# NWO Talent Programme

**Vidi 2024**

# Call for proposals

Applied and Engineering Sciences
Science
Sociale en Geesteswetenschappen
ZonMw

2024

# Contents

# 1 Introduction

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

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

## 1.1 Background

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

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

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

The 2024 Vidi round has nine submission windows corresponding to the four NWO domains. The domains AES and ZonMW each have one submission window. The Science domain has one submission window and six panels in which applications are assessed. The SSH domain is divided into six submission windows, one per disciplinary panel.

- Domain Science
  - Earth Sciences;
  - Physics and Astronomy;
  - Life sciences;
  - Chemistry;
  - Mathematics;
  - Computer Science;
- Domain Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH);
  - Cultural sciences and linguistics;
  - Economics and business administration;
  - Philosophy, historical sciences and religion;
  - Behaviour and education;
  - Law and public administration;
  - Social sciences;
- Domain Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES);
- Domain Health, Research and Development (ZonMw).

**Please note**: If you are unsure about which domain or submission panel is best suited to your application, you should contact NWO in good time, before the submission of the pre-proposal (see also Section 3.3.3).

### 1.1.1 Changes compared to the previous Call for proposals

Since the Vidi 2023 round, it is no longer possible to use the 75/25% arrangement. In this arrangement, applicants charged their entire salary to the project budget while devoting maximum 25% to tasks not related to the project. In this round, applicants can only apply for the salary costs for the FTE that is actually spent directly on the research project to be awarded. Applicants can choose between a full-time or part-time appointment.

From 2024, applicants in the Science domain will have to indicate which disciplinary panel is most suitable for the assessment of their pre-proposal. For the full proposal there is no change.

From 2024, NWO starts with a new pilot for female researchers in the Vidi round. The pilot is a first step in NWO's new Diversity, Inclusion and Equality policy, through which NWO aims to encourage under-represented groups in science in mainstream funding instruments. With this pilot, NWO wants to contribute to the growth of the number of women in senior scientific positions.

In the procedure, the motivated response 'zienswijze' has been replaced by the possibility of filing a request for the correction of a factual error. See Sections 4.2 and 4.2.3 for more information.

## 1.2 Available budget

The total available budget for this Call for proposals is €70.550.000 from the Talent Programme budget. The total available budget per domain is:
- o   For the Science domain: 31.450.000 euros,
- o   For the SSH domain: 17.850.000 euros,
- o   For the AES domain: 8.500.000 euros, and,
- o   For the ZonMw domain: 12.750.000 euros.

It is expected that a maximum of 83 proposals will be awarded funding.
- o   Circa 37 for Science
- o   Circa 21 for SSH
- o   Circa 10 for AES
- o   Circa 15 for ZonMw

## 1.3 Submission deadline(s)

The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is **5 November, 2024**, before 14:00:00 hours CEST.
The deadline for submitting proposals is **8 April, 2025**, before 14:00:00 hours CET.

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

# 2 Aim

This chapter describes the aim 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 at the stage of transition to leadership. The Vidi grant is intended to contribute to the further development of the researcher in this area. Researchers eligible for a Vidi grant have academic qualities that clearly exceed what is customary within the international peer group and they demonstrate developing leadership and mentorship qualities.

The Vidi grant is intended to fund scientifically innovative research and enable these researchers to establish or expand a research group.

**Promoting female researchers**
We explicitly invite female researchers to apply. The representation and advancement of women in academia are unfortunately lagging behind to those of men. NWO and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) are working together with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), Universities of The Netherlands (UNL) and individual Dutch universities to correct this situation. For that reason, NWO starts with a new pilot for female researchers in the Vidi round. When multiple applications are assessed with at least the qualification 'very good', the female applicant will be awarded funding. For more information about the exact execution of this new pilot, please see section 4.2.13.

**Please note**: in order to qualify for this, it is necessary for female applicants to have filled in 'Female' under the header 'Gender' in their ISAAC details.

## 2.2 Societal impact

New knowledge and insights from scientific research can make an important contribution to solutions to current and future societal issues. Examples are the energy transition, health and care, or climate change. Through interaction and alignment between researchers and possible users of knowledge, the chances of knowledge utilisation and, accordingly, societal impact increase. Via its impact policy, NWO facilitates the possible contribution of research to societal issues by encouraging productive interactions with societal stakeholders during the development and realisation of the research. NWO does this in a manner appropriate to the aim of the funding instrument.

### 2.2.1 A customized approach to impact

Depending on the aim of the funding instrument, NWO will select the approach that has the greatest chance of achieving societal impact. The primary aim of the funding instrument determines the method NWO deploys to facilitate knowledge utilisation in various phases of the project (proposal, realisation, project completion) and the effort required from the applicant(s) and partner(s).

In this programme, the Impact Outlook approach is used. With this approach, researchers may choose which type of impact they want to focus on, and the possibilities for the other type(s) of impact are considered accordingly.

NWO offers an e-learning module, see the website: NWO Impact - Online workshops. For more information about the NWO knowledge utilisation policy, see the website: www.nwo.nl/en/knowledge-utilisation.

