



NWO Talent Programme

Vici 2026

Call for proposals

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

2026



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1 Introduction

In this Call for proposals information is provided about the application procedure for the “NWO Talent Programme Vici 2026” 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 offers three funding instruments, each tailored to a specific stage in an academic research career (Veni, Vidi, and Vici). The Veni is intended for researchers who recently obtained their PhD, the Vidi is for experienced researchers, and the Vici is for senior researchers who have demonstrated the ability to develop their own line of research.

Each funding instrument has one submission round per year and a separate Call for proposals.

Applications within the Talent Programme are processed per scientific domain. These domains are: Science, Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES), and Health Research and Medical Sciences (ZonMw). Applicants should select the submission desk that best matches their proposal. For more information about the available , see Section 3.3.1.

1.2 Available budget

The available budget for this Call for proposals is €52,500,000. Within this Call for proposals it is expected that a maximum of 35 proposals will be awarded funding. The funding available and the expected number of grants to be awarded per domain are:

- Science: €22,500,000, approximately 15 proposals;
- SSH: €15,000,000 approximately 10 proposals;
- AES: €6,000,000, approximately 4 proposals;
- ZonMw: €9,000,000, approximately 6 proposals.

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

When you submit your application in ISAAC/Mijn 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 **Tuesday 10 March 2026**, before 14:00:00 CET
The deadline for submitting full proposals is **Tuesday 08 September 2026**, 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, for whom the Vici can contribute to the researcher's development in this area. Researchers who are significantly further along in their careers no longer fall within the Vici target group. This applies, for example, when researchers have already built up an established research group compared to their (inter)national peer group, and have secured a large amount of funding to further develop their own research group. The researcher must substantiate and demonstrate that the Vici can provide a substantial development to the consolidation of their own research group. This will be taken into account in the assessment of the researcher's quality. Fit with the target group is one of the aspects evaluated under this criterion (see Section 4.3).

The Vici grant 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 fund academically innovative research and to give these researchers the opportunity to expand 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 lags significantly behind that of men (2024 Women Professors Monitor). NWO and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) are working together to address this disparity. The collective aim is to significantly increase the number of women in higher scientific positions.

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/Mijn 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 researchers 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 2026. 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 research groups).
- b. An applicant may:
 - submit no more than one pre-proposal in the Vici round 2026;
 - not submit applications for multiple funding instruments within the NWO Talent Programme in the same calendar year;
 - submit a Vici application a maximum of 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 can 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. If the proposed project is of shorter duration than four years, the maximum amount is reduced proportionally. 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.

Please note: Double funding is not permitted. If a (sub)project is funded by another (European) funding body, the entire Vici application will not be awarded.

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

1. Applicant's Salary Costs

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

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 2024 salary costs can be claimed for the following positions: PhD student, Engineering Doctorate, postdoc, physician-researcher and 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 50% of the NWO grant amount.¹ Up to 25% of the material budget requested from NWO may be used for third-party work.

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 research², 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 and submitting an application

To prepare your pre-proposal or proposal, follow the steps below:

- Download the pre-proposal/proposal form and, if applicable, the required attachment(s) from the online application system or from the NWO or ZonMw website (on the page for the relevant funding instrument).
- Complete the form and any attachments;
- Save the completed form and attachments as unsecured PDFs, and upload them to the online application system;
- Submit the form and any required attachments as separate files;
- Update your account with the requested personal and current information, including email address, telephone number (including mobile number), and gender—see Promoting female researchers in Section 2.1.

Pre-proposals and proposals may only be submitted through the online application system, ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw. Submissions made outside these systems will not be considered.

Applicants are required to submit through their own personal account.

It is important to start with your submission in the online application system in time.

Use the correct submission desk

¹ The NWO grant amount refers to the maximum amount that can be awarded by NWO (€1.500.000,00). Co-funding or institutional contributions provided by the university are not included in this amount.

² 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).

The 2026 Vici round includes four submission desks that represent NWO's four scientific domains. See Section 3.3.1 for more information on the submission desks.

Pre-proposal

The assessment procedure begins with a pre-proposal

Applicants must submit a pre-proposal to be eligible for a Vici. If the pre-proposal receives a positive decision, the applicant will be invited to submit a proposal. If the pre-proposal is rejected, the applicant is not eligible to submit a proposal.

