



NWO Talent Programme

Vici 2024

Call for proposals

Applied and Engineering Sciences
Health Research And Development
Science
Social Sciences And Humanities

2024



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1 Introduction

In this Call for proposals, information is provided about the application procedure for the NWO Talent Programme Vici 2024 funding round. This Call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

In this Call for proposals, you will find information about the aim of this programme (Chapter 2), the conditions for the grant application (Chapter 3) and how your proposal will be assessed (Chapter 4). This is the information you need to submit a grant application. Chapter 5 states the obligations for grant recipients in the event you are awarded funding. Chapter 6 contains the contact details and Chapter 7 the annex.

1.1 Background

The NWO Talent programme covers three grant categories (Veni, Vidi and Vici). Each grant category has one submission round per year and a separate Call for proposals.

The 2024 Vici round has four submission windows corresponding to the four NWO domains:

- Science;
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH);
- Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES);
- Health Research and Development (ZonMw).

You apply for funding at the submission window that best suits your application. See Section 3.3.1 for more information.

1.2 Available budget

The available budget for this Call for proposals is 48,000,000 euro. There is a dedicated budget for each domain. The budget for Science is 18,000,000 euro, the budget for SSH is 15,000,000 euro, the budget for AES is 6,000,000 euro and the budget for ZonMw is 9,000,000 euro. It is expected that a maximum of 32 proposals will be awarded funding; 12 for Science, 10 for SSH, 4 for AES and 6 for ZonMw.

1.3 Submission deadlines

The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is **March 12, 2024**, before 14:00:00 hours CET.

The deadline for submitting full proposals is **September 10, 2024**, before 14:00:00 hours CEST.

When you submit your application in ISAAC, you will also need to enter some details online. Therefore please start submitting your application at least one day before the deadline of this Call for proposals. Applications that are submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

2 Aim

This chapter describes the aim of the programme and the societal impact.

2.1 Aim of the programme

The aim of the NWO Talent Programme is to provide creative opportunities for adventurous, talented, pioneering researchers to do research of their own choice, to develop their own innovative line of research and to further develop their talent.

2.1.1 Vici target group

The Vici target group consists of researchers at the stage of consolidation and further development of their leadership skills/research group. The goal of the Vici grant is to contribute to the researcher's development in this area. Vici is aimed at senior researchers with academic qualities that clearly exceed what is customary within the international peer group, as well as established leadership- and mentorship skills.

The Vici grant is intended to finance academically innovative research and to give these researchers the opportunity to expand on their research group and further develop their research line.

Researchers working at a foreign institution are also eligible to submit an application. If awarded, the project must be carried out at a Dutch institution recognised by NWO (see Section 3.1 for more information).

Promoting female researchers

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), the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (UNL) and Dutch universities to rectify 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.

NWO strives to ensure that the success rates for female applicants will be at least equal to those for male researchers on average and in the medium term. In the event that two or more applications are rated equally, preference will be given to the proposal submitted by a female applicant. Please note: in order to qualify for this, it is necessary for female applicants to have filled in 'Female' under the header 'Gender' in their ISAAC details.

2.2 Societal impact

New knowledge and insights from scientific research can make an important contribution to developing solutions for the various issues society faces, including, amongst other things, the energy transition, health and care, or climate change. By facilitating greater interaction and alignment between researchers and potential knowledge users, the chance of knowledge utilisation increases, as well as the likelihood of generating societal impact. Through its policy on impact, NWO promotes the potential contribution that research can make to societal issues by encouraging productive interactions with societal stakeholders, both during the development stage and the subsequent implementation of research. It does so in a manner that is in accordance with the aim of the particular funding instrument.

2.2.1 Tailor-made impact

The primary aim of the funding instrument determines the method that NWO will deploy to facilitate knowledge utilisation in various phases of the project (proposal, realisation, project completion) as well as the effort required from the applicant(s) and partner(s).

In this programme, the Impact Outlook approach is applied. Here, researchers can choose which type of impact they want to specifically focus on, while proportional consideration is also given to what can be done for the remaining impact.

NWO offers an e-learning module that can help interested parties via [NWO Impact - Online workshops](#). For more information on our policy on impact, please visit the website: [Knowledge utilisation | NWO](#).

3 Conditions for applicants

This chapter contains the conditions that are applicable to your grant application. Firstly it describes who can apply for funding (Section 3.1) and what you can request funding for (Section 3.2). Subsequently, you will find the conditions for preparing and submitting the application (Sections 3.3 and 3.4) and the specific funding conditions (Section 3.5).

3.1 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. Researchers can apply if they obtained their PhD in the fifteen years preceding this round's benchmark date of 1 March 2024. Extension may be granted in certain cases (see from section 3.4.2 onwards).

The research will be conducted at one of the following organisations:

- 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.

Applicants with a part-time contract should guarantee adequate supervision of the project and all project members for whom funding is requested.

Additional conditions:

- a. Applications must be submitted by individual researchers (not by pairs or groups of researchers or by research teams).
- b. A candidate may:
 - submit a maximum of one application in the Vici 2023 round;
 - enter the application process for the NWO Talent Programme for no more than one grant category at a time.
 - submit a Vici application no more than three times. 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, unless the withdrawal is done under an NWO-approved appeal to the Compensation Scheme for Parental Leave or the Force Majeure Extension Scheme (for more information on this see section 3.4.3 and section 3.4.4, respectively).
- c. Researchers who have previously been awarded grants under the Talent Programme (formerly: Innovational Research Incentives Scheme) may not apply again in the same grant category.
- d. A researcher in receipt of a current grant under the NWO Talent Programme may submit an application in a subsequent grant category of the Talent Programme no more than 24 months before the planned end date of the current grant.

3.2 What can be applied for

For an application in this Call for proposals, a maximum of € 1,500,000 can be applied for. The maximum duration of the proposed project is five years. The budget modules (including the maximum amount) available for this Call for proposals are listed in the table below. Apply only for funding that is vital to realise the project. A more detailed explanation of the budget modules can be found in the annex to this Call for proposals (Section 7.1).

