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Call for proposals NWA Research into collections with a colonial context, Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek

2023 1st round

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1 Introduction

This Call for proposals provides information about the application procedure for the “Research into collections with a colonial context” funding round. This Call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

This Call for proposals gives 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 Dutch Research Agenda (NWA) concerns complex issues where alignment and collaboration have added value for realising scientific and societal breakthroughs. The aim of the NWA is to make a positive and structural contribution to the global knowledge society of tomorrow, where new knowledge easily passes from researchers to users and where new questions arise from the field and society that quickly and automatically find their way into new research. The NWA programme therefore encourages collaboration between different partners so that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

The key elements of the NWA programme are:

– The Dutch Research Agenda consists of 25 routes and 140 cluster questions[1].
– Knowledge-chain-wide[2] and interdisciplinary consortia, in which researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds, knowledge and societal (public and private) organisations and, where relevant, citizens collaborate on complex issues.
– Projects that concern demand-driven research, connect with the routes and cluster questions and thereby adopt a fundamental, application-oriented and field-oriented approach.
– Giving back the results to society through dialogue and interaction.

In 2018 the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (Dutch acronym OCW) entrusted NWO with implementing the Dutch Research Agenda. The NWA comprises four programme lines[3]:
1. Research along Routes by Consortia (ORC);
2. Thematic Programming in consultation with government bodies;
3. Innovations and Networks;
4. Science Communication and Outreach.

The call for proposals 'Research into collections with a colonial context' is being realised in the context of programme line 2 of the NWA programme. The initiators of this call arethe Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

1.2 Available budget

The available budget for this Call for proposals is € 2,855,000. Two types of funding can be applied for:
- **Research exchange grant**: a grant for short-term research visits (max. € 35,000 per grant). A maximum of € 350.000 will be made available for this type of grant.
- **Consortium grant**: a grant for consortia (max. € 350,000 per grant). A maximum of € 2.505 million will be made available for this type of grant.

If the budget for one type of grant is not exhausted, it may be added to the other type.

This Call for proposals will accept proposals in one of the two categories described above. Assessment criteria are defined per type. Two rankings will be made, one for applications in each grant type.

1.3 Submission deadlines

This call remains open until Thursday 6 February 2025, 14:00:00 CET, or earlier in case the remaining budget is not sufficient.

The submission deadline for the first assessment round is on Tuesday 19 March 2024, 14:00:00 CET. A second and further assessment rounds may be held if there is budget remaining.

This is version 1 of the call text. In case adjustments to the call are deemed necessary, NWO reserves the right to publish these on the NWO website.

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

Please note that some applicants may have to submit additional documents to NWO prior to the submission deadline. For the first assessment round, the deadline for submission of additional documents is 5 March, 2024, 14:00:00 CET. See section 3.1.1. for more information.

2 Aim

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

[1] The 25 routes and corresponding cluster questions can be found in https://2.wetenschapsagenda.nl/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/nwa_deel_eng_digitaal.pdf. The 140 cluster questions can also be found in a PDF file available from https://2.wetenschapsagenda.nl/publicatie/dutch-national-research-agenda-english//

[2] The broad knowledge chain comprises the public knowledge institutions: universities of applied sciences, universities, NWO and KNAW institutes, university medical centres and TO2 institutes, as well as other public knowledge organisations such as National Knowledge Institutes (see Chapter 7 for a full list of public knowledge organisations).

[3] More information about the different programme lines is available at https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/dutch-research-agenda-nwa

2.1 Aim of the programme

This call aims to stimulate knowledge development, knowledge exchange and cooperation between researchers from countries of origin[4] of museum collections and objects in the Netherlands with a colonial context, and researchers and museums in the Netherlands. Many questions surround objects and collections from a colonial context, including how they should be handled, their significance in their historical contexts and in modern-day changing societies, and questions about their repatriation to their country of origin[5]. Research on such objects and collections requires specific expertise from and intensive collaboration with countries of origin, as this is essential to achieving true understanding of the collections and more equitable discussions.