# 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 applicants who have obtained their PhD, irrespective of whether they hold tenured positions and of whether they come from the Netherlands or abroad. applicants may only submit an application if they have obtained their PhD in the eight years preceding the reference date of this round, 1 October 2024. An extension to the above career-dependent submission period may be possible under specific circumstances (see Section 3.4.2).

During the course of the project, the laureate has to be employed by the organisation where the research is carried out.

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

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

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, groups of researchers or by research teams).
b)  An applicant may:
    - Submit a maximum of one application within the 2024 Vidi round;
    - Enter the application process for the NWO Talent Programme for no more than one type of grant in the same calender year.
    - Submit a Vidi application no more than twice. If an application that has been admitted to the selection process is withdrawn by the applicant, this submission still counts towards the maximum number of submissions per applicant. This does not apply to applications withdrawn with NWO approval under the terms of the Compensation scheme for parental leave (see Section 3.4.3) and the Force majeure extension scheme (see Section 3.4.4).
c)  Researchers who have previously been awarded grants under the Talent Programme (formerly known as the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme) may not apply again for a grant of the same kind.
d)  A researcher in receipt of a current grant under the NWO Talent Programme (formerly: Innovational Research Incentives Scheme) may submit an application for a following type of grant no more than 24 months before the planned end date of the current grant.

## 3.2  What can be applied for

For an application in this Call for proposals, a maximum of € 850,000 can be applied for. The maximum duration of the proposed project is five years. If the proposed project is of shorter duration, the maximum amount is reduced proportionally. Apply only for funding that is vital to realise the project. A more detailed explanation of the budget modules can be found in the annex to this Call for proposals (see section 7.1).

## 3.3  Preparing an application

**Use the right submission window**
The Vidi 2024 round has nine submission windows corresponding to the four NWO domains. The Science domain Science has one submission window and six panels in which applications are assessed. The SSH domain is divided into six submission windows, one per disciplinary panel. The domains AES and ZonMW each have one submission window. For the submission windows and panels, see section 3.3.3.

**An application starts with a pre-proposal**
Applicants must submit a pre-proposal to be considered for a Vidi grant. Applicants who receive a positive decision for their pre-proposals are invited to submit a full proposal. Applicants who receive a negative decision for their pre-proposals may not submit a full proposal.

### 3.3.1  Pre-proposal

**The form, web application and the embedding guarantee**

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

The steps involved in preparing your pre-proposal are:
- download the pre-proposal application form from the NWO web application ISAAC or from the NWO website (on the grant page of the funding instrument concerned);
- complete the pre-proposal form;
- after meeting with your prospective research institution, fill in the embedding guarantee, have it signed by the dean/signatoryy. If you work at an institution without a dean, have it signed by another authorized signatory. Save the embedding guarantee as a PDF file;
- after meeting with the institution where you intend to conduct the research, complete the embedding guarantee form, have it signed by the dean/signing authority. If you work at an institution without a dean, have the form signed by another signatory. Save the embedding guarantee form as a pdf;
- complete your ISAAC or Mijn ZonMW account with current contact details (phone numbers and
- email address, including your mobile number);
- complete the ISAAC account by filling out the 'gender' box (see Section 2.1, 'Promoting female researchers');
- save the application form as a PDF file (without file protection) and upload it within the appropriate submission window on the web application ISAAC (www.isaac.nwo.nl) for the AES, SSH and Science domains or on Mijn ZonMw (mijn.zonmw.nl) for ZonMw;
- upload the embedding guarantee as a separate PDF file on ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw.
- upload the literature list (see heading 'additional annexes).
- the required embedding guarantee and optional literature list need to be uploaded as PDF file (without file protection). No other attachments than the embedding guarantee and literature list are permitted;
- an application can only be submitted via the web application ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw. Applications that are not submitted via ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw will not be taken into consideration. As the applicant, you are required to submit the application via your own personal ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw account.

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

**The Evidence Based Curriculum Vitae in the pre-proposal**
The pre-proposal contains an Evidence Based CV of the applicant, consisting of:
− a description of the applicant's academic profile (max. 1200 words);
− a description of the applicant's key output (400-700 words);
− short research idea (max. 150 words).

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

**The embedding guarantee is a mandatory attachment**
The attachment for the embedding guarantee must adhere to the template provided by NWO. The attachment must be uploaded separately from the application in ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw. The attachment needs to be uploaded as PDF file (without file protection).

**Optional attachment pre-proposal**
− A literature list for referees: A literature list of up to ten pieces of relevant scientific literature that are closely related to your research idea. NWO will use the literature list - together with your research idea, key words and indicated discipline - to search for potential referees for your full proposal. Your literature list will not be submitted to the committee. Save the list as a PDF file and upload it as a separate attachment in the online application system ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw.

*Any annexes other than those mentioned above are not permitted.*

**Start with your pre-proposal well in advance**
It is important to start with your application in ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw well in advance:
− if you do not yet have an ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw account, then you should create this on time to prevent any possible registration problems;
− your prospective research institution might be added to ISAAC/Mijn ZonMW by NWO;
− you also need to submit other details online. You are responsible for correctly filling in the right contact details in your ISAAC profile. Please do this before submitting the pre-proposal.