3.3 Preparing an application

Applicants must submit a pre-proposal to be considered for a Vici grant. Applicants who receive a positive decision for their pre-proposal are invited to submit a full proposal. If the applicant receives a negative decision for their pre-proposal, the applicant may not submit a full proposal.

3.3.1 Pre-proposal

The steps involved in writing your pre-proposal are:

- download the pre-proposal application form on ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw, or from the NWO or ZonMw website (on the grant page of the funding instrument concerned). ZonMw uses a modified pre-proposal form. Applications in the domain of Health Research and Development (ZonMw) must use that form;
- complete the pre-proposal form;
- save the pre-proposal form as a PDF file and upload it (with annex(es)) in ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw;
- complete your ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw account with up-to-date contact details (phone numbers and email address, including your mobile phone number);
- complete your ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw account where necessary by ticking the 'gender' box, see 'Promoting female researchers' at section 2.2;
- indicate in ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw whether you want to specify non-referees. It is possible to list (a maximum of three) non-referees. Applicants can enter these non-referees in ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw at the time of submitting the pre-proposal. NWO will not approach these referees to assess the application as an external referee.
- Add the optional annex: a literature list of relevant scientific literature closely related to your research idea. NWO will use the literature list – together with the research idea, key words and indicated discipline – to search for potential referees for your proposal. Your literature list will not be submitted to the committee. Save the list as a PDF file and upload this separately from the pre-proposal in ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw. The annex must be made in accordance with the template offered by NWO.

Annexes must be uploaded in ISAAC separately from the application. All of the annexes must be submitted as PDF files (without encryption). Any annexes other than those mentioned above are not permitted.

The pre-proposal contains:

- an Evidence Based Curriculum Vitae of the applicant, consisting of:
 - a description of the candidate's academic profile (maximum of 1200 words);
 - a description of the candidate's key output (minimum of 400 words and maximum of 700 words);
- short research idea (maximum of 150 words).

You may only use quality indicators that are measured at the level of the individual output item, for instance article level indicators. You are allowed to mention amounts for individual grants, etc. Do not refer to reputation, but provide substantiation of relevant qualities and contributions. You may not mention lists or total numbers of publications, grants or prizes, nor the total acquired sum.

You must write your pre-proposal in English.

A pre-proposal can only be submitted via the web application ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw. Applications that are not submitted via ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw will not be taken into consideration. As the main applicant, you are required to submit the pre-proposal via your own personal ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw account.

It is important to start with your application in ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw on time:

- if you do not yet have an ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw account, then you should create this on time to prevent any possible registration problems;
- any new organisations must also be added to ISAAC by NWO;
- you also need to submit other details online.

Pre-proposals submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration by NWO/ZonMw. For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw helpdesk (see contact information in Chapter 6).

3.3.2 Full proposal

The steps involved in preparing your full proposal are:

- download the full proposal form on ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw, or from the NWO or ZonMw website (on the grant page of the funding instrument concerned); ZonMw uses a modified full proposal form. Applications in the domain of Health Research and Development (ZonMw) must use that form;
- complete the full proposal form;
- complete your ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw account with up-to-date contact details (phone numbers and email address, including your mobile phone number);
- save the application form as a PDF file and upload it to ISAAC (www.isaac.nwo.nl) or to Mijn ZonMw (mijn.zonmw.nl) for ZonMw applications;
- add optional annexes; annexes should be uploaded separately from the full proposal form in ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw. Annexes should be submitted as PDF files (without encryption).

The full proposal contains:

- o a description of the research proposal, the alignment thereof with the applicant's academic profile and a motivation for the choice of institution (maximum 14 pages);
- o a paragraph on scientific and/or societal impact (maximum 2 pages);
- o a paragraph on data management;
- o a budget.

Conditional annex(es):

- declaration co-funding (see section 3.5.5);
- statement exceeding maximum funding (see section 3.5.6).

Any annexes other than those mentioned above are not permitted.

You must write your application in English.

An application can only be submitted via the web application ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw. Applications that are not submitted via ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw will not be taken into consideration.

As the main applicant, you are required to submit the application via your own personal ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw account.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration by NWO/ZonMw.

For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw helpdesk (see contact information in Chapter 6).

NWO expects applicants to have informed the organisation where they work about submitting the application and that the organisation accepts the grant conditions of this Call for proposals.

3.3.3 Advice about field choice

For this Call, you have to choose which field or submission window you will submit your application to. You can choose from:

- Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES);
- Science (ENW);
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH);
- Health Research and Medical Sciences (ZonMw).

Please decide well in advance to which field it would be best to submit your application. After submission of the pre-proposal, your choice of field is final and it will no longer be possible to have the application assessed within another field. If you have doubts concerning which field would be most appropriate, for example, because your application (partly) encompasses multiple fields, then you should get in touch with one of the contact persons from the programme well before the deadline. They can advise you about which field can best process your application. Please note that the final choice is yours.

For further advice, please contact the different domains (contact details see Section 6.1.1).

3.4 Conditions for submission

3.4.1 Formal conditions for submission

NWO will assess your application against the conditions listed below. Your application will only be admitted to the assessment procedure if it meets these conditions. After submitting your application, NWO requests you to be available to implement any possible administrative corrections so that you can (still) meet the conditions for submission.

These conditions are:

- the main applicant meet the conditions stated in Section 3.1;
- the application complies with the DORA guidelines as described in Section 4.1;
- the pre-proposal form/application form is, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled out according to the instructions;
- the pre-proposal/application is submitted via the main applicant's ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw account;
- the pre-proposal/application is received before the deadline;
- the pre-proposal/application is written in English;
- the application budget is drawn up in accordance with the conditions for this Call for proposals;
- the proposed project has a duration of at most five years;
- all of the required annexes are, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled out according to the instructions.

3.4.2 Career-dependent submission period and extension scheme

This round is open for researchers who on date March 1, 2024 gained their PhD no more than 15 years ago.

The stated maximum career-dependent submission period can be extended by NWO if there was a long period of leave due to illness, parenting, pregnancy or care. The maximum extension to the submission period allocated by NWO is: five years.

