



NWO Talent Programme

Vici 2025

Call for proposals

Dutch Research Council Science
Dutch Research Council Social Sciences and Humanities
Dutch Research Council Applied and Engineering Sciences
ZonMw

2025



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Introduction

In this Call for proposals information is provided about the application procedure for the NWO Talent Programme Vici 2025 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 annexes.

1.1 Background

The NWO Talent Programme covers three grant categories that are tailored to various phases in researchers' scientific careers (Veni, Vidi, Vici). The Veni is for researchers who have recently obtained their PhD, the Vidi is for more experienced researchers and the Vici for researchers who have demonstrated an ability to develop their own line of research.

Each grant category has one submission round per year and a separate call for proposals.

The applications in the Talent Programme will be processed per scientific domain, which are: the science domain, social sciences and humanities (SSH), applied and engineering sciences (AES) and health, research and development (ZonMw). You apply for funding at the submission domain that best suits your application, see chapter 3 for more information.

1.1.1 Changes since the previous Call for proposals

NWO has new Grant Rules. The changes have to do with the aging of the NWO Grant Rules 2017. This has now been adapted to current laws and regulations. Starting in 2025, the NWO Talent Programme will make use of the new rules.

From 2025 onwards, the NWO Talent Programme will work with budget modules. Section 3.2 sets out what can be applied for, specified in fixed components. An explanation of the budget modules is given in the annex.

NWO has a general regulation on co-funding. Additional terms and conditions regarding the additional contribution(s) are described in section 3.5.6.

The impact outlook criterion has been expanded slightly: when submitting their proposal, researchers already indicate what societal and scientific impact they expect from their research. This has been expanded to include the question of the risks of undesirable social impact.

In the procedure, the motivated response 'zienswijze' has been replaced by the possibility of submitting a request for the correction of a factual error. The deadline for this has been adjusted to three working days. See Section 4 for more information.

The AES domain will implement the Vici 2025 without the process step 'interview selection', see section 4.2.10.

1.2 Available budget

The available budget for this Call for proposals is € 52,500,000. The total available budget per domain is:

- For the Science domain: 22.500.000 euros,
- For the SSH domain: 15.000.000 euros,
- For the AES domain: 6.000.000 euros, and,
- For the ZonMw domain: 9.000.000 euros.

It is expected that a maximum of 35 proposals will be awarded funding.

- Circa 15 for Science
- Circa 10 for SSH
- Circa 4 for AES
- Circa 6 for ZonMw

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

When you submit your application in ISAAC/My ZonMw, 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.

The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is **11 March 2025**, before 14:00:00 CET

The deadline for submitting proposals is **09 September 2025**, before 14:00:00 CEST.

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.

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), Universities in the Netherlands (UNL) and Dutch universities to address this disparity. The collective aim is to significantly increase the number of women in higher scientific positions.

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/My ZonMw 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. Societal impact here stands for changes that (partly) result from research-generated knowledge and skills. These changes contribute to the well-being of people, planet and society for this and future generations. 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. NWO encourages researchers to reflect on the potential desired and undesired impact of their research from a broad perspective.

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 [Online impact workshops | NWO](#). 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 2025. Extension may be granted in certain cases (see from section 3.4.2 onwards).

The applicant must be employed by the institution where the research is conducted for the duration of the project.

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

- universities as referred to in Article 1.8 paragraph 1 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act and universities listed in the [Policy Rules for Universities located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands](#);
- university medical centres by which is meant academic hospitals as referred to in Article 1.13 paragraph 1 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act;
- 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. An applicant may:
 - submit a maximum of one application in the Vici 2025 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.
- e. It could be the case that the applicant's tenure track agreement ends before the intended completion date of the project for which funding is applied for, or that before that date, the applicant's tenured contract ends due to the applicant reaching retirement age. In that case, the applicant needs to include a statement from their employer in which the research organisation concerned guarantees that the project and all project members for whom funding has been requested will receive adequate supervision for the full duration of the project.

3.2 What can be applied for

Per project, a grant amount of at most € 1,500,000 can be applied for. The maximum duration of the proposed project is five years. The applicant may include costs for personnel, equipment, investments and knowledge utilisation. The available budget modules (including the maximum amounts) are listed below. Apply only for funding that is vital to realise the project. The rates and an explanation of these budget modules are given in annex 7.

3.2.1 Personnel

Funding may be requested for salary costs of personnel contributing to the project. The amount depends on the type of appointment and the organisation where the personnel is employed.