For this reason, the Research into Collections with a Colonial Context Call for proposals provides both small grants for short research exchange, and larger grants for consortia to create sustainable research networks for joint research into these collections. The programme is aimed at exchange between researchers from organisations in countries of origin of collections from a colonial context and the Netherlands, and requires the project leader to be from a knowledge institution from the country of origin.

The programme is aimed at research and network creation for collection-specific research with regards to aspects such as
- origin and provenance,
- research into the appreciation and meaning of collections from a colonial context throughout history, as well as to (national agendas of) modern day societies,
- the role of the objects in their broader historical context and their links to immaterial heritage, and
- making the knowledge on collections or objects with a colonial context accessible, including the mapping of repositories.

This list is not exhaustive. As different countries of origins have different contexts and priorities, it is important to demonstrate how the research and network also respond to those contexts and priorities.

Because of the different contexts in different countries of origin, two types of grants are available in this Call:

Research exchange grants are available for short-term exchange of researchers from countries of origin to institutions and museums in the the Netherlands[6], for example for provenance research into a specific object or for exploratory research for a specific foreseen request for repatriation.

Consortium grants are aimed at larger projects that look to create sustainable networks, between researchers and stakeholders in a country of origin and the Netherlands. This grant can be used to create a comprehensive programme around research and exchange between a country of origin and the Netherlands, including activities such as agenda setting, mapping or gaining an overview of objects in collections, research into provenance and meanings of collections throughout history as well as in and for (national agendas of) modern day societies, and how the knowledge on those collections and objects can be made accessible. There is no limit on the number of exchanges between countries, as this depends on the scope of the research project. If appropriate, applicants may also choose to use a regional approach, for example by cooperating across the countries and special municipalities in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

NWO aims for a geographic spread in Consortium grant projects, with ideally no more than one project per country. To this end, activities for matchmaking will be organised to support researchers and other partners to find each other. The matchmakings will be open to all interested parties, but the eventual application will be submitted by a main applicant from an eligible research organization in a country of origin of a collection or object.

Proposals for both types of grants should motivate how the proposed research is complementary to other initiatives, policies, or (inter)national conversations.

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[4] Country of origin, in this Call, also includes the islands of Sint Eustatius, Saba, and Bonaire, which have the status of special municipalities of the Netherlands.

[5] See the report of the Advisory Committee on the National Policy Framework for Colonial Collections for the full policy advice to the Dutch government: https://www.raadvoorcultuur.nl/documenten/adviezen/2020/10/07/summary-of-report-advisory-committee-on-the-national-policy-framework-for-colonial-collections
And for the policy of the Dutch government: https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2021/01/29/government-redressing-an-injustice-by-returning-cultural-heritage-objects-to-their-country-of-origin

[6] Including the special municipalities.

Programme level activities

An annual online activity will also be organised at the programme level to bring the funded Consortium grant projects together for exchange of (preliminary) insights and results, as well as exchange on what those mean for broader debates surrounding collections and colonial history, such as surrounding concepts of globalization in historical context. Funded Consortium grant projects will be asked to designate one consortium member as contact person to contribute to discussions and agenda setting for these activities, to ensure they provide added value to the funded research projects. An end-of-programme conference will be organised for all Consortium grant projects, to share results with each other and with other stakeholders.

This call for proposals connects with various NWA routes, such as the route 'Living History', 'Art: research and innovation in the 21st century', and 'Sustainable development goals for inclusive global development'.

2.2 Societal impact

New knowledge and insights from scientific research can make an important contribution to solutions for societal issues of today and tomorrow. Through interaction and alignment between researchers and potential knowledge users, the chance of knowledge utilisation increases and with it the chance of societal impact. Through its policy on impact, NWO promotes the potential contribution from research to societal issues by encouraging productive interactions with societal stakeholders, both during the development and implementation of research. It does so in a manner appropriate to the aim of the funding instrument.

2.2.1 Tailor-made 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 Call, the Impact Plan approach is applied. With this, NWO facilitates the development of an integrated strategy by researchers and partners to purposefully increase the likelihood of achieving the desired societal impact. How extensive this plan needs to be will be adjusted in accordance with the grant type.