An extension is also possible for parents who take care of one or more children. An extension is also possible in the case of a part-time appointment combined with care duties or in the case of training for a number of clinical specialisations. In the case of care leave combined with a training to be a clinical specialist, the extension allocated is also a maximum of five years. For more information, see [Extension-clause](#). If you would like to make use of the extension scheme, then you should always contact NWO (see Section 6.1) before you submit your proposal.

3.4.3 Parental leave

For instruments in which no co-applicants can be entered, NWO offers applicants who take parental leave during the assessment period due to the arrival of a child, the possibility to make use of the 'Compensation scheme for parental leave'. This scheme applies to this Call for proposals. For more information, please see [Compensation-scheme-parental-leave](#).

If an applicant wants to make use of this compensations scheme, then a written request for this, supported by reasons, should be submitted to NWO via the contact person for this funding round. With this request, the applicant should provide all information that NWO needs to take a decision, including information from which it is clear that the applicant is hindered from which it is clear that the applicant is hindered from providing input due to childcare leave.

3.4.4 Force majeure extension scheme

If, during the application process or during the course of a project, the applicant is prevented from providing the required input (such as an application, rebuttal, interview or report) within the allotted time, the applicant may be able to take recourse to the NWO Force majeure extension scheme. For more information, please see <https://www.nwo.nl/en/force-majeure-extension-scheme>.

3.5 Conditions on granting

The [NWO Grant Rules 2017](#) and the Agreement on the Payment of Costs for Scientific Research are applicable to all applications.

3.5.1 Compliance with the National Knowledge Security Guidelines

World-class science can benefit from international cooperation. The National Knowledge Security Guidelines (hereafter: the Guidelines) helps knowledge institutions to ensure that international cooperation can take place securely. Knowledge security concerns the undesirable transfer of sensitive knowledge and technology that compromises national security; the covert influence of state actors on education and research, which jeopardises academic freedom and social safety; and ethical issues that may arise in cooperation with countries that do not respect fundamental rights.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their project complies and will continue to comply with the Guidelines. By submitting an application, the applicant commits to the recommendations stipulated in these Guidelines. In the event of a suspected breach of the Guidelines in an application submitted to NWO for project funding, or in a project funded by NWO, NWO may ask the applicant to provide a risk assessment demonstrating that the recommendations in the Guidelines have been taken into consideration. If the applicant fails to comply with NWO's request, or if the risk assessment is in apparent breach of the Guidelines, this may affect NWO's grant award or decision-making process. NWO may also include further conditions in the award letter if appropriate.

The National Knowledge Security Guidelines can be found on the central government website at: [Home | National Contact Point for Knowledge Security \(loketkennisveiligheid.nl\)](#).

3.5.2 Data management

The results of scientific research must be replicable, verifiable and falsifiable. In the digital age, this means that, in addition to publications, research data must also be publicly accessible insofar as this is possible. NWO expects that research data resulting from NWO-funded projects will be made publicly available, as much as possible, for reuse by other researchers. “As open as possible, as closed as necessary” is the applicable principle in this respect. Researchers, at very least, are expected to make the data and/or non-numerical results that underlie the conclusions of the published work resulting from the project publicly available at the same time as the work’s publication. Any costs incurred for this can be included in the project budget. Researchers should explain how data emerging from the project will be dealt with based on the data management section in the proposal and the data management plan that is drawn up after funding is awarded.

Data management Section

The data management section is part of the proposal. Researchers are asked before the start of the research to consider how the data collected will be ordered and categorised so that this can be made publicly available. Measures will often already need to be taken, both during data generation and as part of analysing the data, to make its subsequent storage and dissemination possible. If it is not possible to make all data from the project publicly available, for example due to reasons of privacy, ethics or valorisation, then the applicant is obliged to list the reasons for this in the data management section.

The data management section in the proposal is not evaluated and will therefore not be weighed in the decision whether to award funding. However, both the referees and the committee can issue advice with respect to the data management section.

3.5.3 Scientific integrity

In accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017, the project that NWO funds must be carried out in accordance with the nationally and internationally accepted standards for scientific conduct as stated in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2018). By submitting the proposal, the applicant commits to this code. In the case of a (possible) violation of these standards during a project funded by NWO, the applicant should immediately inform NWO of this and should submit all relevant documents to NWO. More information about the code of conduct and the policy regarding research integrity can be found on the website: [Scientific integrity | NWO](#).

3.5.4 Ethical statement or licence

The applicant is responsible for determining whether an ethical statement or licence is needed for the realisation of the proposed project. The applicant should ensure that this is obtained from the relevant institution or ethics committee on time. The absence or presence of an ethical statement or licence at the time of the application process has no effect on the assessment of the application. If the project is awarded funding, then the grant is issued under the condition that the necessary ethical statement or licence is obtained before the latest start date for the project. The project cannot start until NWO has received a copy of the ethical statement or licence.

3.5.5 Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol ensures an honest and reasonable distribution of benefits emerging from the use of genetic resources (Access and Benefit Sharing; ABS). Researchers who make use of genetic sources from the Netherlands or abroad for their research should familiarise themselves with the Nagoya Protocol ([ABS Focal Point - ABS Focal Point](#)). NWO assumes that researchers will take all necessary actions with respect to the Nagoya Protocol.

3.5.6 Additional project contribution(s)

Both the institution where the project is carried out and a third party can make a (financial) contribution to the project:

- When the **institution** makes a financial contribution, a 'Declaration Exceeding Maximum Funding' must be provided. This is the case, for example, if the institution pays (part of) the salary of the researcher.
- When a **third party** makes a contribution, a 'Declaration Co-funding' should be provided.

Both the 'Statement Exceeding Maximum funding' and the 'Declaration Co-funding' are authorised letters in which the relevant party guarantees to cover the contribution stated in the application. The mandatory template for the letters can be found on the website and on ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw.

Declaration Exceeding Maximum Funding

If the proposed budget exceeds the maximum amount of the Vici grant, € 1.5 million, the full proposal must be accompanied by a letter from the prospective host institution guaranteeing to cover the excess costs. If this is the case, the applicant must upload the Declaration Exceeding Maximum Funding as an annex when submitting the application. A template for this declaration is available on the funding page on the NWO website.