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

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

NWO assumes that the applicant has informed the organisation where the applicant works about the submission of the pre-proposal and that the organisation accepts the conditions on granting of this Call for proposals.

## 3.3.2    Proposal

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

It is mandatory to write your application in English.

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

**Preparing your full proposal**
- Download the application form from the NWO web application ISAAC or from the NWO or ZonMW website (on the grant page of the funding instrument concerned);
- complete the application form;
- complete your ISAAC or Mijn ZonMW account with current contact details (phone numbers and email address, including your mobile number);
- save the application form as a PDF file (without file protection) and upload it to ISAAC (www.isaac.nwo.nl) or Mijn ZonMw (mijn.zonmw.nl);
- All attachments must be uploaded via ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw, separately from the application. All attachments must be submitted as PDF files (without file protection).

**Outline of the full proposal**
- A description of the research proposal, a motivation for the choice of institution, and a description of the fit between the research proposal and the applicant's academic profile (maximum 4000 words on 8 pages, including footnotes);
- a section on scientific and/or societal impact (maximum 1000 words on 2 pages);
- a section on data management;
- a budgetplan.

**Optional attachment(s) to the full proposal:**
- if applicable: a completed and signed declaration of co-funding, which confirms the co-funding, as PDF file (see Section 3.5.6);
- if applicable: statement exceeding maximum funding (see Section 3.5.6);
- embedding guarantee, only if amendments have been made to the embedding guarantee submitted with the pre-proposal

*Any annexes other than those mentioned above are not permitted.*

**Start with your application in ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw well in advance:**
- As the applicant, you are required to submit the application via your own personal ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw account;
- Your prospective research institution might be added to ISAAC/Mijn ZonMW by NWO;
- You also need to submit other details online. You are responsible for correctly filling in the right contact details in your ISAAC profile. Please do this before submitting the full proposal.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration by NWO.
For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw helpdesk. Contact details are listed in Chapter 6.

### 3.3.3 Choose the right domain for your application

For this Call, you have to choose which field you will submit your application to. You can choose from:
- Science (ENW);
- Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES);
- Health Research and Development (ZonMw);
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), Cultural sciences and linguistics;
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), Economics and business administration;
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), Philosophy, historical sciences, and religion;
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), Behaviour and education;
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), Law and public administration;
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), Social sciences;

The Science domain has a single submission window and six panels in which applications are assessed. You can indicate the panel of your choice in the application form. Within the Science domain you may choose from six panels: Earth Sciences; Physics and Astronomy; Life Sciences; Chemistry; Mathematics; Computer Science. The distribution of the disciplinary panels of the Science domain can be found on the NWO website.

The SSH domain is divided into six submission panels with each an individual submission window in Isaac. The overview of the corresponding disciplinary panels can be found on the NWO website: Overview panels Domain Social Sciences and Humanities | NWO

Please decide well in advance to which field it would be best to submit your application. After the submission of your pre-proposal, your choice of field is final and it will no longer be possible to have the application assessed within another field. If you have doubts about which field would be most appropriate, for example, because your application has a (partly) 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, please contact the following domains:
Science:         enw-vidi@nwo.nl
SSH:             sgw-vidi@nwo.nl
AES:             ttw-vidi@nwo.nl
ZonMw:           vidi@zonmw.nl

Phone numbers can be found on the NWO website:
NWO Talent Programme | NWO

## 3.4 Conditions for submission

### 3.4.1 Formal conditions for submission

**Pre-proposal:**
NWO will assess your pre-proposal against the conditions listed below. Your pre-proposal will only be admitted to the assessment procedure if it meets these conditions. After submitting your pre-proposal, NWO 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 meets the DORA-guidelines as described in Section 4.1;
- the application form is, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled out according to the instructions;
- the pre-proposal is submitted via the applicant's own ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw account;
- the pre-proposal is received before the deadline;
- the pre-proposal is written in English;
- all of the required annexes are, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled out according to the instructions in this Call for proposals.

**Full proposal:**
NWO will assess your application against the conditions listed below. Your application will only be admitted to the assessment procedure if it meets these conditions. After submitting your application, NWO requests you to be available to implement any possible administrative corrections so that you can (still) meet the conditions for submission.
These conditions are:
- the applicant meets the conditions stated in Section 3.1;
- the full proposal meets the DORA-guidelines as described in Section 4.1;
- the application form is, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled

out according to the instructions;
- the full proposal is submitted via the applicant's own ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw account;
- the full proposal is received before the deadline;
- the full proposal is written in English;
- the application budget is drawn up in accordance with the conditions outlined in this Call for proposals
- the proposed project has a duration of at most 3 years, unless it is carried out part-time (see Section 3.2);
- all of the required annexes are, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled out according to the instructions in this Call for proposals.

### 3.4.2 Career-dependent submission period and extension scheme

This round is open to researchers who have obtained their PhD between 1 October 2016 and 1 October 2024.