Structure of the pre-proposal

- Evidence-based CV (EBCV) of the applicant, consisting of:
 - A description of the applicant's academic profile;
 - A description of key output items, each accompanied by a brief explanation;
- A concise research idea.

Optional attachment to the pre-proposal

- Literature list for referees

You are requested to submit a list of relevant scholarly works that are closely related to your research idea. NWO will use this list—along with your research idea, keywords, and specified discipline(s)—to identify potential referees for your application. This literature list will not be shared with the assessment committee.

Listing non-referees

Applicants may list up to three non-referees. These can be entered in the ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw online application system when submitting the pre-proposal. NWO will not approach the listed non-referees to serve as external referees in the assessment procedure.

Please note: Non-referees can only be listed when submitting the pre-proposal and will apply throughout the entire assessment procedure.

Proposal

Structure of the proposal

- Description of the research proposal, including completed motivation for the choice of host institution and an explanation of the relationship between the proposal and the applicant's expertise;
- Completed section on scientific and/or societal impact;
- Completed section on data management.

Mandatory attachment to the proposal:

- Budget

Optional attachment(s) to the proposal:

- If applicable: completed and signed Statement Exceeding Maximum Funding (see Section 3.5.6);
- If applicable: completed and signed Declaration Co-funding (see Section 3.5.7).

Requirements for both pre-proposal and full proposal

The pre-proposal, proposal, and all attachments must be prepared using the templates provided by NWO. Attachments must be uploaded separately from the pre-proposal/proposal. All attachments—except the budget form—must be submitted as unsecured PDF files. The budget form must be submitted as an Excel file through ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw. Attachments other than those listed above are not permitted.

Pre-proposals and full proposals must be written in English.

It is strongly recommended that you begin the submission process in the online application system well in advance:

- If you do not yet have an account, please create one in time to avoid any issues during submission;
- New research organisations may need to be added to the online system by NWO before submission is possible;
- Additional information must also be entered online.

Pre-proposals and full proposals submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

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

The use of generative AI is not excluded when preparing your proposal, provided that this is done in a responsible manner. The guidelines can be found on the website ([NWO policy on the use of generative artificial intelligence \(GAI\) | NWO](#)).

NWO expects that the applicant has notified their employing research organisation of the submission of the application, and that the research organisation accepts the grant conditions of this Call for Proposals.

3.3.1 Advice on domains

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

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

Please decide well in advance which of the four options is most suitable for your pre-proposal. Once submitted, your choice of domain is final, and it will no longer be possible to have the pre-proposal/proposal assessed under a different domain. If you are unsure which domain to choose – for example, because your pre-proposal/proposal (partly) spans multiple fields – contact one of the programme's contact persons well before the deadline. They can advise you on which domain would be most suitable for handling your pre-proposal/proposal. Please note that the final choice rests with you.

For advice, you may contact NWO. See Section 6.1.1 for contact details or visit the NWO-website: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/nwo-talent-programme>.

3.4 Conditions for submission

3.4.1 Formal conditions for submission

NWO will assess your application against all the conditions set out in this Call for proposals, including 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 applicant meets the conditions stated in Section 3.1;
- the pre-proposal/proposal complies with the DORA guidelines as described in Section 4.1;
- the pre-proposal is complete and drawn up according to the instructions in the application forms;
- the pre-proposal/proposal is submitted via the applicant's ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw account;
- the pre-proposal/proposal is received before the deadline;
- the pre-proposal/proposal is written in English;
- the proposal budget is drawn according to the terms of this Call for proposals (using the format made available, which includes the most recent rates);
- the proposed project has a duration of maximum 5 years (see section 3.2);
- Specifically for the AES/TTW domain: the application form must include at least four users, of whom at least two must be non-academic, who will serve on the user committee (see also paragraph 5.1.5 User Committee)."

All required attachments are, after any request for additions or changes, complete, filled in according to the instructions, and prepared in accordance with the terms of this Call for proposals.

3.4.2 Career-dependent submission period and extension clause

This round is open for researchers who obtained their PhD between March 1, 2011 and March 1, 2026.

The date on which an applicant is entitled to use the doctoral title is decisive. In case there is a gap of more than six months between the PhD defence and when the applicant is entitled to use the title of doctor, the date of the defence applies.

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

The stated maximum career-dependent submission period can be extended by NWO in cases of long-term leave due to illness, parental leave, pregnancy or caregiving. The maximum extension granted by NWO is five years.