3.2.1.1 Personnel at a university in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, umc or a research organisation

3.2.1.1..1 *Salary costs of the applicant*

You can declare salary costs of the Vici applicant for the part of the appointment that is spent on project-related tasks.

3.2.1.1..2 *Additional personnel*

For personnel working at a university in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, university medical centre (umc) or another research organisation, as referred to in Article 1.1, first paragraph, subparagraphs c to h of the NWO Grant Rules, salary costs can be claimed for the following positions: PhD student, Engineering Doctorate, postdoc, physician-researcher, non-scientific personnel (NWP).

Funding for the Engineering Doctorate (EngD) position can only be applied for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for.

3.2.1.2 Students

It is possible to engage students in the project if they are studying at a research organisation as referred to in Section 3.1. You can enter the costs of this as material costs within the project. There is no maximum on the number of students who can participate in the project.

3.2.2 Material

Funding may be requested for all project-specific material costs. These costs are subject to a maximum of 100% of the grant amount allocated for personnel costs.

3.2.3 Investments

Funding may be requested for investments in equipment, infrastructure and other research resources that have economic value or can be reused after the project ends. Salary costs of personnel who put the equipment, infrastructure and other research resources in a state of readiness can be claimed as part of the investments. The rates and conditions of Personnel apply here and the costs should be claimed as Investments. Investments can only be made at research organisations listed in Section 3.1.

A maximum of €500,000 can be applied for investments.

3.2.4 Knowledge utilisation

Funding can be requested for activities that promote the use of knowledge from the research¹, in order to increase the societal impact of the research.

Impact Outlook

A maximum of 5% of the grant amount can be used for this module. It is not mandatory to make use of this module.

3.3 Preparing an application

An application starts with a pre-proposal

Applicants must submit a pre-proposal to be considered for a Vici grant. Applicants who receive a positive decision for their pre-proposals are invited to submit a proposal. Applicants who receive a negative decision for their pre-proposals may not submit a proposal.

3.3.1 Pre-proposal

It is mandatory to write your pre-proposal in English.

An application can only be submitted via the web application ISAAC/My ZonMw.

Applications that are not submitted via ISAAC/My ZonMw will not be taken into consideration.

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

The steps involved in preparing your pre-proposal are:

- download the pre-proposal application form from the NWO web application ISAAC/My ZonMw or from the NWO website or on the 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;
- complete your ISAAC or My ZonMw account with current contact details (phone numbers and email address, including your mobile number);
- complete the ISAAC/My ZonMw account by filling out the 'gender' box (see Section 2.1, 'Promoting female researchers');
- save the application form as a PDF file (without file protection) and upload it within the appropriate submission window on the web application ISAAC (www.isaac.nwo.nl) for the AES, SSH and Science domains or on My ZonMw (mijn.zonmw.nl) for ZonMw.

¹

All activities applied for under this budget module must fit within the definition of "Knowledge Transfer Activities" used by the European Commission in the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (OJEU 2022, C 414).

Optional attachment pre-proposal:

- A literature list for referees (see heading 'optional attachment pre-proposal').

Annexes must be uploaded in ISAAC/My ZonMw separately from the application. The budget must be submitted in ISAAC/My ZonMw as an Excel file. Any annexes other than those stated above are not permitted.

Registration of non-referees

- A maximum of three non-referees can be registered. Applicants can register these non-referees in ISAAC or My ZonMw when submitting the pre-proposal. NWO will not approach these non-referees to assess the proposal as external referees. **Please note:** It is only possible to indicate non-referees when submitting the pre-proposal. These non-referees apply during the entire assessment procedure.

The pre-proposal includes:

- An evidence-based CV of the applicant, consisting of :
 - a description of the applicant's academic profile (max. 1200 words);
 - a description of the applicant's key output (400-700 words);
- Short research idea (max. 150 words).

Please note: 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.. Do not refer to the reputation of publication platforms, 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.

Optional attachment pre-proposal

A literature list for referees: A literature list of up to ten pieces of relevant scientific literature that are closely related to your research idea. NWO will use the literature list - together with your 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.

Start with your pre-proposal well in advance

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

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

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration by NWO/ZonMw. For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC/My ZonMw helpdesk, see contact (Chapter 6).

3.3.2 Proposal

It is mandatory to write your application in English.