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

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

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

For all applicants, the maximum extension to the submission period allocated by NWO is five years.

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

### 3.4.3 Parental leave

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 www.nwo.nl/en/compensation-schemeparental-leave.

If an applicant wants to make use of this compensation scheme, then a written request for this, supported by reasons, should be submitted to NWO via the contact person for this funding round (see Section 6.1). With this request, the applicant should provide all information that NWO needs to take a decision, including information from which clearly follows that the applicant is hindered from providing input due to childcare leave.

### 3.4.4 Force majeure extension scheme

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

## 3.5 Conditions on granting

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

### 3.5.1 Compliance with National knowledge security guidelines

World class research can benefit from international collaboration. The National knowledge security guidelines (hereafter: the Guidelines) facilitate knowledge institutes in ensuring safe international collaborations. Knowledge security entails the undesirable transfer of sensitive knowledge and technology that can compromise national security; the covert influencing of education and research by state actors, which places academic freedom and social safety in jeopardy; and ethical issues that can be at play in collaboration with countries that do not respect fundamental rights.

It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure the project is, and stays, in line with the Guidelines. By submitting the application, the applicant commits themselves to the Guidelines. In the case of a suspected violation of the Guidelines by a grant application to NWO or a project financed by NWO, NWO can request the applicant to submit a risk assessment from which follows that the Guidelines have been kept to. If the applicant does not to comply with NWO's request or if the risk assessment ostensibly involves a violation of the Guidelines, this can have consequences for the granting decision or grant settlement made by NWO. In such cases, NWO may include additional conditions in the grant award decision letter.

The National knowledge security guidelines can be found on the website of Rijksoverheid: https://english.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 protected as necessary" is the applicable principle in this respect. Researchers are at least expected to make the data and/or non-numerical results that underlie the conclusions of work published within 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 often already need to have been taken before the creation of data and analysis of the data, to make its later 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 (for the domains Science and AES) and the committee (for all domains) can issue advice with respect to the data management section.

### 3.5.3 Scientific integrity

In accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017, the project that NWO funds must be carried out in accordance with the nationally and internationally accepted standards for scientific conduct as stated in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2018). By submitting the proposal, the applicant commits to this code. In the case of a (possible) violation of these standards during a project

funded by NWO, the applicant should immediately inform NWO of this and should submit all relevant documents to NWO. More information about the code of conduct and the policy regarding research integrity can be found on the website: Scientific integrity | NWO.

### 3.5.4 Ethical statement or license

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

### 3.5.5 Nagoya Protocol

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

### 3.5.6 Additional project contribution(s)

Both the institution where the project is carried out and a third party can make a (financial) contribution to the project:
 - When the **institution** makes a financial contribution, a 'Declaration Exceeding Maximum Funding' must be provided. This is the case, for example, if the institution pays (part of) the salary of the researcher.
 - When a **third party** makes a contribution, a 'Declaration Co-funding' should be provided.
Both the 'Statement Exceeding Maximum funding' and the 'Declaration Co-funding' are authorised letters in which the relevant party guarantees to cover the contribution stated in the application. The mandatory template for the letters can be found on the website and on ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw.

**1: Declaration Exceeding Maximum Funding**
If the proposed budget exceeds the maximum amount ((€850.000), the full proposal must be accompanied by a letter from the prospective host institution guaranteeing to cover the excess costs. If this is the case, the applicant must upload the 'Declaration Exceeding Maximum Funding' as an annex when submitting the application. A template for this declaration is available on the funding page on the NWO website.

**2: Declaration Co-funding**
In the event of a contribution by a third party, a 'Declaration Co-funding', signed by the co-funding party ('in cash' or 'in kind'), must be uploaded with the full proposal, signed by an authorized signatory of the co-financier. A template for this declaration is available on the funding page on the NWO website.

Definitions Declaration Co-fuding:
- Total project costs: required financial resources plus in-kind contributions;
- Co-funding: financial (in cash) and/or in-kind contribution(s);
- In-kind contributions: capitalized human and/or material contributions from users.
- User: natural or legal persons (national or international) who can apply the results of the research and contribute to achieving scientific and/or societal impact (see Section 5.1.5);
- Co-funder: an organization that contributes co-financing to the project.

The following principles apply to co-funding:
- Financial contributions are used to cover a part of the total project costs and together with the NWO contribution constitute the required financial resources;

- NWO is main funder of the projects. Project applications in which co-funding from co-funders exceeds 49% of the total project costs, will not be taken into consideration;
- In case of domain AES: NWO-AES assumes that providers of co-funding have an interest as user. Co-funders and users always participate in the user committee (see Section 5.1.5);
- No conditions should be attached to the provision of the co-funding. In addition, the provision of co-funding should not be dependent on whether or not a particular stage in the research plan is reached (e.g., go/no-go moment).
- The pledged co-funding is the net amount received by the applicant. If VAT applies to committed co-funding, it will be added to the committed amount.