An Impact Plan approach aims to help root research in a societal demand, and help researchers and practitioners think about the impact they want to contribute to and who is needed to reach that impact. It does this by creating a Theory of Change, consisting of a problem analysis and an impact pathway. What is the societal problem, what are its underlying causes, and which of those are related to (a lack of) knowledge? What impact does that project want to contribute to on a societal level, who has to change what (in terms of policies, behaviours etc.) in order to achieve that, and which insights are needed to allow this to happen? And what assumptions are being made by the consortium about (the links between) these aspects?

A Theory of Change is never set in stone, but can be adjusted during the research as new results emerge or assumptions are tested.

NWO offers an e-learning module that can help interested parties via NWO Impact – Online workshops. For more information on the policy on impact see the website: Knowledge utilisation | NWO.

Productive interactions

Insights from research do not automatically translate into practice. It is therefore also important to think about p*roductive interactions*: exchanges between researchers and stakeholders in which they create knowledge together that is both scientifically robust and socially relevant. Examples of productive interactions are: formulation of research questions and approaches jointly with potential end-users (co-design), joint execution of research projects (co-creation), and interactive dialogue on research results. Interactions can be direct/personal, indirect or financial. To shape these, projects are asked to create a strategic activity plan. This plan should include specific activities for:

- Stakeholder engagement: Who are the relevant stakeholders to engage with according to context analysis, how are the productive interactions organised, with whom and when?;
- Communication strategy: How are engagement dialogues organised and results exchanged and translated, and whose responsibility is it?;
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning: How are results of activities monitored and evaluated, such



that assumptions can be tested and activities adjusted accordingly and whose responsibility is it?;
- Capacity strengthening: How are required capacities (of consortium partners and stakeholders) strengthened so that insights from research can be used and lead to outcomes, how is this organised and whose responsibility is it?

2.2.2 Impact Plan approach in the NWA

The Impact Plan approach is an approach to knowledge utilisation that is integrated into the research design and serves as a tool to increase the chances of impact of the proposed research. The rule is that scientific quality is a precondition for social impact. Societal impact is never solely the result of knowledge and insights gained from the research. Finally, societal impact is often only realised years after a research project has been concluded.

Online e-learning workshop

On the NWO website an e-learning workshop can be found for the Impact Plan approaches. This workshop is meant to help with the elaboration of the approach in the application. The development and realisation of the research project in collaboration with partners is a key element of the NWA. We therefore strongly advise you to jointly follow the workshop with (representatives of) the scientific and societal partners.

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

Different requirements exist for applicants per type of funding. You should ensure you meet the requirements for the type of funding you are requesting.

All applicants must inform their organization about the submission of the application, and the organisation must accept the granting conditions of this Call for proposals. This must be confirmed in the declaration of commitment, a format for which will be provided on the Call page.

3.1.1 Main applicant

Exchange grant

Researchers from organisations in countries or regions of origin of collections may submit an application if they
- have a paid position for the duration of the requested research at a public university or other public research organisation[7]; and
- have at least a Master's degree or comparable qualification.

These conditions will be assessed by NWO. NWO may require the applicant to submit the following documents, within ten working days of the deadline, to prove the stated requirements are met:
- a recent extract from the Chamber of Commerce register or equivalent;
- the deed of incorporation, articles of association or other formal document indicating the public task and the non-profit status;
- the latest available annual accounts accompanied by an auditor's statement.

If the applicant does not submit the necessary documents in time, NWO cannot accept the organisation as applicant.

Organisations mentioned in annex 7.3 of this Call and universities established in the Kingdom of the Netherlands are exempt from this check, and do not need to submit these documents.

[7] Universities and other research organisations must meet the following criteria in order to qualify:
– is a public institute and carries out its research independently;
– receives at least 50 percent public funding;
– is not-for-profit other than for the purpose of carrying out further research;
– its researchers enjoy freedom of publication in international scientific journals.

Researchers based at a museum must have a paid position at a university or research organisation that meets the listed criteria, or submit their application through a university, which will act as main applicant's organisation, or the application must be submitted on their behalf by someone who meets the criteria listed above.

