



NWO Talent Programme

Vidi 2025

Call for proposals

Science
Social Sciences and Humanities
Applied and Engineering Sciences
ZonMw

2025



Inhoudsopgave

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1 Introduction

In this Call for proposals information is provided about the application procedure for the NWO Talent Programme Vidi 2025. 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). Within each domain, multiple submission desks may be available. Applicants should select the submission desk that best matches their proposal. For more information about the available submission desks, see Section 3.3.1.

1.1.1 Changes compared to the previous Call for proposals

As of September 2, 2024, NWO has implemented a new grant regulation. This update has been introduced to replace the outdated 2017 NWO Grant Regulation. Starting with the 2025 rounds, the NWO Talent Programme will operate under the NWO Grant Regulation 2024.

The NWO Talent Programme now uses standardized budget modules. Section 3.2 specifies what applicants may request funding for, categorized into fixed components. An explanation of the budget modules is provided in Appendix 7.1.

On September 2, 2024, the Co-funding Regulation entered into effect. Additional conditions regarding the additional contribution(s) are described in Section 3.5.6.

The assessment criterion *Scientific and/or Societal Impact* has been slightly expanded. Researchers were already required to indicate the expected scientific and/or societal impact of their research when submitting their application. This has now been expanded with an additional question regarding potential risks of unintended societal impact.

1.2 Available budget

The available budget for this Call for proposals is €72.250.000. Within this Call for proposals it is expected that a maximum of 85 proposals will be awarded funding. The funding available and the expected number of grants to be awarded per domain are:

- Science: €31,450,000, approximately 37 proposals;
- SSH: €17,850,000, approximately 21 proposals;
- AES: €10,200,000, approximately 12 proposals;
- ZonMw: €12,750,000, approximately 15 proposals.

1.3 Submission deadlines

When submitting your pre-proposal or full proposal in ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw, you will be required to enter additional information online. Therefore, you are strongly advised to begin the submission process at least one day before the deadline of this Call for proposals. Pre-proposals/full proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is Tuesday, **4 November, 2025**, before 14:00:00 CET.

The deadline for submitting full proposals is Thursday, **9 April, 2026**, before 14:00:00 CEST.

2 Aim

This chapter outlines the objective of the programme and its societal impact.

2.1 Aim of the programme

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

The Vidi target group consists of researchers who are at the stage of transitioning to leadership. The Vidi grant is intended to support further development in this area. Researchers eligible for a Vidi grant demonstrate academic excellence that clearly exceeds the norm and show signs of developing leadership and mentoring skills.

The Vidi grant is designed to fund scientifically innovative research and to provide these researchers with the opportunity to establish or expand a research group. Researchers who are significantly further along in their careers—such as those with extensive experience in leading a research group—no longer fall within the Vidi target 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).

Researchers currently employed at a foreign institution are also eligible to apply. However, the proposed project must be carried out at a Dutch institution recognized by NWO (see Section 3.1 for more information).

Promoting female researchers

Female researchers are explicitly encouraged to submit a proposal. The representation and advancement of women in academia still lags significantly behind that of men (*Monitor Vrouwelijke Hoogleraren* 2024). NWO and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) are jointly committed to addressing the structural underrepresentation of women in senior academic positions. To this end, NWO has launched a pilot in 2024 aimed at increasing the number of grants awarded to women. When multiple proposals are rated as comparable and receive at least a 'very good' evaluation, preference will be given to the female applicant. For details on how this is implemented, see Section 4.2.14.

Please note: To qualify, female applicants must select the category 'Female' under the 'Gender' section of the general information tab in the online application system.

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 to help interested parties get started: [Online impact workshops | NWO](#). For more information on NWO's knowledge utilization policy, please visit: [Knowledge utilization | 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 may be submitted by researchers who have obtained a PhD, regardless of whether they hold a (permanent) position or are based in the Netherlands or abroad. Researchers are eligible to apply if they obtained their PhD within the eight years preceding the reference date for this round—October 1, 2025. In certain cases, this period may be extended (see Section 3.4.2 and onward).

The date from which an applicant is allowed to carry the title of doctor serves as the reference date. If there is a gap of more than six months between the defence and when the applicant is allowed to carry the title of doctor, the date of the defence applies. For applicants who have completed two PhD programs, the date of the second PhD will serve as the reference date for submission.