### Invoicing in cash co-funding

NWO uses the cash co-funding to cover a part of the total project costs. After the application has been granted, NWO invoices the party with a cash contribution that has committed itself to the applicant/project leader. Upon receipt, these funds will be allocated by NWO to the project (budget).

### The following are permitted as in-kind co-funding:

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

### Determining the value of in-kind co-funding:

- Personnel is valued on the basis of hours x rate. The hourly rate should be determined using the *Handleiding Overheidstarieven* [HOT – Manual Dutch Government Rates]. Co-funding organizations are required to choose the rate from this manual that best matches the actual labor costs. The rates from HOT also apply as a maximum in case the actual labor costs are higher. In determining the hourly rate, a standard productive number of hours of 1,400 per year is assumed. For the rates, see Table 2.1 in Section 2.2, the "Hourly Rate of Productive Hours, Excluding VAT" column of the most recent HOT on the NWO website (Salary tables | NWO);
- The value for material in-kind contributions is determined based on the cost of consumables. Commercial rates are not accepted. The value of investments/equipment is determined on the basis of regular depreciation, taking into account the intensity of use and the already incurred depreciations, according to applicable accounting policies;
- For in-kind contributions in the form of services or know-how (knowledge, software, access to databases or cell lines) the economic value must be established and only the actual costs that can be directly attributed to the project may be counted as co-funding. This is always without a profit margin. Furthermore, the service or know-how must not already be present at or available to the applicant.
- Co-funders should specify the structure and amount of the claimed in-kind contributions including the hourly rates in the declaration of co-funding. In case of questions, NWO may request further justification and evidence of the rates used and also adjustment.

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

- Funding awarded by NWO[1];
- Co-funding may not come from institutions where, under this Call for proposals, the research could be conducted as described in 3.1, even if this is a different institution than the one for which the applicant will work or conduct the research.;
- Discounts on (commercial) rates, e.g., on materials, equipment and/or services;

---

[1] Funding awarded by NWO means funding obtained through the allocation of an application to NWO. It is irrelevant in which program this funding was obtained, or who the recipient of the grant is.

- Costs related to overheads, supervision of PhD students, consultancy and/or participation in the user committee (see Section 5.1.5).
- Costs for services that are conditional;
- Costs that are not reimbursed according to the Call for proposals (e.g., clinical trials, service costs of equipment);
- Costs of equipment if one of the (main) objectives of the proposal is the improvement or creation of added value for this equipment.
- There should be no double funding. If a (sub)project is funded by another (European) grant provider, the full proposal of the Vidi application will not be granted.

## Accounting for in-kind co-funding

The applicant reports to NWO about the in-kind co-funding that they have received from a co-funder (see Section 5.1.1). The applicant provides accountability in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017 on an annual basis. If a co-funder fails to partly or entirely fulfil its obligations to the applicant and/or NWO, then this can have consequences for the grant settlement (see Article 3.4.5 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017).

## Statement co-funding

In the statement of co-funding the co-funder expresses both substantive and financial support for the project and confirms the co-funding commitment. Co-funding statements from co-funders, which are mentioned in the application, are required attachments when submitting the application. They must be signed by an someone who is authorized to sign on behalf of the co-funder. It is important that this party is explicit about the amount of the contribution in the Declaration. The Declaration is unconditional and does not contain any resolutive conditions.

NWO will publish a mandatory format for the statement of co-funding on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO website.

In case of granting, the co-funder should 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).

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

# 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-taking process (Code for Dealing with Personal Interests | NWO).

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

## 4.1 The San Francisco Declaration (DORA)

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

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

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

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

For more information on how NWO is implementing the principles of DORA, see DORA | NWO.

## 4.2 Procedure

The application procedure consists of the following steps:
− Submission of the pre-proposal;
− Admissibility check of the pre-proposal;
− Assessment of the pre-proposal;
    − Provisional advice assessment committee;
    − Possibility to submit a request for a correction of a factual inaccuracy in the negative provisional advice;
− Decision making pre-proposal;
− Submission of the full proposal;
− Admissibility check of the full proposal;
− Assessment of the full proposal;
    − Peer review by referees;
    − Rebuttal;
    − Provisional advice assessment committee;
    − Interview selection (for ZonMw only);
    − Interview;

- Meeting of the assessment committee;
- Decision-making full proposal

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

For the assessment of applications in the domains SSH and ZonMw, NWO has decided to make use of the possibility outlined in article 2.2.4, Section 2, of the NWO Grant Rules 2017, to follow the assessment procedure without involving referees.

## 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 consisting of only the Evidence Based CV and a short research idea. For the pre-proposal submission, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO and ZonMw websites. When you write your pre-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. The pre-proposal form completed by you must have been received before the deadline via ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw (see Section 1.3). After submitting the pre-proposal, the applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt.

For the domains AES and Science you can only register non-referees at this stage (see Section 4.2.7).

## 4.2.2 Admissibility check of the pre-proposal

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

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

## 4.2.3 Assessment of the pre-proposal

While writing the pre-proposal, please keep in mind that the committee that will evaluate your pre-proposal consists of members from the whole domain/panel. The pre-proposal should be accessible for committee members from other academic disciplines within your domain/panel. In case domains work with different evaluation panels, the (disciplinary) composition of these panels will be detailed on the relevant page per domain (NWO Talent Programme | NWO, under the tab "Explore" > "Assessment").