Preparing your proposal

- Download the application form from the NWO web application ISAAC or from the NWO or ZonMw website (on the grant page of the funding instrument concerned). ZonMw uses a

modified application form. Applications in the domain of Health Research and Development (ZonMw) must use that form;

- complete the application form;
- save the application form as a PDF file (without file protection) and upload it with optional annexes, to ISAAC (www.isaac.nwo.nl) or My ZonMw (mijn.zonmw.nl);

Outline of the proposal

- A description of the research proposal, a motivation for the choice of institution, and a description of the fit between the research proposal and the applicant's academic profile (maximum 14 pages, including footnotes);
- a section on scientific and/or societal impact (maximum 2.5 pages);
- a section on data management.

Mandatory attachment

- a budgetplan.

Optional attachment(s) proposal:

- if applicable: a completed and signed declaration of co-funding, which confirms the co-funding, as a PDF file (see Section 3.5.6);
- if applicable: statement exceeding maximum funding, as a PDF file (see Section 3.5.6).

The attachment(s) must be drawn up in accordance with the template(s) provided by NWO/ZonMw. They must be uploaded in ISAAC/My ZonMw separately from the application. The budget must be submitted in ISAAC/My ZonMw as an Excel file. All of the other attachments, except for the budget, must be submitted as PDF files (without encryption). Attachments other than those stated above are not permitted.

Start with your application well in advance. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration by NWO/ZonMw.

For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC/My ZonMw helpdesk. Contact details are listed in Chapter 6.

NWO/ZonMw expects applicants to have informed the research organisation where they are or will be employed about the submission of the application and that the research organisation accepts the grant conditions of this Call for proposals.

3.3.3 Advice about field choice

For this Call for proposals, you have to choose which field you will submit your application to. You can choose from:

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

Please decide well in advance which of the four fields is most suitable for submitting your application. Once submitted, 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 field-overarching character, 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 deal with 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

Pre-proposal

NWO/ZonMw will assess your pre-proposal against all the conditions set out in this Call for proposals, including the conditions listed below. Your pre-proposal will only be admitted to the assessment procedure if it meets these conditions. After submitting your pre-proposal, NWO/ZonMw requests you to be available for two weeks to implement any possible administrative corrections so that you can (still) meet the conditions for submission.

These conditions are:

- the main applicant meets the conditions stated in Section 3.1;
- the pre-proposal complies with the DORA guidelines as described in Section 4.1;
- the pre-proposal is submitted via the main applicant's ISAAC/My ZonMw account;
- the pre-proposal is received before the deadline;
- the pre-proposal is written in English;
- all required attachments, after a possible request for additions or changes, have been completed and submitted completely and according to the instructions and in accordance with the terms of this Call for proposals.

Proposal

NWO/ZonMw will assess your proposal against all the conditions set out in this Call for proposals, including the conditions listed below. Your proposal will only be admitted to the assessment procedure if it meets these conditions. After submitting your proposal, NWO/ZonMw requests you to be available for two weeks to implement any possible administrative corrections so that you can (still) meet the conditions for submission.

These conditions are:

- the main applicant meets the conditions stated in Section 3.1;
- the proposal complies with the DORA guidelines as described in Section 4.1;
- the proposal is submitted via the main applicant's ISAAC/My ZonMw account;
- the proposal is received before the deadline;
- the proposal is written in English;
- the attachment with the budget for the proposal is drawn according to the terms of this Call for proposals (using the provided format, which includes the most recent rates);
- the proposed project has a duration of at most five years;
- all required attachments, after a possible request for additions or changes, have been completed and submitted completely and according to the instructions and in accordance with the terms of this Call for proposals.

3.4.2 Career-dependent submission period and extension scheme

This round is open to researchers who have obtained their PhD between March 1, 2010, and March 1, 2025.

The date on which an applicant is entitled to use the title of doctor is generally decisive. If there is a gap of more than six months between the defense and when the applicant is entitled to use the title of doctor, the date of the defense applies.

For researchers who have completed two PhD programmes, the date of the second promotion serves as the reference date for submission.

The stated maximum career-dependent submission period can be extended by NWO if there was a long period of leave due to illness, care responsibilities, or in the case of completed training for a number of clinical specialisations.

An extension is also possible for parents who take care of one or more children. Applicants can also receive extension based on a combination of the above-mentioned grounds.

The maximum extension to the submission period is five years in all cases.

For more information, see www.nwo.nl/en/extension-clause. If you would like to make use of the extension scheme, then you should always contact NWO before you submit your proposal (see Section 6.1).

3.4.3 Parental leave

For instruments in which no co-applicants can be included, 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 wishes to make use of this compensations scheme, they must submit a written request, supported by reasons, to NWO via the contact person for this funding round. In this request, the applicant should provide all information that NWO needs to take a decision, including information showing that the applicant is hindered from providing input due to parental leave.