The research must be conducted at one of the following research organizations:

- Universities as referred to in Article 1.8, paragraph 1 of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (*Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek*), and the universities listed in the Policy Rule on Universities in the Kingdom of the Netherlands ([*Beleidsregel Universiteiten in het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden*](#));
- University medical centers, meaning the academic hospitals as referred to in Article 1.13, paragraph 1 of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (*Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek*);
- KNAW and NWO Institutes;
- The Netherlands Cancer Institute;
- The Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen;
- NCB Naturalis;
- Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL);
- Prinses Máxima Center.

The applicant must be employed by the institution where the research will be carried out for the duration of the project. NWO requires applicants to provide a 'Embedding Guarantee' (see Section 3.3).

Applicants with a part-time appointment must guarantee adequate supervision of the project and of all individuals working on the project 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 Vidi round;
 - not submit applications for multiple funding instruments within the NWO Talent Programme in the same calendar year;

- submit a maximum of two pre-proposals for Vidi. If a pre-proposal or full proposal that has entered the assessment procedure is withdrawn by the applicant, this still counts toward the maximum number of submissions per applicant, unless the withdrawal is made in connection with a request granted by NWO under the Parental Leave Allowance Scheme or the Force Majeure Allowance Scheme (see Sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.4, respectively).
- c. Researchers who have previously received a grant under one of the funding instruments within the NWO Talent Programme are not eligible to reapply for that same instrument.
- d. A researcher may submit an application for a subsequent NWO Talent Programme grant no earlier than 24 months before the scheduled end date of an ongoing NWO Talent Programme grant.

3.2 What can be applied for

Per project, a grant amount of at most €850.000 can be applied for.

The maximum duration of the proposed project is five years. If the proposed research is shorter in duration, the maximum grant amount will be reduced proportionally.

Applicants may request funding for personnel, materials, investments, and knowledge utilization. The available budget modules (including maximum amounts) are listed below. Only request what is essential for carrying out the proposed project. For applicable rates and a more detailed explanation of the budget modules, see Appendix 7.

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

3.2.1 Personnel

For personnel contributing to the project, funding may be requested to cover salary costs. The applicable amount depends on the type of appointment and the organization employing the personnel.

3.2.1.1 Personnel at a University in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, a University Medical Center (UMC), or a Research Organization

1. Applicant's Salary Costs

You may request funding for the salary costs of the Vidi applicant for the portion of their appointment that will be dedicated to project-related tasks.

2. Additional Personnel

For personnel employed at a university in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, a University Medical Center (UMC), or another research organization, referred to in Article 1.1, paragraph 1, subparagraphs c to h of the NWO Grant Rules 2024, salary costs can be claimed for the following positions: PhD candidate, Engineering Doctorate, postdoc, physician-researcher (*arts-onderzoeker*), and non-scientific personnel (NWP).

Funding for an 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 involve students in the project, provided they are enrolled at a research organization listed in Section 3.1. The associated costs may be included in the project budget under material costs. There is no limit to the number of students who may 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 total NWO grant amount.¹ Of the material budget requested from NWO, no more than 25% may be allocated to work carried out by third parties.

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 may be requested for investments.

3.2.4 Knowledge utilization

Funding can be requested for activities that promote the use of knowledge from the research,² in order to increase the societal impact of the project.

A maximum of 5% of the total grant amount may be allocated to this module. Use of this module is optional.

3.3 Preparing and submitting the pre-proposal and proposal

To prepare your pre-proposal or full 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). ZonMw uses a customized pre-proposal and full proposal form;
- 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 Encouraging applications from 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.

¹ The NWO grant amount refers to the maximum amount that can be awarded by NWO (€850,000). Co-funding or institutional contributions provided by the university are not included in this amount.

² All activities requested under this budget module must comply with the definition of "Knowledge Transfer Activities" as adopted by the European Commission in the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (OJ EU 2022, C 414).

Use the correct submission desk

The 2025 Vidi round includes nine submission desks across NWO's four scientific domains. See Section 3.3.1 for more information.

Pre-proposal

The assessment procedure begins with a pre-proposal

Applicants must submit a pre-proposal in order to be considered for a Vidi grant. If the pre-proposal receives a positive decision, the applicant will be invited to submit a full proposal. If the pre-proposal is rejected, the applicant is not eligible to submit a full 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 up to 10 key output items, each accompanied by a brief explanation;
- A concise research idea.