Declaration Co-funding

In the event of a contribution by a third party, a 'Declaration Co-funding', signed by the co-funding party ('in cash' or 'in kind'), must be uploaded with the full proposal. The letter must explicitly state the size of the contribution in monetary terms. This applies to both in-cash funding (financial contribution) and in-kind funding (non-financial contribution, such as human resources and materials). The Declaration Co-funding must be signed by an authorized signatory of the co-financier. Furthermore, the co-financier expresses both substantive and financial support for the project and confirms the co-financing granted.

The Declaration is unconditional and does not contain any resolutive conditions.

At the AES domain, co-financing statements in which third parties commit to in cash and/or in-kind support are sent to referees and committee members.

Co-financing for projects

Invoicing in-cash co-funding

After the proposal has been awarded funding, NWO will invoice the private or public party that has pledged an in-cash contribution. After these funds have been received, NWO will allocate the funding to the project.

The following are permitted as in-kind co-funding

The use of personnel and material contributions is permitted on the condition that these are capitalised and are fully part of the project. Services and know-how may not already exist or be available to the applicant. In-kind contributions are only accepted under the condition that the part contributed by the co-funder is an integral part of the work plan and can be made visible as an identifiable effort.

Determining the value of in-kind co-funding

- The use of personnel is valued on the basis of hours x rate, whereby the hourly rate is based on the actual salary costs (incl. a premium for social benefits and employer costs). Furthermore, 1,400 hours is taken as the standard number of productive hours per year for the calculation of the hourly rate. For rates, see table 2.2, column 'Uurtarief productieve uren, excl. btw' of the most recent Manual Tariffs Government (HOT; in Dutch only) on the NWO website (www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables).
- The value for material in-kind contributions is determined on the basis of the cost price of consumables. The value of investments/equipment is determined based on standard depreciation

- costs bearing in mind the intensity of use and any existing depreciations according to applicable reporting principles;
- For in-kind contributions in the form of services or know-how (knowledge, software, access to databases or cell lines) the economic value must be established and only the actual costs that can be directly attributed to the project may be counted as co-funding. This is always without a profit margin. Furthermore, the service or know-how must not already be present at or available to the applicant.

Co-funders should justify the structure and size of the in-kind contributions provided (including hourly rates) in the Declaration co-financing. NWO can request substantiation and documented evidence of the rates used and can also request their adjustment.

The following may not be contributed as co-funding (both in cash and in kind):

- funding awarded by NWO;
- PPP allowance;
- co-funding may not come from parties that on the basis of this call for proposals can submit a funding proposal to NWO;
- discounts on commercial rates, e.g. on materials, equipment and services;
- costs related to overheads, supervision, consultancy and/or participation in the user committee (see Section 5.1.5);
- costs of services that are conditional. The co-funding provided may not be subject to any conditions. The provision of the co-funding does not depend on whether a certain stage in the research plan is achieved (e.g. go/no-go moment);
- costs that are not reimbursed according to the call for proposals;
- costs of equipment if one of the (main) objectives of the proposal is the improvement or creation of added value for this equipment.

Accounting for in-kind co-funding

The main applicant reports to NWO about the in-kind co-funding that he or she has received from a co-funder. The main applicant provides accountability in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017 on an annual basis. If a co-funder fails to partly or entirely fulfil its obligations to the main applicant and/or NWO, then this can have consequences for the grant settlement (see Article 3.4.5 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017).

4 Assessment procedure

This chapter first describes the assessment according to the DORA principles (Section 4.1) and the course of the assessment procedure (Section 4.2). Second, it states the criteria that the assessment committee will use to assess your application (Section 4.3).

The NWO Code for Dealing with Personal Interests applies to all persons and NWO employees involved in the assessment and/or decision-making process ([Code for Dealing with Personal Interests | NWO](#)).

NWO strives to achieve an inclusive culture where there is no place for conscious or unconscious barriers due to cultural, ethnic or religious background, gender, sexual orientation, health or age ([Diversity and inclusion | NWO](#)). NWO encourages referees and members of an assessment committee to be actively aware of implicit associations and to try to minimise these. NWO will provide them with information about concrete ways of improving the assessment of an application.

4.1 The San Francisco Declaration (DORA)

NWO is a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). DORA is a worldwide initiative that aims to improve the way research and researchers are assessed. DORA contains recommendations for research funders, research institutions, scientific journals and other parties.

DORA aims to reduce the uncritical use of bibliometric indicators and obviate unconscious bias in the assessment of research and researchers. DORA's overarching philosophy is that research should be evaluated on its own merits rather than on the basis of surrogate measures, such as the journal in which the research is published.

When assessing the scientific track record of applicants, NWO makes use of a broad definition of scientific output.

NWO requests committee members and referees not to rely on indicators such as the Journal Impact Factor or the h-index when assessing applications. Applicants are not allowed to mention these in their applications. You are, however, allowed to list other scientific products besides publications, such as datasets, patents, software and code, et cetera.

For more information on how NWO is implementing the principles of DORA, see [DORA | NWO](#).

4.2 Procedure

The application procedure consists of the following steps:

- submission of the pre-proposal;
- admissibility of the pre-proposal;
- assessment of the pre-proposal;
 - initial advice assessment committee;
 - opportunity to submit a motivated response in case of negative preliminary advice;
- decision-making;
- submission of the proposal;
- admissibility of the proposal;
- pre-selection;
- peer review by referees;
- rebuttal;
- initial advice from the assessment committee;
- interview selection (for AES and ZonMw);
- interview (for AES and ZonMw);

- assessment committee meeting;
- decision-making.

An external, independent assessment committee will be assigned for this Call for proposals for each submission window, consisting of representatives from science with knowledge of the field. The task of the assessment committee is to assess the applications and the relevant documents that are submitted, in conjunction with each other and with regard to both the respective merits of each application and the selection criteria outlined in this Call for proposals.

4.2.1 Submission of the pre-proposal

The submission of a pre-proposal is compulsory for this Call for proposals. The pre-proposal is a concise proposal. For the pre-proposal submission, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO and ZonMw website. When you write your pre-proposal, you must adhere to the questions stated on this form, to the procedure given in the explanatory notes, and to the conditions for the maximum number of words and pages. The pre-proposal form that you complete must be received prior to the deadline via ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw (see Section 1.3). After submitting the pre-proposal, the main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt.