Consortium grant

The applicant must be a full, associate or assistant professor, or other researcher[8] with a comparable position[9] and a PhD, with a tenured position (and therefore a paid position for an indefinite period) or a tenure track agreement at a university or a research organisation in a country of origin. The University or research organisation must meet the following cumulative criteria:
– is a public institute and carries out its research independently;
– receives at least 50 percent public funding;
– is not-for-profit other than for the purpose of carrying out further research;
– its researchers enjoy freedom of publication in international scientific journals

These conditions will be assessed by NWO prior to submission of the application. To this end, the applicant's organisation must submit the following documents by email to nwa-museumgrants@nwo.nl at least ten working days prior to the call deadline, for the first assessment round being 5 March, 2024, 14:00:00 CET:
– a recent extract from the Chamber of Commerce register or equivalent;
– the deed of incorporation, articles of association or other formal document indicating the public task and the non-profit status;
– the latest available annual accounts accompanied by an auditor's statement.

Organisations mentioned in annex 7.3 of this Call and universities founded in the Kingdom of the Netherlands are exempt from this check, and do not need to submit these documents.

*A comparable position refers to a researcher that has a demonstrable and comparable number of years of experience in carrying out scientific research and supervising other researchers as a full, associate or assistant professor.

Persons with a zero-hour employment agreement or with a contract for a limited period of time (other than a tenure track appointment) may not submit a proposal.

It could be the case that the applicant's tenure track agreement ends before the intended completion date of the project for which funding is applied for, or that before that date, the applicant's tenured contract ends due to the applicant reaching retirement age. In that case, the applicant needs to include a statement from their employer in which the organisation concerned guarantees that the project and all project members for whom funding has been requested will receive adequate supervision for the full duration of the project.

3.1.2 Co-applicants

For both grant types, the application must include at least one co-applicant, and at least one co-applicant should be based at a research institute in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Co-applicants based outside the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Co-applicants must be a full, associate or assistant professor, or other researcher[10] with a comparable position[11], with a tenured position (and therefore a paid position for an indefinite period) or a tenure track agreement at a university or an organisation in a country of origin that meets the following cumulative criteria:
– is a public institute and carries out its research independently;
– receives at least 50 percent public funding;

[8] Such as the position of lector, which applies to researchers from a university of applied sciences (hogeschool).
[9] A comparable position refers to a researcher that has a demonstrable and comparable number of years of experience in carrying out scientific research and supervising other researchers as a full, associate or assistant professor. A lector or senior researcher employed by a university of applied sciences (hogeschool), a TO2 institute or a museum must be able to demonstrate three or more years of research experience in order to act as a co-applicant.
[10] Such as the position of lector, which applies to researchers from a university of applied sciences (hogeschool).
[11] A comparable position refers to a researcher that has a demonstrable and comparable number of years of experience in carrying out scientific research and supervising other researchers as a full, associate or assistant professor. A lector or senior researcher employed by a university of applied sciences (hogeschool), a TO2 institute or a museum must be able to demonstrate three or more years of research experience in order to act as a co-applicant.

– is not-for-profit other than for the purpose of carrying out further research;
– its researchers enjoy freedom of publication in international scientific journals

These conditions will be assessed by NWO prior to submission of the application. To this end, the applicant's organisation must submit the following documents by email to nwa-museumgrants@nwo.nl at least ten working days prior to the call deadline, being 5 March, 2024, 14:00:00 CET:
– a recent extract from the Chamber of Commerce register;
– the deed of incorporation, articles of association or other formal document indicating the public task and the non-profit status;
– the latest available annual accounts accompanied by an auditor's statement.

Organisations mentioned in annex 7.3 of this Call are exempt from this check, and do not need to submit these documents.

*A comparable position refers to a researcher that has a demonstrable and comparable number of years of experience in carrying out scientific research and supervising other researchers as a full, associate or assistant professor.

Persons with a zero-hour employment agreement or with a contract for a limited period of time (other than a tenure track appointment) may not submit a proposal.

It could be the case that the main applicant's tenure track agreement ends before the intended completion date of the project for which funding is applied for, or that before that date, the applicant's tenured contract ends due to the applicant reaching retirement age. In that case, the applicant needs to include a statement from their employer in which the organisation concerned guarantees that the project and all project members for whom funding has been requested will receive adequate supervision for the full duration of the project.