Extensions are also possible for parents caring for one or more children, for part-time appointments combined with caregiving duties, or in the case of training for certain clinical specialisations. In cases of care leave combined with clinical specialist training, the maximum extension is likewise five years.

For more information, see <https://www.nwo.nl/en/extension-clause>. If you wish to make use of the extension clause, please complete the contact form available on the website.

If you have any questions, please contact NWO before submitting your application (see Section 6.1).

3.4.3 Compensation scheme for 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 wishes to make use of this scheme, they must submit a written request stating the reasons to NWO via the contact person for this funding round (see 6.1). In this request, the applicant should provide all information based on which NWO can take a decision, including information demonstrating that the applicant is unable to provide input due to parental leave.

3.4.4 Force majeure extension scheme

Applicants who, during the application procedure or the course of the project, are unable to provide required input (such as their proposal, rebuttal, interview, or report) in a timely manner, may be eligible to invoke the NWO Force majeure extension Scheme. For more information, see <https://www.nwo.nl/en/force-majeure-extension-scheme>.

3.5 Conditions on granting

The [NWO Grant Rules 2024](#) and the [Agreement on the Payment of Costs for Scientific Research](#) are applicable to all applications.

3.5.1 Knowledge Security

In the National Knowledge Security Guidelines, the Dutch knowledge sector (including NWO) and various government departments have laid down guidelines for those within research organisations who are involved in international collaboration and who need to weigh up the opportunities and (security) risks involved. Self-regulation by the knowledge sector is central to the approach to knowledge security within the Netherlands.

NWO expects applicants to comply with the knowledge security policy of their research organisation. If NWO receives indications that a proposal or an allocated project entails knowledge security risks, NWO may request the applicant or project leader to provide insight into the risk mitigation measures. In addition, NWO may decide to include further conditions in the award letter to protect knowledge security.

The National Knowledge Security Guidelines can be found on the website of the Dutch government: [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 2024, 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 an ethics statement or licence is required for (part of) the research, the project leader must provide a copy of this statement or licence to NWO after the project has been awarded, and in any case no later than before implementation of the part of the project for which the statement is required starts. The part of the project requiring the statement and/or licence can obviously not (yet) be carried out as long as no statement or licence has been provided.

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: Statement exceeding maximum funding

Both the institution where the project is implemented and a third party can make a (financial) contribution to the project. For third-party contributions see the following section on 'co-funding'.

Contributions from the institution itself do not relate to costs that are (partly) reimbursed by NWO and do not qualify as co-funding, they are additional expenditure by the institution on the project.

If the institution makes a financial contribution, a 'Declaration exceeding maximum funding' must be submitted. This is the case, for example, if the institution pays (part of) the researcher's salary (and this part is therefore not part of the costs already reimbursed by NWO).

Statement exceeding maximum funding

If the maximum NWO grant amount to be applied for (€1.500.000,00) is exceeded in the application budget, the institution where the project will be carried out must guarantee that it will bear the excess amount if the application is awarded. If this is the case, the applicant must upload the 'Declaration exceeding maximum funding' as an attachment when submitting the application. NWO provides the template for this on the funding page.

3.5.7 Additional project contribution: Co-funding

All applications are subject to the [NWO Co-funding rules](#). In the 'NWO Co-funding rules' the rules and definitions that apply to cofunding are laid down.

Additional definitions:

- *Total project costs*: the required financial resources plus in-kind contributions;
- *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 participating organisations (i.e. users);
- *User*: natural or legal persons (national or international) who can apply the results of the research and thereby contribute to achieving scientific and/or societal impact (see Section 5.1.5)

Co-funding is not mandatory in this Call for proposals. However, it is possible to add co-funders in the proposal. 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 following principles apply to co-funding:

- NWO is the main funder of an application. Applications in which the co-funding from co-funders exceeds 49% of the total project costs will not be taken into consideration;
- In case of the AES domain: NWO assumes that providers of co-funding also act as users. Co-funders and users must participate in the user committee (see Section 5.1.5);

- in-kind contributions will only be accepted under the condition that the portion contributed by the co-funder is integral to the project activities and can be tracked or designated as identifiable effort. In case of questions, NWO may request further justification and evidence of the rates used and also adjustment. In addition, any in-kind contributions in the form of services and know-how may not already be available or in place at the applicant's knowledge institution(s);
- fixed integral hourly rates are used to capitalise the human contribution (work hours) to a project. For rates, see the Government Tariffs Manual (HOT), Table 2 under 2.2 'average total labour costs per pay scale', column 'Hourly rate productive hours, excluding VAT'. The rate closest to the actual labour costs should be used here;
- co-funding in cash is the net amount paid by a co-funder to the applicant. The applicant invoices co-funding in cash and, if applicable, VAT to the co-funder.