4.2.2 Admissibility of the pre-proposal

You will hear from NWO as quickly as possible after having submitted your pre-proposal whether or not it will be taken into consideration. NWO will make this assessment based on several administrative-technical criteria (see the formal conditions for submission, Section 3.4). NWO can only take your pre-proposal into consideration if it meets these conditions.

Please bear in mind that within two weeks after the submission deadline, NWO may approach you with any possible administrative corrections that need to be made so that your pre-proposal can (still) meet the conditions for submission. You will be given one opportunity to make the corrections, and you will be given five working days to complete this.

4.2.3 Assessment of the pre-proposal

While writing the pre-proposal, please keep in mind that the committee that will evaluate your pre-proposal consists of members from the whole domain. The pre-proposal should be accessible for committee members from other academic disciplines within your domain. In case domains work with different evaluation panels, the (disciplinary) composition of these panels will be detailed on the relevant page per domain (<https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwo-talent-programme>).

The assessment committees evaluate the pre-proposals based on the criteria and make a ranking based on which proposals have the most chance of being awarded funding, without using external reviewers.

They will formulate these comments based on the substantive assessment criteria (see Section 4.3.1) and they will give the proposal a numerical score per assessment criterion. For this, the NWO score table will be used (on a scale of 1 to 9, where “1” is excellent and “9” unsatisfactory).

Candidates will receive the provisional assessment of the assessment committee in a timely manner. Candidates with a negative advice will subsequently be given five working days to provide a substantive response to the provisional assessment of the assessment committee. This response is not meant to include additional, new information about the proposal, nor is it meant as a way to ask questions to the committee. Taking this information into account, the assessment committee will consider whether there is cause to revise the provisional assessment. After this consideration, the final ranking will be determined.

4.2.4 Decision pre-proposal

The advice of the assessment committee regarding the pre-proposals will be presented to the relevant

domain boards, which will make the final decision. The most promising candidates will receive a timely invitation to submit a full proposal before the deadline. The other applicants will receive a decision stating that they are not allowed to submit a full proposal. These applicants do not have the opportunity to submit a full proposal. They are also not allowed to submit a full proposal in a different domain from the domain they used for the pre-proposal.

4.2.5 Submission of a proposal

For the submission of the proposal, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO/ZonMw website. When you write your proposal, you must adhere to the questions stated on this form and the procedure given in the explanatory notes. You must also adhere to the conditions for the maximum number of words and pages.

Your complete application form must have been received before the deadline via ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw (see Section 1.3). After this deadline, you can no longer submit a proposal. After submitting the proposal, the main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt.

4.2.6 Admissibility of the proposal

As soon as possible after you have submitted your proposal, you will hear from NWO whether or not your proposal will be taken into consideration. NWO will determine this based on several administrative-technical criteria (see the formal conditions for submission, Section 3.4). NWO can only take your proposal into consideration if it meets these conditions.

Please bear in mind that within two weeks after the submission deadline, NWO may approach you with any possible administrative corrections that need to be made so that your proposal can (still) meet the conditions for submission. You will be given one opportunity to make the corrections, and you will be given five working days to do this.

4.2.7 Peer review by referees

Prior to the assessment committee considering your proposal, NWO will request input from at least two external referees. These are independent advisers who are experts in the subjects of the proposal. They will assess the proposals based on the assessment criteria outlined in the Call for proposals (Section 4.3).

A maximum of three non-referees can be registered. Applicants can register these non-referees in ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw when submitting the pre-proposal. NWO/ZonMw will not approach these non-referees to assess the proposal as external referees.

4.2.8 Rebuttal

The main applicant subsequently receives the anonymised referee reports. You then have the opportunity to formulate a rebuttal. You will be given five working days to submit your rebuttal via ISAAC. If you decide to withdraw the proposal, then you should do this as quickly as possible by sending an email stating this to the office and withdrawing the proposal in ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw. If NWO/ZonMw receives your rebuttal after the deadline, then it will not be included in the rest of the procedure.

4.2.9 Pre-advice assessment committee

After this, your proposal, the referees' reports and your rebuttal will be submitted for comments to several members of the assessment committee (the pre-advisers). The pre-advisers will provide a written substantive and reasoned response to the proposal. They will formulate these comments based on the substantive assessment criteria (see Section 4.3.1) and will give the proposal a numerical score per assessment criterion. For this, the NWO score table will be used (on a scale of 1 to 9, where "1" is excellent and "9" unsatisfactory).

4.2.10 Interview selection

This step in the process is applicable only to applications submitted to the AES and ZonMw domains. The assessment committee will prioritise the applications in the interview selection based on the pre-advice. The assessment committee will then make its own assessment based on these documents. Subsequently, the applicants with the highest ranked proposals will be invited for an interview.

4.2.11 Interview

This step in the process is applicable only to applications submitted to the AES and ZonMw domains. During the interview, the assessment committee will have the opportunity to pose questions, including new questions that the referees did not ask. During the interview, the applicant will be able to respond to these in the discussion with the committee. The 'principle of hearing both sides' is upheld in this manner. The interview can lead to an adjustment of both the assessment and the score of the proposal.

4.2.12 Meeting of the assessment committee

The committee will make its own assessment based on the available material. Although the referees' reports will 'guide' the final assessment to a large extent, it will not be blindly accepted without question by the committee. The committee will consider and compare the arguments of the referees (also amongst each other) and examine whether the rebuttal contains a well-formulated response to the critical comments from the referees' reports. Furthermore, the committee, unlike the referees, will assess the quality of all the proposals and rebuttals submitted. Therefore, the committee's assessment may differ from that of the referees.

Following the discussion, the committee draws up a written recommendation addressed to the relevant decision-making body about the quality and ranking of the proposals. This recommendation is based on the assessment criteria. The proposal must receive an overall qualification of at least "very good" to be eligible for funding.

For more information about the qualifications, see [Applying for funding, how does it work? | NWO](#).

If, after the discussion of the full proposals, two or more of the full proposals cannot be distinguished from each other based on their weighted total score, then this will result in an ex aequo situation (see the following paragraph on ex aequo).