3.4.4 Force majeure extension scheme

Applicants, who are unable to provide the required input (such as their application, rebuttal, interview or report) within the allotted time during the application process or the course of a project, may be able to appeal 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](#) 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 considered in the decision to award or reject an application. However, both the referees and the committee can provide advice regarding the data management section.

3.5.3 Scientific integrity

In accordance with the NWO Grant Rules, 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 ([Home - 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.

Declaration Exceeding Maximum Funding

If the proposed budget exceeds the maximum amount of the Vici grant, € 1.5 million, the 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

Co-funding is mandatory in this Call for proposals. A distinction is made between co-funding in cash (to be invoiced by the applicant), which serves to cover the budget of the project activities described in the proposal, and co-funding in kind, which may consist of personnel and/or material contributions from the organisations involved.

The NWO Grant Scheme [NWO co-funding rules | NWO](#) applies for all applications.

The NWO co-Funding Rules contain definitions with regard to co-funding.

Additional definitions:

- Total project costs: required financial resources plus in-kind contributions;
- Co-financing in cash is the net amount that a co-financier pays to the applicant. The applicant invoices cash co-financing and any VAT to the co-financier. Co-funding in cash is used to cover part of the total project costs and together with the grant provided by NWO constitutes the required financial resources;
- Co-funding in kind: capitalised personnel and/or material contributions from users;
- User: natural or legal persons (national or international) who can apply the results of the research and contribute to achieving scientific and/or societal impact (see section 5.1.5).

The following principles apply to co-funding:

- NWO is the main funder of an application. Applications of which the co-funding from co-funders exceeds 49% of the total project costs will not be taken into consideration;
- In the case of AES: NWO-AES assumes that providers of co-financing have an interest as a user. co-funders and users always participate in the user committee (see section 5.1.5).

Co-funding declaration of participating co-funders

In the case of a contribution by a third party, a co-financing Statement must be attached to the submission of the application, signed by the party contributing ('in cash' and/or 'in kind').

In a co-funding declaration the co-funder expresses financial support for the project and confirms the co-funding promised. Co-funding declarations from co-funders, which are mentioned in the application, are compulsory as attachments when submitting the proposal. The co-funding declaration must be signed by an authorised signatory of the co-funder. NWO provides a compulsory format for the co-funding declaration on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO website and in ISAAC.

The mandatory format for the Declaration of co-Funding available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO website.

If the application is awarded, the co-funder must confirm its contribution(s) in the consortium agreement. This agreement also contains further agreements between the co-funder(s) and the applicant(s) (see Section 5.1.3).

Justification co-funding in cash and in kind

The applicant reports to NWO on the in kind co-funding that he/she/they have received from a co-funder (see section 5.1.1). The applicant must provide annual accountability in accordance with the NWO Grant Regulations.

At all times NWO must be notified of problems in expected co-funding (in cash and/or in kind).

Not eligible as co-funding in cash are²:

- Grant provided by NWO³;
- Co-funding may not come from institutions as described in section 3.1, even if it is from an institution other than the one where the applicant will be employed or conduct the research.

Eligible as co-funding in-kind, in addition to the NWO co-funding rules:

- Human resources and material contributions, provided that their value is determined and that these contributions are an integral part of the project;
- Services and know-how may not already be available or available at the knowledge institution(s) of the applicant(s).

In-kind contributions are only accepted on the condition that the part contributed by the co-funder is an integral part of the work plan and can be tracked or identified as an identifiable effort. In the event of questions, NWO may request further justification and evidence of the fees applied and also for adjustment.

Valuation of in kind co-financing not included in the co-funding rules:

- For in-kind contributions in the form of services or know-how (knowledge, software, access to databases or cell lines), the value must be determined based on market value, and only the actual costs that are directly attributable to the project may be counted as co-financing. This is at all times without profit markup;
- Co-funders must specify the structure and amount of the in kind-contributions included in the hourly rates in the co-financing statement. In the event of questions, NWO may request further justification and evidence of the fees applied and also for adjustment.

² Ineligible co-funding in kind is described in the co-funding Scheme

³ NWO-awarded funding refers to funding obtained through the approval of an application by NWO. It is not relevant in which program the funding was awarded, or who the recipient of the grant is.

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, etcetera.

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;
 - provisional advice assessment committee;
 - possibility to submit a request for a correction of a factual inaccuracy in the negative provisional advice;
- decision-making;
- submission of the proposal;

- admissibility of the proposal;
- assessment of the proposal;
 - peer review by referees;
 - rebuttal;
 - initial advice from the assessment committee;
 - interview selection (only ZonMw);
 - interview (AES and ZonMw);
 - assessment committee meeting;
- decision-making.

