this area. The Veni grant is aimed at researchers with academic qualities that clearly exceed what is customary. The Veni grant is intended to finance academically innovative research and to give these researchers the opportunity to develop themselves as independent researchers.

### What to request

For an application in this Call for proposals, a maximum of € 320,000 can be applied for. The maximum duration of the proposed project is three years. The duration of the project can be lengthened proportionally in case of part-time research by a maximum of one year (from three to four years). If the proposed research is of shorter duration, the maximum amount will be reduced accordingly. It is also possible to carry out the research part-time without extending the duration of the project. Apply only for funding that is essential for realising the project. A more detailed explanation of the budget modules can be found in the annexe to this Call for proposals (see Call of Proposals Section 7.1).

### When

Deadline for presenting project ideas	5 September 2023, before 14:00:00 CEST
Receipt by advisory committee	November 2023
Deadline for submitting detailed grant application	30 January 2024, before 14:00:00 CEST
Decision	June 2024
Latest start date	Within 6 months of the grant being awarded

- An interview is part of the review process for your grant application. An audio recording will be made of the interview. At the end of the review process, the audio recording will be destroyed.

## 2 Aim of the call for grant applications

**All information about the programme, target group, conditions and obligations can be found in the Veni 2023, [Call for Proposals](#)**

The Veni grant is intended to finance academically innovative research and to give these researchers the opportunity to develop themselves as independent researcher.

We explicitly invite female researchers to apply. The representation and advancement of women in academia are unfortunately lagging behind those of men. NWO and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) are working together with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), Universities of The Netherlands (UNL) and individual Dutch universities to correct this situation. The aim is that the percentage of female applicants will ultimately be at least equal to the percentage of female researchers in the target group.

### 3 Conditions and obligations

You must take account of certain rights, conditions and obligations when applying for a ZonMw grant. The rights, conditions and obligations of a grant applicant are based upon the [Dutch General Administrative Law Act \(Awb\)](#). Article 4.2 of the Awb contains specific provisions applying to ZonMw grants. Additionally, [NWO Grant rules](#) apply.

#### 3.1 Conditions

Applicants must submit a pre-proposal to be considered for a Veni grant. Applicants who receive a positive decision for their pre-proposals are invited to submit a (full) proposal. Applicants who receive a negative decision for their pre-proposals may not submit a (full) proposal. Chapter 3 of the [Call for Proposals](#) contains detailed information about the conditions.

##### 3.1.1. Who is eligible for a grant?

Applications can be submitted by candidates who have obtained their PhD, irrespective of whether they hold tenured positions and of whether they come from the Netherlands or abroad. Candidates may only submit an application if they have obtained their PhD in the three years preceding the reference date of this round, 1 January 2023, or between 1 January 2023 and 5 September 2023. An extension to the above career-dependent submission period may be possible under specific circumstances (see Call for Proposals Section 3.4.2).

The research takes place at one of the following institutions. NWO asks candidates for an 'embedding guarantee' (see Section 3.3.1):

- Universities located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- University medical centres;
- institutes affiliated to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) or NWO;
- Netherlands Cancer Institute;
- the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen;
- Naturalis Biodiversity Center;
- Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL);
- Princess Máxima Center.

Additional conditions:

- a. Applications must be submitted by individual researchers (not by pairs, groups of researchers or by research teams).
- b. An applicant may
  - submit a maximum of one application within the 2023 Veni round;
  - enter the application process for the NWO Talent Programme for no more than one type of grant at a time;
  - submit a Veni application no more than twice. If an application that has been admitted to the selection process is withdrawn by the applicant, this submission still counts towards the maximum number of submissions per applicant. This does not apply to applications withdrawn with NWO approval under the terms of the Compensation scheme for parental leave (see Section 3.4.3) and the Force majeure extension scheme (see Section 3.4.4).
- c. Researchers who have previously been awarded grants under the Talent Programme (formerly known as the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme) may not apply again for a grant of the same kind.

##### 3.1.2. What is the amount of the grant I can apply for?

The total available grant budget for this funding round is €8.000.000,-.

In this call for grant applications

- A maximum of €320.000,- can be requested for a maximum project duration of three years
- The duration of the project can be lengthened proportionally in case of part-time research by a maximum of one year (from three to four years).

- If the proposed research is of shorter duration, the maximum amount will be reduced accordingly. It is also possible to carry out the research part-time without extending the duration of the project.
- Apply only for funding that is essential for realising the project.

### **Funding Open Access**

Costs of open access publishing should be included in the budget of the project proposal. By using the budget module for 'material costs'. Note: Since 2015 NWO only reimburses the costs for publishing in full gold Open Access journals (registered in DOAJ). Article Processing Charges (APC's) for publication in hybrid journals will not be reimbursed.