4.2.13 Ex aequo

NWO understands ex aequo to be a situation in which two or more proposals based on their weighted score cannot be distinguished from each other. An ex aequo situation is relevant when it occurs at the limit of the available budget or the selection limit. The existence of an ex aequo situation is determined as follows. The starting point in this process is the ranking drawn up by the assessment committee, with the final scores rounded to two decimal points. The reference score here is the score of the lowest-ranked proposal within the limit of the available budget or the selection limit. All proposals with a score that is within 0.05 or less of the reference score will be considered. In this way, the proposals that are equal within a score of 0.1 will be selected. If an ex aequo situation occurs at the limit of the available budget or the selection limit, then, in order to counter the underrepresentation of female researchers in the scientific field, the proposal from a female applicant will be considered as the highest ranked. If the ex aequo situation is not resolved via this procedure, then the proposal with the highest score for the criterion 'Quality and innovative character of the research proposal' will be ranked highest. If the ex aequo situation is not resolved with this, then the proposal that is rated best on the final score by the most committee members will be ranked highest.

If the proposals subsequently still remain tied, then the ex aequo situation will be sent onto the decision-making body.

4.2.14 Decision-making

Finally, the relevant decision-making body will assess the procedure followed as well as the advice from the assessment committee. They will subsequently determine the final qualifications and make a decision over awarding or rejecting the proposals.

4.2.15 Timetable

Below, you will find the timetable for this Call for proposals. During the current procedure, NWO might find it necessary to make further changes to the timetable for this Call for proposals. You will be informed about this in time.

Pre-proposals	
Tuesday 12 March 2024 14:00:00 CET	Deadline pre-proposals
April/May/June 2024	Committee assesses pre-proposals
May-June 2024	Preliminary advice and possibility to submit their view
July 2024	Applicants receive final decision (about whether or not they are allowed to submit a full proposal)
Proposals	
Tuesday 10 September 2024 14:00:00 CET	Deadline proposals
October-November 2024	Referees consulted
November-December 2024	Applicants can submit a rebuttal
December 2024	Interview selection (AES and ZonMw)
January 2025	Interviews (AES and ZonMw) and assessment committee meeting
February 2025	Decision by the board

4.3 Criteria

4.3.1 Substantive assessment criteria pre-proposal

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

Quality of the researcher (100%)

The committee assesses:

- Whether the researcher fits in the target group: is the researcher at the stage of consolidation of their leadership/research group, and to what extent will the Vici contribute to the researcher's development in this area?
- The extent to which the researcher's qualities clearly exceed what is customary within the international peer group, as evidenced in the CV by the quality and impact of the key output and by other academic achievements¹.

¹ Examples of 'other academic achievements' are contributions to the development of scientific theories and methods, indications of independence, contributions to Open Science and 'academic citizenship'.

- The extent to which the researcher's work is clearly positioned with respect to scientific and (where possible) societal themes or questions
- The quality of the (inter)national network, collaborative abilities and visibility of the researcher.
- Whether the researcher's key output and academic profile clearly align with the research idea, or whether the researcher presents a convincing vision of how this alignment will be achieved.
- The extent to which the researcher demonstrates the capability of generating innovative ideas and independently developing these successfully.
- The extent to which researcher's established leadership and mentorship skills and approach to mentorship and contribution to the development of individuals, as demonstrated in the academic profile are appropriate.

4.3.2 Substantive assessment criteria proposal

The applications submitted within this Call for proposals will be substantively 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%)

Quality and innovative character of the research proposal

- The extent to which the proposed research has the potential to make an important contribution to the advancement of science².
- The extent to which the proposed research contains (elements of) scientific innovation in terms of theory, methods, technology and/or topic.
- The extent to which the proposed research goes beyond an incremental evolution of the applicant's current research.
- Whether the proposed research strikes an equitable balance between being challenging and feasible³.
- Whether the proposal is in line with the researcher's expertise, or whether the researcher presents a convincing vision on how this alignment will be achieved.
- The extent to which the proposed approach is appropriate.
- The clarity of the proposal, including question(s) posed and the objectives.

Scientific and/or societal impact

Applicants can choose to focus in their research project on scientific impact, societal impact, or a spread across both forms of impact.

NWO assesses scientific impact as follows:

- whether the proposal conveys an ambitious vision and appropriate strategy regarding the dissemination and/or implementation of the research results in one's own discipline, related disciplines and the broader scientific field.

NWO assesses societal impact as follows:

- The extent to which the project has added value for societal impact;
- the extent to which the project has potential for societal impact in the short and long term;

² NWO uses a broad definition of the term science, which includes technology, clinical research and scholarship.

³ Aspects that can be included in the assessment of feasibility include the logical and technological framework, planning and timeframe, and resources, such as allocation of human resources, data, tools, technology, expertise, experience, network and institutional support. NWO is open to the selection of high risk - high gain projects.

- whether the proposal conveys an ambitious vision and appropriate strategy regarding the way(s) in which the proposed research may lead to societal impact.

In addition to the above, the assessment committee, as part of this criterion, will also weigh:

- The extent to which the motivation for the focus on scientific impact and/or societal impact is convincing;
- If the focus is primarily on scientific impact: how proportional attention is given during the course of the project to increasing (unforeseen) opportunities for social impact;
- If the focus is primarily on societal impact: how proportional attention is given during the course of the project to increasing (unforeseen) opportunities for scientific impact.

It is possible to receive a good score for this criterion if the focus of the proposal is on scientific impact, if the focus is on societal impact, and if the focus is spread across both types of impact. The score for this criterion is given independently from the chosen focus; one type of impact is not superior to the other.

5 Obligations for grant recipients

This chapter details the various obligations that - in addition to the conditions stated in Section 3.5 - apply after funds have been awarded.

5.1.1 Start, reporting and completion

Successful candidates are awarded contracts of employment with the host institutions of their choice and arrangements are made for final reporting and for any necessary supervision by the domain concerned. Vidi projects must always start within six months of the grant being awarded. The projects awarded funding will be managed by the NWO domain to which the application was submitted. During the Vidi project you as the project leader are responsible for the progress and final reports and you bear final financial responsibility. With the subsidy decision you will be informed who your contact person will be during the term and which obligations you must meet.