The assessment committees evaluate the pre-proposal based on the criteria and make a ranking based on which proposals have the most chance of being awarded funding, without using external reviewers. They will formulate these comments based on the substantive assessment criteria (see Section 4.3.1) and will give the pre-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).

Applicants will receive the provisional assessment of the assessment committee. Applicants with a negative advice will also receive the provisional report of the assessment committee. If the applicant is of the opinion that the provisional assessment contains an factual error, the applicant will subsequently be given three working days to submit a request for a correction of that error, using the format provided. This response is

not meant to include additional, new information about the proposal, nor is it meant as a way to ask questions to the committee. Taking this information into account, the assessment committee will consider whether there is cause to revise the provisional assessment. After this consideration, the final ranking will be determined.

## 4.2.4    Decision pre-proposal

The advice of the assessment committee regarding the pre-proposals will be presented to the four domain boards which will make the final decision.

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

## 4.2.5    Ex aequo

This rule only applies to pre-proposals assessment of the pre-proposal and the interview selection. For the final ranking of the proposals (after the interview fase), only the measure 'Promoting female researchers' applies, as described in section 2.1 and 4.2.13.

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 is the ranking drawn up by the assessment committee, with the final scores rounded down to two decimal points. The reference score 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 available budget or the selection borders, then, in order to stimulate the number of females in science, the proposal from a female applicant will end as the highest. If the ex aequo situation is not resolved with this, then the proposal with the highest score for the criterion 'Quality and innovative character of the research proposal' will end highest.

## 4.2.6    Submission of the full proposal

For the submission of the full proposal, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO website. When you write your full 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.

## 4.2.7    Admissibility check of the full proposal

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

Please bear in mind that within two weeks after the submission deadline, NWO/ZonMw may approach you with any possible administrative corrections that need to be made so that your full 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 Peer review by referees

Before the assessment committee considers your proposal, NWO will request input from at least two external referees. These are independent advisers that are expert in the subject of the proposal. They will assess the proposal based on the assessment criteria stated in the Call for proposals (Section 4.3).

Applicants can register non-referees in ISAAC when submitting the pre-proposal. It is possible to register a maximum of three non-referees. Applicants can register these non-referees in ISAAC. NWO will not approach these non-referees to assess the proposal as external referees.

### 4.2.9 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, it will not be included in the rest of the procedure.

### 4.2.10 Pre-advice assessment committee

Your proposal, and 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 4.3.2) (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). This pre-advice will be used to prepare the interview selection and/or the interview.

### 4.2.11 Interview selection

This step in the process is applicable only to applications submitted in the ZonMw window.

The proposals, and, if applicable, the referees' reports and rebuttals, will be submitted to the assessment committee. The committee will make its own assessment based on these elements which results in a ranking. Subsequently, the highest-ranking applicants will be invited for further participation in the funding round and receive an invitation for an interview.

The domains Science, SSH and AES do not work with an interview selection. All applicants who submitted a full proposal within these domains are invited for an interview.

### 4.2.12 Interview

During the interview, the assessment committee has the opportunity to pose questions, including new questions that the referees have not yet asked. 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 an important component of the assessment that may lead to revision of the assessment and the score of the application up until that point.

### 4.2.13 Meeting of the assessment committee

The committee will make its own assessment based on the available material. The referees' reports will to a large extent 'guide' the final assessment but will not be blindly accepted by the committee without question. The committee will consider and compare the arguments of the referees and pre-advisers (also among each other) and examine whether the rebuttal contains a wellformulated response to the critical comments from the referees' reports and the given pre-advice. Furthermore, the committee, unlike the referees, assesses the quality of all proposals and rebuttals submitted. Therefore, the committee may differ from the referees in their assessment. Additionally, the interviews will be considered in the assessment by the assessment committee.

Following the discussion, the committee draws up a written advice addressed to the relevant decisionmaking 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

**Measure promoting female researchers**
As noted in section 2.1, NWO is commencing a pilot to encourage female researchers. This is operationalized as follows. After the interviews, all weighted final scores are rounded to the nearest multiple of 0.5. In all groups of applications that are rounded to the same multiple of 0.5, female applicants are prioritized, and then ranked based on the unrounded, weighted score. The applications are then allocated according to this ranking, until the limits of the available budget have been reached. In case of an equal final position (rounded down to 2 decimal points after making the ranking), the proposal with the highest score for the criterion 'Quality and innovative character of the research proposal' will end highest. If the ex aequo situation is not resolved with this, then the proposal that is rated best on the final score by the most committee members will be ranked highest. If this provides no resolution either, the ex aequo situation will be sent on to the decision-making body.