Co-applicants based at an organisation in the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Co-applicants must be a full, associate or assistant professor, or other researcher[12] with a comparable position[13], with a tenured position (and therefore a paid position for an indefinite period) or a tenure track agreement at one of the following organisations:
– universities located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
– university medical centres;
– institutes affiliated with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) or NWO;
– Naturalis Biodiversity Center;
– Universities of applied sciences as referred to in Article 1.8 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (WHW);
– Or an organisation that meets the following cumulative criteria:
  – is based in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
  – is a public institute and carries out its research independently;
  – receives at least 50 percent public funding;
  – is not-for-profit other than for the purpose of carrying out further research;
  – its researchers enjoy freedom of publication in international scientific journals

  Please note: for this last category, these conditions will be assessed by NWO prior to submission of the application. To this end, the co-applicant's organisation must submit the following documents by email to nwa-museumgrants@nwo.nl at least ten working days prior to the call deadline, for the first round being 5 March 2024, 14:00:00 CET:
  – a recent extract from the Chamber of Commerce register;
  – the deed of incorporation, articles of association or other formal document indicating the public task and the non-profit status;
  – the latest available annual accounts accompanied by an auditor's statement.

*A comparable position refers to a researcher that has a demonstrable and comparable number of years of experience in carrying out scientific research and supervising other researchers as a full, associate or assistant professor.

[12] Such as the position of lector, which applies to researchers from a university of applied sciences (hogeschool).
[13] A comparable position refers to a researcher that has a demonstrable and comparable number of years of experience in carrying out scientific research and supervising other researchers as a full, associate or assistant professor. A lector or senior researcher employed by a university of applied sciences (hogeschool), a TO2 institute or a museum must be able to demonstrate three or more years of research experience in order to act as a co-applicant.

Persons with a zero-hour employment agreement or with a contract for a limited period of time (other than a tenure track appointment) may not act as a co-applicant.

It could be the case that the co-applicant's tenure track agreement ends before the intended completion date of the project for which funding is applied for, or that before that date, the applicant's tenured contract ends due to the applicant reaching retirement age. In that case, the applicant needs to include a statement from their employer in which the organisation concerned guarantees that the project and all project members for whom funding has been requested will receive adequate supervision for the full duration of the project.

3.1.3 Cooperation partners

Cooperation partners are mandatory in this call for proposals. A cooperation partner is a party that is closely involved in conducting the research and/or in knowledge utilisation but that is not a main applicant nor co-applicant and does not contribute co-funding to the proposal. For this call, you should include at least the museum where the collection you will study is housed as cooperation partner. The exception is if the collection is housed at a university; in that case the university may be listed as co-applicant, and you should include another cooperation partner. This must be indicated clearly in the application form.

Please note: no funding may be requested for salary or research costs for personnel of organisations that participate as a cooperation partner in the consortium. However, it is possible to remunerate costs by hiring in these organisations as third parties via the modules 'material costs', 'knowledge utilisation' or 'project management' (see Section 3.2 and Annex 7.1).

3.1.4 Co-funders

Co-funding is not compulsory within this call. Co-funders are organisations that participate in the consortium and contribute to the project in cash and/or in kind. Co-funders do not receive any funding from NWO. The conditions regarding co-funding are specified in Annex 7.4 to this call.

3.1.5 Main and co-applicants

The main applicant submits the full proposal via the NWO web application ISAAC. They are responsible for informing the rest of the consortium of any feedback received with regard to the consideration of the application.

The assessment process will take place via ISAAC. The main applicant is responsible for sharing the information regarding the rebuttal and any further information with the rest of the consortium.

The main applicant will be informed of the grant decision by NWO. They are responsible for informing the rest of the consortium of this decision.

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the main applicant will become the project leaders and point of contact for NWO. The (knowledge) institutions of the main applicant will be the main beneficiary and will take responsibility for the project secretariat, the day-to-day management and all financial affairs of the research project, including the final financial accountability towards their respective funding agencies.