Guidelines for the financial accounting reports for NWO Talent Programme grants

1. The starting point for the expenditure of funds awarded to you is the final budget you submitted. This final budget serves to support the financial report.
2. In your proposal you have already stated which budget items are necessary for the realisation of the research under the heading Cost Estimates. As this distribution of items has already been assessed and approved on intrinsic grounds (can the proposed research be carried out with these?) this provides the foundation for drawing up the final budget.
3. The final budget should, for the purpose of excluding possible omissions, be drawn up in consultation with the financial manager of the recipient institution. The budget provides the basis for the financial management of NWO and of the recipient institution, as well as for the accountant who must issue an auditor's report in retrospect for the annual accounts.
4. The format in which the final budget must be presented is the same as the format in which the financial report must be presented after the project has been completed. NWO will offer a model format for this purpose.
5. Within 3 months after the end date of the grant you should submit a final scientific report as well as a financial report for all financial transactions attributed to the research project. The grant received and the costs booked for the research are part of the standard auditing procedure by the accountant for the purpose of the annual accounts.
6. The final establishment and possible payment take place once the final scientific report and the financial report have been approved. In addition to this a general qualification is made for the event that any shortcomings emerge following the financial audit of institutions.

5.1.2 Data management

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the researcher should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. For this, applicants can make use of the advice from the referees and committee. The applicant must describe in the plan whether existing data will be used, or whether new data will be collected or generated, and how this data will be made FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable. Before submission, the data management plan should be checked by a data steward or similar officer of the organisation where the project will be realised. The plan should be submitted to NWO via ISAAC within 4 months after the proposal has been awarded funding. NWO will check the plan as quickly as possible. Approval of the data management plan by NWO is a condition for disbursement of the funding. The plan can be adjusted during the research.

More information about the data management protocol of NWO can be found at: [Research data management | NWO](#).

5.1.3 Intellectual property and consortium agreement

With respect to intellectual property (IP), the NWO IP policy applies. This can be found in Chapter 4 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017.

Applicants must carry out a project funded by NWO during the time that they work for the knowledge institution. If an applicant or a researcher funded by NWO is appointed by more than one employer, then the other employer should relinquish any possible IP rights that emerge from the project of the applicant.

In case of co-funding

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the conclusion of a consortium agreement is one of the conditions for starting the project. In this agreement, arrangements are made about intellectual property and publication, knowledge transfer, confidentiality, co-financing payments, progress reports, and final reports. Uploading in ISAAC is required before the project can start.

The responsibility for arranging the consortium agreement lies with the applicant. NWO does not sign the agreement itself.

Parties can choose to use the standard text from NWO in the model agreement which has been drawn up in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017 and which is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals.

It is also possible to choose to make their own agreement or to apply existing agreements for the component parts intellectual property and publication procedure. The model consortium agreement provides for this. The applicant must discuss the (concept) Consortium Agreement with the *Knowledge Transfer Office* (KTO) of the knowledge institution and with the project partners. NWO checks whether all parts of the consortium agreement have been completed in full.

5.1.4 Socially responsible licensing

The knowledge that emerges from the project could be suitable for use in society. When agreements about licensing and/or the transfer of research results developed under this Call for proposals are made, due consideration should be given to the ten principles for socially responsible licensing, as stated in the NFU factsheet "[19.4511 Ten principles for Socially Responsible Licensing v19-12-2019.pdf \(nfu.nl\)](#)".

5.1.5 User committee

After a project submitted to the AES domain has been awarded funding, a user committee will be appointed in accordance with Article 3.3.2.a of the NWO Grant Rules 2017. The committee will follow the execution of the project and advise on its the progress.

Users of research are defined as natural or legal persons (at national or international level) who are able to apply the results of the research. A distinction can sometimes be drawn between direct users of the knowledge generated, usually companies, and end users, who buy the products from those companies. Both have their own role to play in the innovation chain and must be named in the knowledge utilisation plan. It is the explicit intention that potential technology users and end users outside the immediate circle and outside the research field of the researchers submitting the application should be involved in the project from beginning to end. Users should be able to apply the knowledge generated by the research in the medium to long term. Actual and potential users, if known, should be indicated in the research application.

5.1.6 Open Access

As a signatory to the Berlin Declaration (2003) and a member of cOAlition S (2018), NWO is committed to making the results of the research it funds openly accessible via the internet (Open Access). By doing this, NWO supports the Dutch government's policy goal to make all publicly funded research available in Open Access form. Scientific publications arising from projects awarded on the basis of this Call for proposals must therefore be made available in Open Access form in accordance with the Open Access Policy.

Scientific articles

Scientific articles must be made available in Open Access form immediately at the time of publication (without embargo) via one of the following routes:

- publication in a fully Open Access journal or platform registered in the DOAJ;
- publication in a subscription journal and the immediate deposition of at least the author accepted manuscript of the article in an Open Access repository registered in Open DOAR;
- publication in a journal for which a transformative Open Access agreement exists between UNL and a publisher. For further information, see [Open Access |](#).

Books

Different requirements apply to scholarly books, book chapters and edited collections. See the Open Access Policy Framework at [Open Science | NWO](#).

CC BY licence

To ensure the widest possible dissemination of publications, at least a Creative Commons (CC BY) licence must be applied. If there is a compelling reason to do so, the author may request to publish under a CC BY-ND licence. For books, book chapters and collected volumes, all CC BY licence options are allowed.

Costs

Costs for publication in fully Open Access journals can be budgeted in the application using the budget module for "material costs". Costs for publications in hybrid journals are not eligible for reimbursement by NWO. For Open Access books, a separate NWO Open Access Books Fund is available.

For more detailed information about NWO's Open Access policy, see [Open Science | NWO](#).