Dutch universities have Open Access agreements with a large number of scientific publishers. These so-called transformative deals allow corresponding authors affiliated with Dutch institutions to publish in over 11,000 journals at no additional cost. An overview of these deals can be found at [www.openaccess.nl](http://www.openaccess.nl).

[Transformative journals](#) recognised by coalitions are compliant with the NWO Open Access policy but NWO does not reimburse related publication costs.

### **3.1.3. Practical conditions**

Please take the following points into account when writing your application:

- Compose your application in English.
- Submitting a grant application can only be done through the online application system My ZonMw.
  - Applications that are not submitted on time will not be considered.
- The following annexes are mandatory:
  - ZonMw full proposal form Veni 2023
- The following annexes are optional:
  - Declaration co-financing
  - Declaration exceeding maximum funding
  - Embedding guarantee, only if there are changes from the submitted embedding guarantee in the pre-proposal.

If an annex is not mandatory, it will not be included in the assessment of your application. The exception is the optional annex presenting figures and/or tables. This annex will also be included in the assessment.

## **4 Assessment criteria**

### **4.1 Assessment procedure**

For the procedures on how to assess grant applications, please refer to the webpage [Applying for funding, how does it work? | NWO](#).

The programme committee assesses the relevance, quality and budget of all applications. The applicable relevance and quality criteria are given below.

### **4.2 Assessment criteria preproposal**

The pre-proposal submitted within this Call for proposals will be substantially assessed on the basis of the following criterion:

- Quality of the researcher

### **4.3 Assessment criteria full proposal**

The applications submitted within this Call for proposals will be substantially assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Quality and innovative character of the research proposal (75%)

## 2. Scientific and/or societal impact (25%)

You can find more information about these criteria in the [Call for Proposals](#)

## 4.4 Prioritisation

For this Call of proposals, external, independent assessment committees will be installed per submission window, consisting of representatives from science with knowledge of the academic field. The task given to this assessment committee is to assess the submitted pre-proposals and proposals and there to pertaining documents, in light of both the collective context and individual merits, based on the assessment criteria outlined in this Call.

If an ex aequo situation occurs at the borders of available budget or the selection borders, then, in order to stimulate the number of females in science, the proposal from a female applicant will end as the highest. If the ex aequo situation is not resolved with this, then the proposal with the highest score for the criterion 'Quality and innovative character of the research proposal' will end highest. If this provides no resolution either, the ex aequo situation will be sent on to the decision-making body.

Finally, the relevant decision-making body will assess the procedure followed and the advice from the assessment committee. It will subsequently determine the final qualifications and take a decision about awarding or rejecting the proposals.

## 5 Submitting your application

### 5.1 Submission through Mijn ZonMw

Grant applications can only be submitted by the main applicant in ZonMw's online submission system ([Mijn ZonMw](#)). The closing date for submitting a full proposal is 30 January 2024, at 14.00 CEST

### 5.2 Tips

- ZonMw now uses a different online application system. If you have not worked with Mijn ZonMw before, you must first register as a 'New user'.
- For further information, see the [Mijn ZonMw manual](#).

We advise you to print out a Word version of your application (via Mijn ZonMw) and carefully review it for errors before you submit it digitally. This is especially important if you have created your application in Word and then copied it to Mijn ZonMw, as some characters (such as quotes) may not be converted correctly. You can correct this yourself in Mijn ZonMw.

### 5.3 Statement of agreement for submission of detailed grant application

The '[Statement of agreement for submission of detailed grant application](#)' does not apply for this grant proposal round. You must add an embedding guarantee form with your pre-proposal, which also qualifies as approval of submitting a full proposal.

### 5.4 Substantive questions

For questions regarding the contents of the application, please contact:

Guillaume Macor (programme manager)  
Fleur ten Tije (programme secretary)  
Sara Helgason (programme secretary)  
Yijun Hu (programme secretary)  
Renata Zondervan (programme assistant)

Contact us at +31 070 349 51 90 or [veni@zonmw.nl](mailto:veni@zonmw.nl)

## 5.5 Technical questions

If you have any technical questions about using ZonMw's online application system, please contact the Service Desk from Monday to Friday between 8.00 and 17.00 (+31 070 349 51 76, [servicedesk@zonmw.nl](mailto:servicedesk@zonmw.nl)). Please include your telephone number in your email so that we can call you back if necessary.

## 5.6 Downloads and links

General information

- [NWO Grant Rules](#)
- [Applying for funding in 10 steps](#)
- [Datamanagement and FAIR data](#)
- [Open Access](#)
- [Implementation and impact](#)
- [Mijn ZonMw manuals](#)

Programme specific information

- [Programme page ZonMw Veni](#)
- [Call for Proposals Veni 2023](#)
- [Veni 2023 full proposal form](#)
- [Veni 2023 Embedding guarantee form](#)