## 4.2.14   Decision making

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

## 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 5 november 2024, before 14:00:00 CEST | **Deadline pre-proposals** |
| November/December 2024 | Commitee assesses pre-proposals |
| January 2025 | Applicants receive the preliminary advice about whether or not to elaborate the pre-proposal into a full proposal |
| Mid February 2025 | Decision about whether or not to elaborate pre-proposal into a proposal by the relevant domain board |
| End of February 2025 | Applicants receive decision about whether or not to elaborate pre-proposal into a proposal |
| **Full proposals** | |
| Tuesday 8 April 2025, before 14:00:00 CET | **Deadline full proposals** |
| April/May/June 2025 | Referees consulted |
| May/June 2025 | Applicants can submit a rebuttal |

| Beginning of July 2025 | Interview selection (ZonMw) |
| --- | --- |
| Beginning of September 2025 | Interviews and advice of committee to the board |
| October 2025 | Decision by the board |

## 4.3  Criteria

### 4.3.1  Substantive assessment criterion pre-proposal

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

#### Kwaliteit van de onderzoeker

a) Whether the researcher fits in the target group: 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?

b) the extent to which the researcher's qualities clearly exceed what is customary within the international peer group, as evidenced in the CV by the quality and impact of the key output and by other academic achievements[2];

c) the extent to which the researcher's work is clearly positioned with respect to scientific and (where possible) societal themes or questions;

d) the quality of the (inter)national network, collaborative abilities and visibility of the researcher;

e) the extent to which the researcher in the CV demonstrates the capability of generating innovative ideas and independently developing these successfully;

f) the extent to which researcher's approach to leadership and mentorship and plans for contributing to the development of individuals, as described in the academic profile, are appropriate;

g) whether the researcher's key output and academic profile clearly align with the research idea, or whether the researcher presents a convincing vision of how this alignment will be achieved.

### 4.3.2  Substantive assessment criteria proposal

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

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

#### Quality and innovative character of the research proposal

a) The extent to which the proposed research has the potential to make an important contribution to the advancement of science[3];

b) The extent to which the proposed research contains (elements of) scientific innovation in terms of theory, methods and/or topic;

c) The extent to which the proposed research goes beyond an incremental evolution of the applicant's current research;

---

[2] 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'.

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

d) Whether the proposed research strikes an equitable balance between being challenging and feasible[4];
e) Whether the proposal aligns with the researcher's expertise, or whether the researcher presents a convincing vision of how this alignment will be achieved;
f) The extent to which the proposed approach is appropriate;
g) The clarity of the proposal, including question(s) posed and the objectives.

## Scientific and/or societal impact

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

NWO assesses scientific impact as follows;
a) Whether the proposal conveys an ambitious vision and appropriate strategy regarding the dissemination and/or implementation of the research results in one's own discipline, related disciplines and the broader scientific field.

NWO assesses societal impact as follows;
b) In how far the project has added value for societal impact;
c) in how far the project has potential for societal impact in the short and long term; and
d) whether the proposal conveys an ambitious vision and appropriate strategy regarding the way(s) in which the proposed research may lead to societal impact.

In addition to the above and irrespective of the choice of impact, the assessment committee, as part of this criterion, will also weigh;
e) To what extent the motivation for the focus on scientific impact and/or societal impact is convincing;
f) If the focus is primarily on scientific impact: how proportional attention is given during the course of the project to increasing (unforeseen) opportunities for social impact;
g) If the focus is primarily on societal impact: how proportional attention is given during the course of the project to increasing (unforeseen) opportunities for scientific impact.

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.

---

[4] 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

# 5 Obligations for grant recipients

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

## 5.1.1 Start, reporting and completion

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

Guidelines for financial accounting reports for NWO Talent Programme grants

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

## 5.1.2 Data management

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

### 5.1.3 Intellectual property and consortium agreement

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

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

NWO aims for the application of research results by the partners that are involved in the project. On the one hand, NWO aims to ensure that the research findings of projects it finances are publicly accessible, and on the other hand, that the further development of the research results is stimulated by offering parties the opportunity to exploit them. In doing so, it may be desirable to transfer intellectual property rights or to grant a licence to (one of) the private parties involved in the project. The starting point is that all research results can be published in accordance with agreements on publication procedures.

#### In the case of a consortium agreement

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

The responsibility for arranging the consortium agreement lies with the applicant. NWO will not itself sign the agreement. The (model) agreement that NWO makes available can be used and can be found on the funding page of this Call for proposals. This model agreement has been drawn up in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017.

Parties can choose to use the standard text from NWO in the model agreement but may also choose to make their own agreement or to apply existing agreements for the component parts intellectual property and publication procedure. The model consortium agreement provides for this.

### 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 "NFU-19.3793 Maatschappelijk Verantwoord Licenseren CMYK 7.indd".

### 5.1.5 User committee

After a project submitted to the AES Domain has been awarded funding, a user committee will be appointed in accordance with Article 3.3.2.a of the NWO Grant Rules 2017, in consultation with the applicant. The committee will follow the project and advise about the progress. More information about this committee will be provided in the decision letter.

To promote the effective transfer to users of knowledge generated by the research, NWO Domain AES sets up a user committee for each research project in consultation with the project leader, based on the users proposed in the project plan.