Co-applicants and collaboration partners have an active role in realising the project. The (sub) project leaders and beneficiary/beneficiaries are jointly responsible for realising the entire project.

3.2 What can be applied for

For Exchange projects, please use the budget lines listed. For Consortium projects, the budget modules (including the maximum amount) available for this Call for proposals are listed in the table below.
Apply only for funding that is vital to realise the project. A more detailed explanation of the budget modules can be found in the annexe to this Call for proposals (7.1). For both types of funding, funds may be requested to fund research of the Dutch co-applicant(s) in the country of the main applicant. These funds may compensate for travel and research costs and should not exceed 10% of the total grant sum applied for. Please note that for all personnel costs for personnel outside the Netherlands, the local rates are reimbursed. These rates are capped at a maximum equal to the UNL rates corrected by the NWO Country correction coefficients (CCC) table, see Money Follows Cooperation | NWO

Research exchange grants

For Exchange grants, a maximum of € 35,000 can be applied for. The maximum duration of the proposed research is twelve months. Funds can be requested for a living allowance, travel, and research costs, for a maximum of twelve months. Living allowance costs should be requested with a maximum in accordance with the UNL salary tables. The budget modules do not need to be followed for this grant. Budgets should be constructed with the budget lines:
– Material costs
– Travel- and living allowance
– Knowledge utilisation

Consortium grants

For Consortium grants, a maximum of € 350,000 can be applied for. The maximum duration of the proposed research is 60 months. PhD students appointed at a university in a country of origin should be remunerated according to the UNL salary tables for the time that they are based in the Netherlands. While they are based in the country of origin, the local rates are reimbursed. These rates are capped at a maximum equal to the UNL rates corrected by the NWO Country correction coefficients (CCC) table, see https://www.nwo.nl/en/money-follows-cooperation.
Applicants should also budget for an accountants' declaration/audit report, which is necessary for the financial reporting at the end of the project.

Budget module	Maximum amount
PhD student	No maximum number of positions, according to UNL rates[1]
Engineering Doctorate degree (EngD)	No maximum number of positions, in combination with PhD student(s) and or postdoc(s), according to UNL rates[1]
Postdoc	No maximum number of positions, according to UNL rates[1]
Non-scientific staff (NSS) at universities	€ 100,000, non-scientific staff at (NSS) universities[1]; in combination with PhD student(s) and or postdoc(s)[1]
Other Scientific personnel (OSS) at universities	€ 100,000, in combination with PhD student and/or postdoc[1]
Research leave	Max 10% of applied for budget, according to UNL rates[1]
Personnel at universities of applied sciences, educational institutions and other organisations	No maximum number of positions, in accordance with the applicable rate at the time of the granting decision 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 I NWO).[1]
Material costs *Including costs for an accountant's declaration (external audit report)*	€ 15,000 per year per FTE scientific position *Maximum € 5.000 for audit report*
Investments (up to € 150,000)	Maximum € 150,000
Knowledge utilisation	Up to 20% of the funding applied for
Internationalisation	Up to 20% of the funding applied for
Project management	Maximum 5% of the total budget applied for from NWO

[1] For personnel appointed outside the Netherlands, the local rates are reimbursed. These rates are capped at a maximum equal to the UNL rates corrected by the NWO Country correction coefficients (CCC) table, see Money Follows Cooperation I NWO. For personnel on Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, the HOT-rates apply, see Salary tables I NWO.

3.3 Preparing an application

Matchmaking

NWO will organise matchmaking meetings prior to the deadline. These will be opened broadly, but will be especially aimed at Consortium applications. The dates for the matchmaking will be posted on the funding page of this Call for proposals.

Applicants are invited to announce their research initiatives online on the programme's web page. This may enable potential partners to contact an applicant and possibly join a consortium or it may give reason to merge certain research initiatives. It is not mandatory to submit a research initiative to participate. Deadlines for submitting research initiatives will be announced on the NWO website.
The steps involved in writing a research initiative are:
– download the research initiative form from the NWO web application ISAAC or from the NWO web page (on the grant page of the funding instrument concerned);
– complete the research initiative form;
– save the research initiative form as a PDF file and email it to NWO (nwa-museumgrants@nwo.nl);
– fill in the requested information online in ISAAC.