Not eligible as co-funding in cash/in kind are³:

- grant provided by NWO;
- co-funding may not come from parties that according to this Call for proposals can apply for funding to NWO.
- costs related to overhead, guidance, consultancy and/or participation in the user committee.

Co-funding declaration of participating co-funders

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/Mijn ZonMw. It is important that the co-funder explicitly states the amount of the contribution in the Co-funding declaration. The declaration is unconditional and contains no dissolving provisions.

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).

In the AES domain, Co-Funding Statements declaring either cash or in-kind support are shared with referees and assessment committee members.

Justification co-funding in cash and in kind

The ratio of co-funding (both in cash and in kind) to the grant provided by NWO in this Call for proposals, applies from submission of an application until the grant is determined. Co-funding in cash affects the grant amount provided by NWO because both NWO's contribution and co-funding in cash are used for the same project-specific costs (unlike co-funding in kind).

After determination of a project the final grant amount is settled on the basis of the final report, the financial conditions and the co-funding ratio as present in the application budget.

Applicants are required to report to NWO on in-kind co-funding received from co-funders (see Section 5.1.1). This reporting must comply with the NWO Grant Rules 2024 and must be submitted annually.

In case of partly provided co-funding in cash (due to unforeseen circumstances, such as bankruptcy) NWO's contribution is based on the original grant award, taking into account the co-funding in cash that was provided and the applicable minimum co-funding requirement, if applicable.

³

For inadmissible co-funding, see also the NWO Co-funding Rules, Article 6.

At all times NWO must be notified of problems in expected co-funding (in cash and/or in kind). In addition to financial implications for a project, NWO may also require adequate changes to a project as a change request so that research can be continued to the best of its ability

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](#)).

The use of generative AI is completely prohibited when assessing an application. More information about the policy on generative AI can be found on the website ([NWO policy on the use of generative artificial intelligence \(GAI\) | 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 organisations, 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:

Pre-proposal phase

- submission of the pre-proposal;
- admissibility of the pre-proposal;
- assessment of the pre-proposal;

- Provisional advice by the assessment committee
- Option to submit a request for correction of factual errors in a negative provisional advice
- decision-making pre-proposal;

Proposal phase

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

Assessment committee

An external, independent assessment committee will be assigned for this Call for proposals, 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 assessment criteria outlined in this Call for proposals.

When preparing your pre-proposal and proposal, bear in mind that the assessment committee is multidisciplinary. Your pre-proposal/proposal should therefore be accessible to committee members from other scientific disciplines within your chosen submission window.

If you plan to submit to the Science or SSH domain, you can find more information on the assessment panels on the respective domain pages (<https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwo-talent-programme>, under the tab “Explore” > “Assessment”).

4.2.1 Submission of the pre-proposal

The submission of a pre-proposal is compulsory for this Call for proposals. The pre-proposal consists of an evidence based CV and a short description of the research idea. For the pre-proposal submission, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO website. 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 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

Assessment committees evaluate pre-proposals based on the substantive assessment criterion and will prioritise them by quality. Using the applicable assessment criterion (see Section 4.3.1), the committees will provide a written justification and assign a numerical score in accordance with the NWO scoring table (1 = excellent, 9 = unsatisfactory).

The preliminary advice of the assessment committee will be shared with the applicant. In the case of a negative advice, a provisional assessment will be provided. If the provisional assessment is believed to contain a factual inaccuracy, a request for correction of that error may be submitted within three working days using the prescribed format. **Please note:** This procedure does not allow for the submission of additional information or for posing questions to the committee. The committee will review the correction requests received and determine whether the preliminary assessment should be revised. The final ranking will be established.

4.2.4 Decision pre-proposal

The assessment will result in a decision on whether or not to further elaborate on the pre-proposal. The most promising applicants will receive confirmation that they may submit a full proposal by the stated deadline. The other applicants will receive a decision stating that they are not allowed 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 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 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 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/Mijn 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/Mijn ZonMw. If NWO 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 in the ZonMw domain.