Mandatory attachment for the pre-proposal

- Embedding Guarantee

The embedding guarantee must be submitted using the template provided by NWO. After consulting with the institution where the research is to be conducted, the applicant completes the form, which must be signed by the dean. If the institution does not have a dean, the form must be signed by another authorized representative.

Optional attachment for the pre-proposal

- Literature list for Referees

You are required to submit a list of up to ten 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.

Nominating non-referees

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

Please note: Non-referees can only be nominated at the time of submitting the pre-proposal. These nominations will apply throughout the entire assessment procedure.

Application

Structure of the full proposal

- Description of the research proposal, including a completed motivation for the choice of host institution and an explanation of the relationship between the proposal and the applicant's academic profile;
- 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 on Budget Exceedance (see Section 3.5.6);
- If applicable: completed and signed Co-funding Statement confirming co-funding (see Section 3.5.7);
- Embedding Guarantee (only required if the host institution has changed since the pre-proposal stage).

The pre-proposal, full proposal, and all attachments must be prepared using the templates provided by NWO. Attachments must be uploaded separately from the proposal. All attachments—except the budget—must be submitted as unsecured PDF files. The budget 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 organizations 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 considered.

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

3.3.1 Submission desks

For this Call for proposals, you are required to select a submission desk for your application. The available options are:

- Science;
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), panel Cultural Sciences and Linguistics;
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), panel Economics and Business Administration;
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), panel Philosophy, Historical Sciences, and Religion;
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), panel Behavior and Education;
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), panel Law and Public Administration;
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), panel Social Sciences;
- Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES);
- ZonMw (Health Research and Medical Sciences).

The Science domain has one submission desk. Pre-proposals are reviewed in one of six distinct panels. You can indicate the panel of your choice in the application form which applicants must indicate in the pre-proposal form. The panels are: Earth and Environmental Sciences, Life Sciences, Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy, Mathematics, and Computer Science. The distribution of the Science domain subdisciplines across these panels can be found on the NWO website.

Within the SSH domain, there are six distinct submission desks in ISAAC, one for each disciplinary panel. The distribution of disciplines across these panels is also available on the NWO website: [Overview Panels Domain Social Sciences and Humanities | NWO](#).

In the SSH domain, the panels are maintained throughout the entire assessment procedure. In the Science domain, panels are used only during the pre-proposal phase and are subsequently merged into broader clusters for the assessment of full proposals.

The AES and ZonMw domains each have one dedicated submission desk.

Please decide well in advance to which field it would be best to submit your application. After submission, 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 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 Submission requirements

3.4.1 Formal conditions

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 eligibility criteria outlined in Section 3.1;
- The (pre-)proposal complies with the DORA guidelines as described in Section 4.1;
- The (pre-)proposal form is complete and filled out in accordance with the instructions provided;
- The (pre-)proposal has been submitted via the applicant's own account;
- All required attachments have been submitted in the online application system;
- The (pre-)proposal is received before the applicable deadline;
- The (pre-)proposal is written in English;
- the application 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 no more than five years (see Section 3.2);
- Specific to the AES domain: the application must list at least four users, including at least two non-academic users, who will serve on the user committee (see also Section 5.1.5).

All required attachments must be complete, submitted in accordance with the instructions, and compliant with the conditions of this Call for proposals, including any revisions or additions requested by NWO.

3.4.2 Career-dependent submission period and extension scheme

This round is open to researchers who obtained their PhD between October 1, 2017 and October 1, 2025.

The maximum career-dependent submission period may be extended by NWO in cases of extended leave due to illness, parental leave, pregnancy, or caregiving responsibilities. An extension is also possible for parents who are responsible for the care of one or more children. Extension may be granted in the case of part-time employment combined with caregiving tasks, or during training for certain clinical specialties. Extensions may also be granted in case of a combination of the above reasons. In all cases, the maximum extension of the submission period that can be granted by NWO is five years.

For more information, see <https://www.nwo.nl/en/extension-clause>. If you wish to make use of the extension scheme, 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 Parental leave

For applicants on leave due to the birth or arrival of a child **during the assessment procedure**, NWO offers the Parental Leave Allowance Scheme for instruments in which co-applicants are not permitted. This scheme is applicable to this Call for proposals. For more information, see <https://www.nwo.nl/en/compensation-scheme-parental-leave>.