For this Call for Proposals, an external, independent review committee will be established for each domain, consisting of representatives from the scientific community with expertise in the relevant field. When drafting your pre-proposal/proposal, please bear in mind that the committee evaluating your submission will be composed of members from across the domain. Therefore, your pre-proposal/proposal should also be accessible to committee members from other scientific disciplines within the domain.

When domains use multiple review panels, the specific makeup of these panels, including their (disciplinary) focus, is explained on the relevant domain page (<https://www.nwo.nl/Calls/nwo-talentprogramma>). The role of the assessment committee is to evaluate the submitted applications and related documents comprehensively and on their own merits, based on the evaluation 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. A standard form for submitting the pre-proposal is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO/ZonMw website. The completed pre-proposal form must be received prior to the deadline via ISAAC/My 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

As soon as possible after you have submitted your pre-proposal, you will be informed whether NWO/ZonMw will take your submission into consideration. NWO/ZonMw will make this assessment based on several administrative-technical criteria (see the formal conditions for submission, Section 3.4). NWO/ZonMw 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/ZonMw 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

The assessment committees evaluate the pre-proposals comparatively based on the criteria and prioritize them without using external referees. They select and formulate their comments according to the substantive assessment criteria (see paragraph 4.3.1) and assign a numerical score to the pre-proposal. The NWO scoring table is used for this purpose (on a scale from 1 to 9, where “1” is excellent and “9” is unsatisfactory).

Applicants will receive the provisional assessment of the assessment committee. Applicants with a negative preliminary advice also receive a motivation from the assessment committee. If the applicant deems that the motivation contains a factual error, they have three working days to submit a request for a correction, via a format made available for this purpose. This possibility 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 reason to revise the provisional advice. Subsequently, the final prioritisation will be determined.

4.2.4 Decision pre-proposal

The assessment will result in a decision on whether or not the applicant can submit a 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/My ZonMw (see Section 1.3). After this deadline, you can no longer submit a proposal. After submitting the proposal, the 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 be informed whether NWO/ZonMw will take your submission into consideration. NWO/ZonMw will make this assessment based on several administrative-technical criteria (see the formal conditions for submission, Section 3.4). NWO/ZonMw 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/ZonMw 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 complete this.

4.2.7 Peer review by referees

Prior to the assessment committee considering your proposal, NWO/ZonMw will request input from at least two external referees. These are independent advisers who are experts in the subject of the proposal. They will assess the proposal 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/My ZonMw when submitting the pre-proposal. NWO will not approach these non-referees to assess the proposal as external referees.

4.2.8 Rebuttal

The 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/My ZonMw. 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/My ZonMw. If NWO/ZonMw receives your rebuttal after the deadline, 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 commentary on the proposal. They will formulate this commentary 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 in the ZonMw domain.

The proposals, the referees' reports, the rebuttal and the pre-advice will be submitted to the assessment committee. 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 in the AES and ZonMw domain.

During the interview, the assessment committee will have the opportunity to pose questions, including new questions that have not yet been raised by the referees. During the interview, the applicant can respond to these questions in the discussion with the committee. In this manner, the principle of having a hearing and an opportunity for rebuttal is further applied. For the AES and ZonMw domains, the interview is a part of the assessment procedure and 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 are significantly influential in the final assessment, they are not necessarily adopted in full by the assessment committee. The committee weighs the arguments of the referees (also against each other) and examines whether the rebuttal contains a well-formulated response to the critical comments in the referees' reports. Additionally, unlike the referees, the committee has an overview of the quality of the other submitted applications and rebuttals. This means that the committee may arrive at a different evaluation than the referees.

Following the discussion, the committee drafts a written advice to the decision-making body regarding the quality and prioritisation of the proposals. This advice 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 proposals, two or more of the proposals cannot be distinguished from each other based on their weighted total score, then this will result in an ex aequo situation (see Section 4.2.13).

4.2.13 Ex aequo

These policy rules apply throughout the procedure.