The proposals, the referees' reports and the rebuttal/the pre-advice and the rebuttal 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 the referees did not ask. During the interview, the applicant will be able to respond to these 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 domains AES and ZonMw, the interview is an important 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 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 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 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

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 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 0.10 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 2024). 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 proposal

Finally, the 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 10 March 2026 14:00:00 CET	Deadline pre-proposals
March 2026	Admissibility check
April-June 2026	Committee assesses pre-proposals
May-June 2026	Preliminary advice and possibility for a request for a correction of a factual inaccuracy
July 2026	Applicants receive final decision whether or not they are allowed to submit a proposal

Proposals

Tuesday 8 September 2026 14:00:00 CEST	Deadline proposals
September 2026	Admissibility check
September-November 2026	Referees consulted
November-December 2026	Applicants can submit a rebuttal
December 2026	Interview selection (ZonMw)
January 2027	Interviews (AES and ZonMw) and assessment committee meeting
February 2027	Decision by the board
February 2027	Applicants receive final decision

4.3 Criteria

4.3.1 Substantive assessment criteria

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%)

- Whether the researcher fits in the target group⁴: 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 achievements⁵.

⁴ See section 2.1 for further information on the target group.

⁵ 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.
- 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.
- 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

- The extent to which the proposed research has the potential to make an important contribution to the advancement of science⁶.
- 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 feasible⁷.
- 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.

⁶ NWO uses a broad definition of the term science, which includes technology, clinical research and scholarship.

⁷ 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.

NWO assesses societal impact as follows:

- The extent to which the project has added value for societal impact (definition⁸);
- the extent to which the project has potential for societal impact in the short and long term;
- 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.
- 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.

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.

Specifically for the AES domein

In this criterion, the assessment committee also considers the composition of the user committee and the extent of involvement of the participating users, in order to maximise both anticipated and unforeseen opportunities for the (non-)primarily chosen form of impact (see Section 5.1.5).

⁸ Societal impact refers to the societal (cultural, economic, industrial, ecological, or social) changes that result, in whole or in part, from knowledge and expertise generated through research. These changes contribute to the well-being of people, the planet, and society, both now and for future generations.

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 Additional terms and conditions

5.1.1 Start, reporting and completion

If a grant is awarded, the project leader will enter into employment with the chosen institution as defined in Article 1.1, paragraph 1, of the NWO Grant Rules 2024. NWO imposes conditions regarding final reporting and any supervision from the domain. A Vici project must commence within six months of the award. Awarded projects are managed by the domain the proposal was submitted to. Throughout the duration of the Vici project, you—as project leader—are responsible for submitting progress and final reports and bear financial responsibility for the project's completion. The award decision indicates the NWO contact person for the duration of the project, as well as the obligations that apply.

Financial accountability for NWO Talent Programme Grants

3. The awarded grant must be spent in accordance with the final budget to be submitted. The purpose of this final budget is to support financial accountability.
4. In the budget submitted with the application, the necessary budget items for the execution of the research were specified. Since the budget was taken into account—along with the assessment criteria—in the final evaluation of the proposal, and therefore contributed to its ranking, the final budget must align with the budget items included in the original application (under the 'Budget' section).
5. The final budget must be prepared in consultation with the financial administrator of the receiving institution, to prevent any omissions. The final budget serves as the basis for financial administration by both NWO and the receiving institution, as well as for the auditor who will later issue a statement for the institution's annual accounts.
6. The format in which the final budget must be prepared is the same as the format required for financial reporting after the project has ended. NWO provides this format.
7. Within three months after the project end date, both a final project report and a financial report on the implementation of the funded research must be submitted. The grant received and the costs booked to the research project are subject to the institution's regular audit in the context of its annual accounts.
8. Final determination of the grant amount and any remaining payment will take place after approval of both the final project report and the financial report. This is subject to a (general) reservation concerning any shortcomings identified during the institutional audit by the external accountant.

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 2024.

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's ambition is that research results can be applied by partners involved in the project. NWO aims that all research results from projects it funds are made publicly accessible while at the same time encouraging parties to further develop the research results by giving them the possibility to exploit these. For the exploitation of results, it can be desirable to transfer intellectual property rights or to license the use of these to (one of) the private parties involved in the project. The basic premise is that all research results can be published with due consideration for agreements made about publication procedures

[In case of a consortium agreement](#)

In the case of co-funding by a third party, entering into a consortium agreement after the grant award is a condition for the start of the project. This agreement must include arrangements on intellectual property, publication, knowledge transfer, confidentiality, co-funding payments, and submission of progress and final reports. The signed agreement must be uploaded in the online application system ISAAC before the project may begin. 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. This model has been drawn up in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2024. Parties may adopt the standard text or make specific arrangements regarding intellectual property and publication procedures, including applying pre-existing agreements. The model agreement accommodates both options. The applicant must discuss the (draft) consortium agreement with the Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) of the host institution and with the project partners. NWO will verify that all required components of the agreement have been completed. NWO is not a party to the consortium agreement and therefore does not sign it.