Applicants who wish to make use of this scheme must submit a written request, including a justification, to NWO via the contact person for this funding round (see Section 6.1). The request must include all relevant information needed for NWO to reach a decision, including evidence that the applicant is unable to contribute to the proposal due to parental leave.

3.4.4 Force majeure extension scheme

Applicants who, during the application procedure or the implementation of the project, are unable to submit required input (such as their proposal, rebuttal, interview, or report) in a timely manner may be eligible to invoke the NWO Force Majeure Allowance 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 Compliance with the National Knowledge Security Guidelines

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

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

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

3.5.2 Data management

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

Data management section

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

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

3.5.3 Scientific integrity

In accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 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 Ethics statement or licence

It is the applicant's responsibility to determine whether an ethics statement or permit is required for the execution of the proposed project. If so, the applicant is responsible for obtaining it in a timely manner from the appropriate institution or ethics committee. The presence or absence of an ethics statement and/or permit at the time of submission does not affect the assessment of the application. However, if a statement and/or permit is required for (part of) the project, the project leader must submit a copy to NWO after the grant has been awarded, and in any case before starting the relevant part of the project. The part of the project for which an ethics statement and/or permit is required may not be carried out until the statement and/or permit has been issued.

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 contributions: Statement exceeding maximum funding

Both the host institution and third parties may contribute (financially) to the project. For contributions by third parties, see Section 3.5.7 on co-funding.

Contributions by the host institution do not concern costs that are (partially) reimbursed by NWO and therefore do not qualify as co-funding. Instead, they consist of additional expenditures made by the host institution in support of the project.

If the host institution makes a financial contribution—for example, by covering part of the applicant's salary that is not included in the NWO-funded budget—this must be confirmed in a 'Statement exceeding maximum funding'.

Statement exceeding maximum funding

If the proposed project budget exceeds the maximum NWO grant amount (€850,000), the host institution must guarantee, at the time of submission, that it will cover the additional costs if the proposal is awarded funding. In such cases, the applicant must upload the completed 'Statement on Budget Exceedance' as an attachment to the proposal. NWO provides a mandatory template for this purpose on the funding page for this Call for proposals.

3.5.7 Additional contributions: 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 co-funding are laid down.

Additional definitions

- *Total project costs*: the required financial resources plus in-kind contributions;
- *co-funding in cash*: a monetary contribution used to cover part of the total project costs that, together with the NWO grant, constitutes the required financial resources;
- *co-funding in kind*: capitalized personnel and/or material contributions from participating organizations (or 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.

General principles regarding 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 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:³

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

Co-Funding Statement

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.

If the application is awarded, the co-funder must confirm its contribution(s) in the consortium agreement. This agreement also includes 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.

³ For inadmissible co-funding, see also the NWO Co-funding Rules, Article 6.

Justification co-funding in cash and in kind

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 Regulation 2024 and must be submitted annually.

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](#)).

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 actively encourages referees and members of an assessment committee to be actively aware of implicit associations and to try to minimize these. NWO will provide them with information about concrete ways of improving the assessment of an application.

4.1 San Francisco Declaration (DORA)

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

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

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

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

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

4.2 Procedure

This section provides information about the steps of the application procedure and the assessment committee. The specific steps and timeline vary across domains; details are outlined in Section 4.2.16.

[Steps in the Application 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 preliminary advice;
- Decision making pre-proposal.

Full 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;
- Decision-making full proposal.

Assessment committee

For this Call for Proposals, an external, independent assessment committee will be formed consisting of representatives from science with knowledge of the field. The task of the assessment committee/jury 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 is a concise proposal. For the pre-proposal submission, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO 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 main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt.

4.2.2 Admissibility of the pre-proposal

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

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

4.2.3 Assessment of the pre-proposal

Assessment committees evaluate pre-proposals based on the substantive assessment criterion and will prioritize them by quality without involving external referees. 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 Ex aequo pre-proposal

This policy measure applies only to the pre-proposals and the interview selection. For the final ranking (after the interview phase), only the 'Encouraging applications from female researchers' measure applies, as described in Sections 2.1 and 4.2.14.