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 with respect to the borders of the available budget or the selection borders. 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 down to two decimal points. The reference score here is the score of the lowest-ranked proposal within the borders of the available budget or the selection borders. 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 borders of the available budget or the selection borders, then, in order to help increase the number of women working in the scientific field, the proposal from a female applicant will end as the highest. 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 by the most committee members will be ranked highest. If the proposals subsequently still remain tied, then the assessment committee, with the help of an (anonymous) majority vote, will determine the ranking (in accordance with Article 2.2.6, paragraph 5 of the NWO Grant Rules). If this vote also fails to provide a resolution, or if it is deemed to be undesirable to vote, 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/ZonMw 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 11 March 2025 14:00:00 CET	Deadline pre-proposals
April-June 2025	Committee assesses pre-proposals
May-June 2025	Preliminary advice and possibility for a request for a correction of a factual inaccuracy
July 2025	Applicants receive final decision whether or not they are allowed to submit a proposal

Proposals

Tuesday 9 September 2025 14:00:00 CEST	Deadline proposals
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October-November 2025	Referees consulted
November-December 2025	Applicants can submit a rebuttal
December 2025	Interview selection (ZonMw)
January 2026	Interviews (AES and ZonMw) and assessment committee meeting
February 2026	Decision by the board

4.3 Criteria

4.3.1 Substantive assessment criterion pre-proposal

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

Quality of the researcher (100%)

- a. 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?
- b. 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 achievements⁴.
- c. The extent to which the researcher's work is clearly positioned with respect to scientific and (where possible) societal themes or questions
- d. The quality of the (inter)national network, collaborative abilities and visibility of the researcher.
- e. The extent to which the researcher demonstrates the capability of generating innovative ideas and independently developing these successfully.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.

4.3.2 Substantive assessment criteria proposal

The proposals 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

⁴ 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'.

- a. The extent to which the proposed research has the potential to make an important contribution to the advancement of science⁵.
- b. The extent to which the proposed research contains (elements of) scientific innovation in terms of theory, methods, technology and/or topic.
- c. The extent to which the proposed research goes beyond an incremental evolution of the applicant's current research.
- d. Whether the proposed research strikes an equitable balance between being challenging and feasible⁶.
- e. 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.
- f. The extent to which the proposed approach is appropriate.
- g. 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:

- a. 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:

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

- e. the extent to which the motivation for the focus on scientific impact and/or societal impact is convincing;
- f. 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;
- g. 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.
- h. Sufficient attention to the key risks of undesirable societal impact and the proposed measures to prevent or mitigate this and increase the chance of desired impact.

⁵ NWO uses a broad definition of the term science, which includes technology, clinical research and scholarship.

⁶ 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.

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

If a grant is awarded, the applicant will be employed by a research institution as mentioned in Article 1.1, first paragraph, of the NWO Grant Rules, of their choice, and arrangements will be made regarding the final reporting and any supervision from the domain concerned. Vici 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 Vici 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](#)

Further information is described in the NWO Grant Regulations (in particular Chapter 3)

1. The starting point for the expenditure of funds awarded to you is the final budget you submit. This final budget serves to support the financial report.
2. In your proposal, under the budget section, you have already stated which budget items are necessary for conducting the research. As this allocation has already been assessed and approved on substantive grounds (can the proposed research be carried out with this?), 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.

5.1.2 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 research organisation where the project will be realised.. 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.

Applicants must carry out a project funded by NWO during the time that they work for the research organisation. 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.

NWO aims for research results to be applicable to the partners involved in the project. On one hand, NWO intends for the research results of projects it funds to be publicly accessible, and on the other hand, it aims to encourage the further development of these research results by allowing parties the opportunity to exploit them. This may involve transferring intellectual property rights or granting a license to one or more of the private parties involved in the project. The principle is that all research results can be published in accordance with agreements on publication procedures

In case of a consortium agreement

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.

The responsibility for finalising the consortium agreement lies with the applicant. The model consortium agreement provided by NWO on the funding page for this Call for Proposals must be used for this purpose. This model agreement has been drafted in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules.

Parties can choose to use the standard text of the model agreement or make their own arrangements regarding intellectual property (IP) and publication procedures, or apply existing agreements. The model consortium agreement provides for this. The applicant must discuss the (draft) 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 are fully completed. NWO is not a party to the consortium agreement and therefore does not sign the agreement.

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 [“Ten principles for Socially Responsible Licensing | NFU”](#).

5.1.5 User committee (AES)

After the project has been awarded funding, a user committee will be appointed in accordance with Article 3.3.2.a of the NWO Grant Rules to supervise and monitor the project. The committee will follow the execution of the project and advise on its progress. More information about this committee will be provided in the award letter.

To ensure that the knowledge from the research is actually and effectively transferred to users, NWO will set up a user committee for each research project for projects within the AES domain. This is done on the basis of the project plan and in consultation with the project leader.