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

5.1.5 User committee (only applicable to domain AES)

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 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024 to provide guidance and monitor the project. The user committee's purpose is to promote the effective and practical transfer of knowledge generated by the research to its intended users. The committee is formed based on the project plan and is initiated by the project leader. The committee will follow the progress of the project and provides advisory input. Further information about the committee is included in the decision letter.

Additional definitions:

- **User Committee:** A committee as defined in Article 3.3.2 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024, consisting of at least four users, including at least two non-academic users.
- **Users:** Members of the user committee. Users are natural or legal persons (national or international), other than the applicant, who can advise the project leader on the direction of the project with the aim of maximizing the applicability of the results and identifying both anticipated and unanticipated opportunities for impact. Users may also play a key role in connecting relevant stakeholders and strengthening networks and ecosystems—for example, by providing facilities or promoting new collaborations.

A distinction is made between academic and non-academic users:

- i. **Academic users:** Users who can contribute to increasing the potential for impact within their own, related, or broader scientific field. Examples include, but are not limited to, individuals affiliated with national or international universities, university medical centers, or research organizations as listed in Section 3.1.
- ii. **Non-academic users:** Users who can help enhance the practical application of the research results or contribute to broader societal impact, such as cultural, economic, industrial, ecological, or social change. Examples include, but are not limited to, individuals affiliated with companies, TO2 institutions, clinics, (patient) associations, civil society organizations, public institutions, and government bodies.*

*Government bodies may assume different roles within NWO projects, namely: (1) as a research partner (not eligible for NWO funding); (2) as a contractor for a specific task (at market rate); or (3) as a user. Government bodies may act as users under the same conditions as private users.

The following principles apply to the user committee:

- The composition of the user committee must be included in the application;
- A user may not be an applicant;
- Users may be based in the Netherlands or abroad;
- Users are expected to be actively involved in the project;
- Utilization of research results is a standing item on the agenda of committee meetings. This includes collaboration with users, knowledge protection, and commercialization.

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](#) or the [extension scheme](#), please consult the NWO website. You may also contact us directly at talent@nwo.nl.

For substantive questions regarding this Call for proposals, please contact the relevant domain office:

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

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

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

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

6.1.2 Technical questions about the ISAAC online application system

For technical questions about using ISAAC, please contact the ISAAC service desk. Please consult the user manual before requesting assistance. The service desk is available Monday through Friday from 10:00 to 17:00 (CE(S)T) at +31 70 344 06 00 or isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. If you submit your question via email, a response will be provided within two working days.

6.1.3 Technical questions about the Mijn ZonMW online application system

For technical questions about the Mijn ZonMw system, please contact the ZonMw service desk. Please consult the user manual before requesting assistance. The service desk is available Monday through Friday from 08:00 to 17:00 (CE(S)T) at +31 70 349 51 78 or 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 Annexes

7.1 Budget modules and rates

7.1.1 Personnel

For salary tables and rates: see [Salary tables | NWO](#).

Veni, Vidi or Vici applicant

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 2024, 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 UMCNL (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.

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 2024. The equivalent of 48 full-time months, e.g. 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 UMCNL. 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.⁹

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.

⁹

More information on EngD positions is available via 4TU.

Use the rates of a PhD student in the salary tables of UNL and UMCNL. 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 UMCNL.

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 UMCNL 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 managers. 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 UMCNL 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, under 2.2 'average total salary cost per salary scale', column 'Hourly rate productive hours, excluding VAT', 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 incl. 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. Up to 25% of the material budget requested from NWO can be used for work by third parties (e.g. laboratory analyses, data collection, etc.).

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 2024. 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 within the post investments.

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 of the budget modules Personnel (7.1.1) and Material (7.1.2.).

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 (UMCNL) on 1 August and of the Government Tariffs Manual (HOT) on 1 January.

The on-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 during the assessment procedure.

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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