NWO defines an ex aequo as a situation in which two or more proposals cannot be distinguished based on their weighted final scores. An ex aequo is relevant near the selection threshold. Whether an ex aequo applies is determined as follows. The starting point is the committee's ranking, with scores rounded to two decimal places. The reference score is the score of the lowest-ranked proposal within the selection threshold. All proposals with scores no more than 0.05 away from the reference score are considered. This method identifies proposals that are tied within a 0.10 range. If an ex aequo occurs at the selection threshold, the proposal submitted by a female applicant will be ranked highest, as part of the efforts to increase the proportion of women in science.

4.2.5 Decision on the pre-proposal

The pre-proposal evaluation results in a decision on whether the applicant may proceed to submit a full 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.

4.2.6 Submission of the 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 (see Section 1.3). After this deadline, you can no longer submit a proposal. After submitting the proposal, the main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt.

4.2.7 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.

4.2.8 Science Domain: Assignment to clusters

Submitted proposals are distributed across a maximum of four clusters, each with a distinct focus, based on the research areas indicated by the applicants and the panel selected in the pre-proposal. Each cluster has its own cluster committee, collectively forming the overall assessment committee. Experts are selected as closely as possible to the research domains indicated by the applicant.

4.2.9 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 assess the proposal based on the criteria outlined in the Call for proposals (Section 4.3).

Applicants may name up to three non-referees when submitting the pre-proposal via ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw. These individuals will not be approached to assess the proposal.

4.2.10 Rebuttal

Applicants receive anonymized referee reports. You then have five working days to submit your rebuttal through the online application system. In the event of withdrawal, NWO must be notified as soon as possible by email, and the application must be withdrawn in ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw. If NWO receives your rebuttal after the deadline, then it will not be included in the rest of the procedure.

4.2.11 Pre-advice assessment committee

Your proposal, the referee reports and your rebuttal will be submitted for comments to several members of the assessment committee (the pre-advisers). The pre-advisers provide a written substantive and reasoned response to the proposal. They formulate these comments based on the substantive assessment criteria (Section 4.3.2) and give the proposal a numerical score per assessment criterion. For this, the NWO scoring table is used (a scale of 1 to 9, where '1' is excellent and '9' unsatisfactory). This input is used for interview selection and/or the interview.

4.2.12 Interview selection

At ZonMw, proposals, assessment reports, pre-advice, and rebuttals are evaluated by the assessment committee to create a ranking using the NWO scoring table (1 = excellent, 9 = unsatisfactory). The highest-ranked applicants are invited for an interview. In the Science, SSH, and AES domains, all applicants invited to submit a full proposal are also invited for an interview.

4.2.13 Interview

During the interview, the assessment committee has the opportunity to pose questions, including new questions that are not raised in the referee reports. During the interview, the applicant can respond to these in the discussion with the committee. In this manner, the principle of hearing and rebuttal is applied. The interview is a key step in the assessment procedure and may influence the final evaluation and score.

4.2.14 Meeting of the assessment committee

The committee makes its own assessment based on the available material. Although the referee 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/pre-advice. Furthermore, the committee, unlike the referees, will assess the quality of all 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 further information on the qualifications, see [Applying for funding, how does it work? | NWO](#).

Measure promoting female researchers

As described in Section 2.1, NWO is conducting a pilot to actively promote the advancement of female researchers. This pilot works as follows. The weighted scores of proposals are rounded to the nearest multiple of 0.5 for the final ranking after the interview phase. Within each group of proposals rounded to the same multiple of 0.5, female applicants are given priority. Proposals are then ranked according to their unrounded weighted score. Proposals are then awarded from the top of the ranking downward until the funding ceiling is reached. If a tie occurs (based on final scores rounded to two decimal places), the proposal with the highest score on the criterion 'Quality and innovative character of the research proposal' is ranked highest. If this does not resolve the ex aequo, the proposal that has been rated best by the greatest number of committee members based on the final score will be ranked highest. If no distinction can be made, the decision is referred to the decision-making body.

4.2.15 Decision-making

Finally, the Domain board 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.

4.2.16 Timetable

Below is the tentative timeline for this Call. NWO may modify it during the process and will communicate any changes in a timely manner.