Definitions:

- 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 and who are able to apply to the results of the scientific and/or societal impact;
- Academic users: these are, for example, but not exclusively, professors, associate professors and other researchers with a similar position, who are interested in the intended research and who do not themselves have an active role in the conduct of the research;
- Non-academic users: companies, clinics, (patient) associations, foundations, social or public organizations and government institutions*.

* Government institutions can play various roles within NWO projects, namely: (1) as a research partner (without entitlement to NWO funding), (2) as executor of a specific assignment (in accordance with market rate) or (3) as a user. Government institutions can act as users under the same conditions as private users.

The following principles apply to the user committee:

- There must be at least four users on the user committee;
- At least two non-academic parties must be represented in the user committee. These users do not have to make a financial contribution, but must participate in the user committee;
- Users may come from both the Netherlands and abroad and work at a Dutch or foreign organisation, institute, knowledge institution, university and/or company. Foreign universities and knowledge institutions may provide co-financing as long as they are not a party to which an employee is appointed (via budget module personnel at a foreign knowledge institution);
- The explicit intention is that potential technology users and end-users outside the applicant's own circle and research field are involved in the project from start to finish. Users must be able to apply the knowledge gained from the research in the medium to long term;
- Knowledge utilisation of the research results is a fixed agenda item of the user committee meetings. This includes collaboration with users, knowledge protection and commercialisation of knowledge.

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 gives substance to the ambitions of the Dutch government 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 [Home | 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. Alternatively – in case of substantial interest – 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:

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/My 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 My ZonMw you can contact the My ZonMw-helpdesk. This helpdesk is available during working hours through phone number +31 (0)70 349 51 78, 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/ZonMw processes data from applicants received in the context of this Call for proposals in accordance with the NWO Privacy Statement, [Privacy Statement | NWO](#).

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

7 Annex

7.1 Budget modules and rates

7.1.1 Personnel

Applicant Veni, Vidi or Vici

For the salary costs of the applicant for the Veni, Vidi or Vici at a university in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, umc or research organisation as referred to in Article 1.1, first paragraph, of the NWO Grant Rules, the actual gross salary of the applicant and the surcharges a, b and c in Article 2.1 of the Approval of funding for scientific research apply, with the exception of indexation. It is only allowed to include salary costs for the part of the appointment spent on project-related tasks.

The surcharges are subject to the standard percentages from the Approval, in accordance with the UNL and NFU salary tables at the time of the decision date for:

- holiday allowance;
- end-of-year bonus;
- Compensation supplement/VALK (employer's surcharge);
- supplement (incl. transitional allowance).

For subsequent years, it is possible to take into account the expected periodic increases and other salary increases insofar as these are expected under the applicable collective agreement.

For applicants of the Veni, Vidi or Vici, no personal benchfee is available.

If funding is applied for other personnel, the rates listed for the relevant personnel apply.

Additional personnel

PhD student

A PhD student is appointed for 48 months for 1.0 FTE at a university in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, umc or research organisation as referred to in Article 1.1 of the NWO Grant Rules. The equivalent of 48 full-time months, such as a 60-month appointment for 0.8 FTE, is also possible. It is not possible to apply for funding for a PhD student who started the project to be funded before the grant is awarded.

Please use the rates of a PhD student in the salary tables of UNL and NFU. A one-off personal bench fee of €5,000 is available for each PhD student to stimulate the scientific career.

Engineering Doctorate degree (EngD)

An Engineering Doctorate (EngD) is appointed for a maximum of 24 months for 1.0 FTE. The EngD is employed by the applying research organisation and may, during the research, perform work at an industrial partner for a fixed period of time.

Funding for the appointment of an EngD may only be requested for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for. It is not possible to apply for funding for an EngD who started the project to be funded before grant is awarded.

Use the rates of a PhD student in the salary tables of UNL and NFU. A one-off personal benchfee of €5,000 is available for each EngD to stimulate the scientific career.

Postdoc

A postdoc is appointed to a university in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, umc or research organisation as listed in Section 3.1.

Use the rates of a senior academic employee in the salary tables of UNL, and the rates of a postdoc at an umc in the salary tables of NFU.

It is not possible to apply for funding for a postdoc who started the project to be funded before the grant is awarded.

Only a postdoc position with an appointment of at least 12 months for 0.5 fte qualifies as an appointment for which a one-off personal benchfee of €5,000 is available to boost the scientific career.

Physician-researcher

Funding may be requested for the appointment of a basic physician or physician-assistant as a physician-researcher to conduct scientific medical research at an umc. A physician-researcher is appointed for 1.0 FTE for a minimum of 36 and a maximum of 48 months. The equivalent of 36 or 48 full-time months, e.g. a 48 or 60-month appointment for 0.8 FTE, is also possible.