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

These users are not required to contribute financially, but they should participate in the user committee. Academic users may include, but are not confined to, (associate/assistant/full) professors working at another university and interested in the proposed research. Non-academic parties include, amongst others, companies, clinics, patient associations, foundations, and civil society or public organisations. Users may include Dutch as well as foreign citizens and may work at a Dutch or foreign organisation, institute, knowledge institution, university and/or company.

## 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 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 questions about this Call for proposal, please visit the <u>webpage of the NWO Talent Programme</u> or contact:

General questions about the Talent Programme and extension requests:
<u>talent@nwo.nl</u>

NWO Talent Programme
Domain Science
PO Box 93460
2509 AC The Hague, The Netherlands
<u>enw-vidi@nwo.nl</u>

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

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

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

### 6.1.2 Technical questions about the web application ISAAC

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

### 6.1.3 Technical questions about the web application of ZonMw

For technical questions about the web application of ZonMw, please contact the ZonMw Service Desk. Please read the manual first before consulting the Service desk. The ZonMw Service desk can be contacted from Monday to Friday between 8:00 and 17:00 on + 31 (0) 70 349 51 76 or via 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.

Chapter 6: Contact and other information / NWO-Talentprogrammae

NWO processes data from applicants received in the context of this Call in accordance with the NWO Privacy Statement, Privacy Statement | NWO.

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

# 7 Annex:

## 7.1 Explanation of the budget modules

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

### General

- The budget that is submitted with the application, is based on the direct staff costs and direct material costs that are eligible for the research.
- Administration of the grant takes place at the receiving institution.
- One unique administration number must be applied to the grant. The administration needs to be in accordance with the final budget, and a clear distinction must be made between staff costs and material costs.
- It is mandatory to budget the applicant's salary (even if there is a co-payment for this). The applicant's actual salary may be budgeted even if it is outside salary tables.

#### No double funding

As stated in the NWO Grant rules (see website: NWO Grant Rules | NWO), NWO will only reimburse project costs that have not been or will not be funded from other resources. There should be no double funding. If a (sub)project is funded by another (European) grant provider, the full proposal of the Vidi application will not be granted.

### Personel

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

- The calculation of eligible staff costs must be based on actual gross salaries and associated costs as specified in the current Dutch agreement on the funding of academic research ('Bekostiging wetenschappelijk onderzoek'), with the exception of end-of-project payments. The amount of these payments for the Vidi 2024 round will be based on the standard percentages in the agreement (Salary tables | NWO), at the moment that the grant is awarded.
- For university medical centres, the salary costs and associated costs are funded in accordance with the NFU salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded, with the exception of endof-project payments (Salary tables | NWO).
- For personnel from other organisations, salary costs will be funded based on the collective labour agreement pay scale of the employee concerned in accordance with the applicable rate at the time of awarding the grant as taken from Table 2.2, column 'Hourly rate productive hours, excl. Dutch VAT' from the Handleiding Overheidstarieven [HOT- Manual Dutch Government Rates] (Salary tables | NWO).
- For the Caribbean Netherlands, the Dutch government employs civil servants on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba under different conditions than in the European part of the Netherlands Employment terms and conditions | Working at the Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland | Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland (Arbeidsvoorwaarden | Werken bij Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland | Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland (rijksdienstcn.com)).
- It is not permitted to budget for academic staff in the positions of assistant professor (UD), associate professor (UHD) or professor, other than the project leader.

## Material

The material budget to be requested is specified into the three items listed below:

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

### Travel and accomodation costs for the personnel positions applied for
−   travel and accommodation costs;
−   conference attendance (maximum of two per year);
−   fieldwork;
−   work visit.

### Implementation costs
−   national symposium/conference/workshop organised by the project researcher;
−   costs for Open Access publishing (solely in full gold Open Access journals, registered in the "Directory of Open Access Journals" Directory of Open Access Journals – DOAJ);
−   costs data management;
−   costs involved in applying for licences (e.g. for animal experiments).

### Costs that cannot be applied for are:
−   basic facilities within the institution (e.g. laptops, office furniture, etc.);
−   maintenance and insurance costs;
−   benchfees (all costs have to be specified).

## Equipment/investments

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

## Knowledge utilisation

The aim of this budget module is to facilitate the use of the knowledge that emerges from the research. As knowledge utilisation takes many different forms in different scientific fields, the applicant needs to specify the required costs, e.g. costs of producing a teaching package, conducting a feasibility study into potential applications, or filing a patent application. The budget applied for should be adequately specified in the proposal.

## Internationalisation

The budget for internationalisation is intended to encourage international collaboration. The amount requested must be specified. If the maximum amount is not sufficient to carry out the research, it is possible to deviate from it, provided that this is properly motivated in the application.
Funding can be requested for:
−   travel and accommodation costs in so far as these concern direct research costs emerging from the international collaboration and additional costs for internationalisation that cannot be covered in another manner, for example from the bench fee;
−   travel and accommodation costs for foreign guest researchers;
−   costs for organising international workshops/symposia/scientific meetings.