6 Contact and other information

6.1 Contact

6.1.1 Specific questions

For specific questions about this Call for proposals, please contact one of the submission windows below:

For general questions about the Talent Programme and applying for an extension:

Email: talent@nwo.nl

For specific questions about your proposal for one of the domains:

NWO Talent Programme/Vici
Science
PO Box 93460
2509 AC The Hague, The Netherlands
enw-vici@nwo.nl

NWO Talent Programme/Vici
Social Sciences and Humanities
PO Box 93461
2509 AC The Hague, The Netherlands
sgw-vici@nwo.nl

NWO Talent Programme/Vici
Applied and Engineering Sciences
PO Box 3021
3502 GA Utrecht, The Netherlands
ttw-vici@nwo.nl

NWO Talent Programme/Vici
Health Research and Development
PO Box 93245
2509 AE The Hague, The Netherlands
vici@zonmw.nl

6.1.2 Technical questions about the web application ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw

For technical questions about the use of ISAAC, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk. Please read the manual first before consulting the helpdesk. The ISAAC helpdesk can be contacted from Monday to Friday between 10:00 and 17:00 hours on +31 (0)70 34 40 600. However, you can also submit your question by email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will then receive an answer within two working days. For technical questions about the use of Mijn ZonMw you can contact the helpdesk. This helpdesk is available during working hours through phone number +31 (0)70 349 51 76, or through email servicedesk@zonmw.nl.

6.2 Other information

The whole text of this Call for proposals has been published in both Dutch and English. The Dutch version is deemed authentic. For legal interpretation the text of the Dutch version will be decisive.

NWO processes data from applicants received in the context of this Call in accordance with the NWO Privacy Statement, [Privacy Statement | NWO](#).

NWO might approach applicants for an evaluation of the procedure and/or research programme.

7 Annex

7.1 Explanation of budget

You can find an explanation of the available budget items below. Approval from NWO is required before any changes are made to the content, personnel or financial aspects of the research plan and the corresponding final budget.

General

- The budget that is submitted with the application, is based on the direct staff costs and direct material costs that are eligible for the research.
- Administration of the grant takes place at the receiving institution.
- One unique administration number must be applied to the grant. The administration needs to be in accordance with the final budget, and a clear distinction must be made between staff costs and material costs.

No double financing

As stated in the NWO Grant Rules 2017, NWO only finances project costs that have not been or will not be financed from other resources. There may be no double financing. If a (sub)project is financed by other (European) subsidy providers, the entire Vici proposal will not be awarded.

Personnel

It is possible to apply for the funding of the salary costs of personnel who make a substantial contribution to the research. Funding of these salary costs depends on the type of appointment and the organisation where the personnel are/will be appointed.

- The calculation of eligible staff costs must be based on actual gross salaries and associated costs as specified in the current Dutch agreement on the funding of academic research ('Akkoord bekostiging wetenschappelijk onderzoek'), with the exception of end-of-project payments. The amount of these payments for the Vidi 2023 round will be based on the standard percentages in the agreement (<https://www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables>).
- For university medical centres, actual gross salaries and mark-ups in accordance with the NFO salary tables in force at the time of grant award are used (<https://www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables>).
- For personnel from other organisations, salary costs will be funded based on the collective labour agreement pay scale of the employee concerned in accordance with the applicable rate at the time of awarding the grant as taken from Table 2.2, column 'Hourly rate productive hours, excl. Dutch VAT' from the Handleiding Overheidstarieven [HOT- Manual Dutch Government Rates] (<https://www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables>).
- For the Caribbean Netherlands, the Dutch government employs civil servants on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba under different conditions than in the European part of the Netherlands: <https://english.rijksdienstcn.com/working-at-the-rijksdienst-caribisch-nederland/employment-terms-and-conditions>.

The mandatory one-off indexing does not affect the level of the grant ceiling or the maximum amount of the grant awarded for each proposal. Both the level of the grant ceiling and the maximum amount of the grant awarded will remain unchanged during the assessment procedure. The mandatory one-off indexing will be applied after the decision-making process about awarding or rejecting proposals is completed.

If co-funding is required or permitted then the one-off mandatory indexing will have no consequences for the co-funding requirement or the IP rights that can emerge from the co-funding.

Material

The material budget that can be applied for is specified according to the three categories below:

Project-related goods/services

- consumables (e.g. glassware, chemicals, cryogenic fluids, etc.);
- measurement and calculation time (e.g. access to supercomputer, etc.);
- costs for acquiring or using datasets (e.g. from Statistics Netherlands (CBS));
- access to large national and international facilities (e.g. cleanroom, synchrotron, etc.);
- work by third parties (e.g. laboratory analyses, data collection, citizen science, etc.).

Travel and accommodation costs for the personnel positions applied for

- travel and accommodation costs;
- conference attendance (maximum of two per year per scientific position applied for);
- fieldwork;
- work visit.

Implementation costs

- national symposium/conference/workshop organised by the project researchers;
- costs for Open Access publishing (only in full gold Open Access journals, registered in the “Directory of Open Access Journals” <https://doaj.org/>);
- data management costs;
- costs involved in applying for licences (e.g. for animal experiments).

Costs that cannot be applied for include:

- basic facilities within the institution (e.g. laptops, office furniture, etc.);
- maintenance and insurance costs.

Equipment/investments

Budget can be applied for investments in equipment, datasets and/or software (e.g., lasers, specialist computers or computer programs). The costs for use of equipment in a project should be applied for under Material costs.

Knowledge utilisation

The aim of this budget module is to facilitate the use of the knowledge that emerges from the research⁴.

As knowledge utilisation takes many different forms in different scientific fields, the applicant needs to specify the required costs, e.g. costs of producing a teaching package, conducting a feasibility study into potential applications, or filing a patent application.

The budget applied for should be adequately specified in the proposal.

Internationalisation

The budget for internationalisation is intended to encourage international collaboration. The amount requested must be specified.

Funding can be requested for:

- travel and accommodation costs in so far as these concern direct research costs emerging from the international collaboration and additional costs for internationalisation that cannot be covered in another manner, for example from the bench fee;
- travel and accommodation costs for foreign guest researchers;
- costs for organising international workshops/symposia/scientific meetings.

⁴ In this budget module, the definition for “knowledge transfer” as used by the European Commission in the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (PbEU, 2014, C198) applies.

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Dutch Research Council

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2593 CE The Hague

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Winthontlaan 2

3526 KV Utrecht

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[Homepage | NWO](#)