Pre-proposals

Tue 4 november 2025, 14:00:00 CET	Pre-proposal deadline
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November 2025	Admissibility check
November–December 2025	Committee assesses pre-proposals
January 2026	Applicants receive the preliminary advice about whether or not to elaborate the pre-proposal into a full proposal
Mid February 2026	Decision by the board on pre-proposals
Late February 2026	Applicants receive a decision about whether or not to elaborate on their pre-proposal and turn it into a proposal

Full proposals

Thu 9 april 2026, 14:00:00 CEST	Full proposal deadline
April 2026	Admissibility check
April–June 2026	Referees consulted
May–June 2026	Applicants can submit a rebuttal
Early July 2026	Interview selection (ZonMW)
Early September 2026	Interviews and committee meeting
October 2026	Decision by the board
October 2026	Notification of board decision

4.3 Criteria

4.3.1 Substantive assessment criteria for the pre-proposal

Pre-proposals submitted under this Call for proposals are evaluated based on the following criterion:

1. Quality of the Researcher (100%)

Quality of the researcher

- Whether the researcher fits in the target group:⁴ is the researcher in transition to leadership, i.e. are they ready to establish a research group or expand a recent research group, and to what extent will the Vidi contribute to the researcher's leadership development?
- 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 achievements;⁵
- The extent to which the researcher's work is 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 in the CV demonstrates the capability of generating innovative ideas and independently developing these successfully;

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 approach to leadership and mentorship, and their plans to contribute to the development of others, as described 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 for the full proposal

Full proposals submitted under this Call for proposals are evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Quality and innovative character of the research proposal (75%);
2. Scientific and/or societal impact (25%).

1. 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 science;⁶
- the extent to which the proposed research contains (elements of) scientific innovation in terms of theory, methods and/or topic;
- the extent to which the proposed research goes beyond a gradual evolution of the applicant's current research;
- whether the proposed research strikes an equitable balance between being challenging and feasible;⁷
- whether the proposal aligns with the researcher's expertise, or whether the researcher presents a convincing vision of 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.

2. Scientific and/or societal impact

Applicants may focus on scientific impact, societal impact, or a combination of both.

NWO assesses scientific impact as follows:

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

NWO assesses societal impact as follows:

- in how far the project has added value for societal impact (definition:⁸);
- in how far 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 and irrespective of the choice of impact, the assessment committee, as part of this criterion, will also weigh;

- in how far the motivation for the focus on scientific impact and/or societal impact is convincing;

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.

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.

- 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.

Specific to the AES Domain

In evaluating this criterion, the assessment committee also takes into account the composition of the user committee and the degree of involvement of the participating users, with a view to maximizing both anticipated and unanticipated opportunities for impact for the (non-)primarily selected type of impact (see Section 5.1.5).

5 Grant obligations

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 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 guidance from the domain. A Vidi 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 Vidi 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

1. 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.
2. 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).
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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

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 before the project may begin.

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 NFU factsheet "[Ten principles for Socially Responsible Licensing | NFU](#)".

5.1.5 User committee (applicable to the AES Domain)

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 books, book chapters, and edited volumes. These are specified in the Open Access Policy Rule, available at [Open Science | NWO](#).

CC BY License

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 additional information

6.1 Contact

6.1.1 Substantive questions

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 – Science Domain
NWO Talent Programme
Domain ENW
P.O. Box 93460
2509 AC The Hague
enw-vidi@nwo.nl

NWO Talent Programme – Domain SSH
NWO Talent Programme
Domain SGW
P.O. Box 93461
2509 AC The Hague
sgw-vidi@nwo.nl

NWO Talent Programme – Domain AES
NWO Talent Programme
Domain TTW
P.O. Box 3021
3502 GA Utrecht
ttw-vidi@nwo.nl

NWO Talent Programme – ZonMw
NWO Talent Programme
ZonMw
P.O. Box 93245
2509 AE The Hague
vidi@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 Additional information

NWO processes all personal data received as part of this funding round in accordance with its privacy statement: [Privacy Statement | NWO](#).

Applicants may be contacted by NWO to participate in an evaluation of the procedure and/or the research programme.

7 Annexes

7.1 Budget modules and rates

7.1.1 Personnel

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 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 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 NFU. A one-off personal bench fee of €5,000 is available for each PhD student to stimulate the scientific career.

Engineering Doctorate

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 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 (*Arts-onderzoeker*)

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, 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 5.1.6 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.

The following costs are not eligible for reimbursement:

- 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 advisory or 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.

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

Eligible costs:

- 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 costs:

- 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 utilization

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

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 rates 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 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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