It is not possible to apply for funding for a physician-researcher who started the project to be funded before the grant is awarded.

Use the (medical) researcher rates in the NFU salary tables. For each physician-researcher, a one-off personal bench fee of €5,000 is available to stimulate the scientific career.

Non-scientific personnel

Funding may be requested for non-scientific personnel (NWP) needed to execute the project. These may include, for example, programmers, technical assistants, analysts or project leaders. The use of NWP must be described in the proposal.

The duration of the appointment cannot be longer than the duration of the project funded by NWO. Depending on the job level, a choice is made from the UNL or NFU salary tables for NWP-mbo, NWP-hbo and NWP-academic. No one-off personal benchfee is available for NWP.

Students

Students may be engaged in research. If the students contribute as part of their curriculum, the rate according to the usual internship fee of the university or universities of applied sciences applies.

If students contribute as a secondary job alongside their studies as student assistants, the rate according to HOT table 2 scale 1 applies.

7.1.2 Material

Funding may be requested for all project-specific costs relating to, among others, consumables, purchase of services, materials, small instruments, access to (inter)national facilities, software and research resources that have no economic value after use. Travel and accommodation costs (national and international) for all people working on the project, including foreign guest researchers, costs for the organisation of (international) workshops and symposia, costs for data management, publications, and costs in the context of citizen science also fall under this module.

Travel expenses (national and international) will only be reimbursed on the basis of second class/economy class fares. For publications, the provisions in Section 4.5 Open access apply. Costs for an audit statement can only be claimed for organisations that are not subject to OCW's education audit protocol for a maximum of €5,000 per audit statement.

It is not permitted to include costs for:

- organisational infrastructure and overhead, including a fully functioning workplace, accommodation, office automation, personnel administration, commuting expenses, training, facilities, HR advice and business care, documentary information provision and home office allowance;
- the use and maintenance of in-house developed scientific infrastructure;
- regular teaching activities;
- members of the guidance committee/user committee.

7.1.3 Investments

Funding may be requested for any project-specific resources for research or costs related to construction or further development of scientific infrastructure that retain economic value or can be reused after project completion. The beneficiary acquires ownership of these research resources on completion of the project. In case the beneficiary achieves profits from the beneficial ownership of the research funds, these profits must be invested in primary activities of the beneficiary as referred to in Article 3.1.4, paragraph 2 of the NWO Grant Rules. This includes the purchase of equipment with residual value for the performance of research and investments in the construction or (further) development of scientific infrastructure. Personnel costs as part of the investment can be recorded as personnel costs.

Investment costs should be adequately specified and justified in the proposal.

Eligible costs are:

- costs for investments in scientific equipment;
- costs for investments in datasets;
- salary costs for personnel with essential technical expertise necessary for the development or construction of an investment.

Ineligible are:

- costs for infrastructural facilities that can be considered part of the usual infrastructure full functioning workplace, accommodation, office automation, personnel administration, travel expenses commuting, training, facilities management, HR advice and business care, documentary information provision, home working allowance);
- data collections and any related software and bibliographies already available in other ways;
- other personnel costs, including personnel costs for operating and conducting research with the facility;
- costs for maintenance and use of equipment on a project. Costs for the use of equipment on a project can be requested through the material budget.

7.1.4 Knowledge utilisation

The budget requested should be adequately specified in the proposal. To determine the rates, use the provisions for Personnel and Material.

Impact Outlook approach

It is possible to use up to 5% of the grant amount for this module. There is no obligation to use this module. Examples of possible costs, but not limited to, are the creation of a teaching curriculum, a feasibility study on application possibilities, costs for filing a patent application or engaging a business developer.

7.2 Indexing

The rate at the time of the decision date applies. NWO will, if necessary, apply a one-off indexation of personnel costs when awarding the grant. The date on which the rates take effect is used for this purpose. If the date of publication of the fees is later than the effective date, the date of publication is used. The tariffs of the Universities of the Netherlands (UNL) usually take effect on 1 July, of the Dutch Federation of University Medical Centres (NFU) on 1 August and of the Government Tariffs Manual (HOT) on 1 January.

The one-off indexation does not affect the grant ceiling and the maximum grant amount to be applied for. The grant ceiling and maximum requestable grant amount remain unchanged.

If co-funding is required or permitted, the one-off indexation does not affect the requirements for own contributions and co-funding, nor the IP rights that may result from the co-funding.

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