NWO will post the submitted research initiatives on the programme web page. Virtual matchmaking events will be organised, in which the call and its conditions will be further explained and potential applicants can meet each other.

The steps involved in joining the virtual matchmaking event are:
– The applicants of registered research initiatives will be invited to a virtual matchmaking event;
– Other interested parties can register through the NWO website;
– Partners interested in joining a specific research initiative should make themselves known through e-mailing the applicant or NWO (nwa-museumgrants@nwo.nl).

Writing your application

The steps involved in writing your application are:
– download the application form from the NWO web application ISAAC or from the NWO web page (on the grant page of the funding instrument concerned);
– complete the application form;
– save the application form in ISAAC as a PDF file and upload it with any compulsory annexes;
– fill in the requested information online in ISAAC.

Compulsory annexes:
– budget (as Excel file)
– declarations of commitment of organisations of main applicants, co-applicants, and cooperation partners (as PDF; see section 3.1.2);
– letter guaranteeing the continuity of the project supervision (as PDF; compulsory if applicable, see paragraph 3.1).

Optional annexe:
– Declaration of co-funding (if applicable, as PDF)

NWO has made a template available. The annexe should be drawn up according to the NWO template. Annexes must be uploaded in ISAAC separately from the application. All of the annexes, except for the budget, must be submitted as PDF files (without encryption). The budget must be submitted in ISAAC as an Excel file. Any annexes other than those above-mentioned are not permitted.

You must write your application in English.

An application can only be submitted via the web application ISAAC. Applications that are not submitted via ISAAC will not be taken into consideration.
As the main applicant, you are required to submit the application via your own personal ISAAC account. It is recommended to start completing information in ISAAC five working days before the deadline.

It is important to start with your application in ISAAC on time:
– if you do not yet have an ISAAC account, then you should create this on time to prevent any possible registration problems;
– any new organisations must also be added to ISAAC by NWO;
– you also need to submit other details online.

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

Does a main and/or co-applicant work at an organisation that is not included in the ISAAC database? You can report this via relatiebeheer@nwo.nl so that the organisation can be added. This will take several days. It is therefore important that you report this at least one week before the deadline.

The applicant must inform the organisation where she/he works about the submission of the application, and the organisation must accept the granting conditions of this Call for proposals. This must be confirmed in the letter of commitment.

Help with writing your application

Requirements and expectations around applications may be different in The Netherlands than in countries of applicants. Researchers may also not be familiar with aspects like NWO's submission system or the budget modules. To help with this, NWO will organise several webinars that focus specifically on the administrative aspects, and organise question hours where consortia can ask

questions and advice about completing the necessary forms.

The dates and times for these webinars and question hours will be listed on the funding page. All times will be in CET unless otherwise specified.

3.4 Conditions for submission

3.4.1 Formal conditions for submission

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

- the main applicant, co-applicant(s) and cooperation partner(s) meet the conditions stated in Section 3.1;
- the application complies with 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 application is submitted via the main applicant's ISAAC account;
- the application is received before the deadline;
- the application is written in English;
- the application budget is drawn up in accordance with the conditions for this Call for proposals;
- the proposed project has a duration of at most 12 months for Exchange applications, or 60 months in case of Consortium grant applications;
- all of the required annexes are, after a possible request by NWO to make administrative additions or changes, complete and filled out according to the instructions.

3.5 Conditions on granting

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

3.5.1 Compliance with the National Knowledge Security Guidelines

World-class science can benefit from international cooperation. The National Knowledge Security Guidelines (hereafter: the Guidelines) help 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 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 will often already need to be taken, during 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 and the committee can issue advice with respect to the data management section.

3.5.3 Scientific integrity

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

3.5.4 Ethical statement or licence

The applicant is responsible for determining whether an ethical statement or licence is needed for the realisation of the proposed project. The applicant should ensure that this is obtained from the relevant institution or ethics committee on time. 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.

Applicants have to act in accordance with the nationally and internationally accepted standards of scientific activity, as set out in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity[14] and the Trust Code – Global Code of Conduct for Equitable Research Partnerships[15]. In case research is conducted in fragile contexts, it is advised to consult the Security Guidelines for field research in complex, remote and hazardous places[16].

For complex questions related to ethical issues, NWO reserves the right to consult an external adviser. If after consulting the applicant, NWO is of the opinion that an ethical assessment is needed for the application, then the applicant is obliged to take the necessary measures for such an assessment. If the applicants fail to obtain the necessary statement of approval from an ethics review committee then the grant shall be immediately withdrawn.

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 Co-funding

Co-funding is not compulsory within this call. However, co-funders may be included in the project proposal. A distinction is made between in cash co-funding, which serves to cover the budget for the project activities described in the proposal, and in kind co-funding, which can consist of the use of resources from the organisations involved. Conditions for co-funding are specified in Annex 7.4 to this call.

[14] https://www.nwo.nl/en/netherlands-code-conduct-research-integrity
[15] https://www.globalcodeofconduct.org/
[16] https://ihsa.info/security-guidelines-for-field-research-in-complex-remote-and-hazardous-places/

Letter of support

In a letter of support, the co-funder expresses expresses both substantive and financial support for the project and confirms the pledged co-funding. In the letter of support, the co-funder also states whether the support pledged originates from private sources. The letters of support from all co-funders are mandatory annexes to the full proposal. The letter of support must be signed by an authorised signatory of the co-funder and be printed on the co-funder's headed paper. NWO will provide a mandatory template for the letter of support. Letters of support in which co-funding is pledged are without conditions and may not contain any resolutive provisions.
In the case of funding being awarded, the co-funder should state their contribution(s) in the project agreement (amongst other things for invoicing in the case of in cash co-funding). In this agreement, further agreements are also made between the co-funder(s) and the applicant(s) (see Section 5.1.3).

3.5.7 Declarations of commitment of cooperation partners

Cooperation partners (see Section 3.1.3) provide a declaration of commitment in which they state what their reason is to act as a cooperation partner in the research and what their role within the project shall be. This is not a letter of support for co-funding, as cooperation partners do not contribute co-funding to the project. NWO will make a standard letter available on the funding page.

Please note: the organisations of main applicants and co-applicants should also submit a letter of commitment. Please use the standard format.

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

4.1 The San Francisco Declaration (DORA)

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

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

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

NWO requests committee members 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 proposal;
– admissibility of the proposal;

– preliminary assessment by committee;
– rebuttal;
– assessment committee meeting;
– decision-making.

An external, independent assessment committee will be installed for this Call for proposals, consisting of representatives from research and practice with knowledge of the field.
The task of the assessment committee is to assess the applications and the relevant documents submitted, in conjunction with each other and on each application's own merit, on the basis of the selection criteria given in this Call for proposals.

Due to the expertise present in the assessment committee, NWO has decided for the assessment of the applications to make use of the possibility given in Article 2.2.4, paragraph 2, of the NWO Grant Rules 2017, to assess all applications without involving referees.

4.2.1 Submission of a proposal

For the submission of the proposal, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO website. When you write your proposal, you must adhere to the questions stated on this form and the procedure given in the explanatory notes. You must also adhere to the conditions for the maximum number of words and pages.
Your complete application form must have been received before the deadline via ISAAC (see paragraph 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.

4.2.2 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 two opportunities to make the corrections. You will be given five working days for the first correction round, and two working days for the second correction round.

4.2.3 Pre-advice assessment committee

After this, your proposal will be submitted for comments to several members of the assessment committee (the pre-advisers). The pre-advisers will provide a written substantive and reasoned response to the proposal. They will formulate these comments based on the substantive assessment criteria (see Section 4.3.1). They will formulate questions on your proposal, which will be shared with you as applicant.

4.2.4 Rebuttal

The main applicant subsequently receives the committee's questions, and should share these with the rest of the consortium. You then have the opportunity to formulate a rebuttal (response). You will be given ten working days to submit your consortium's rebuttal via ISAAC. If your consortium decides 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. If NWO receives your rebuttal after the deadline, then it will not be included in the rest of the procedure.

4.2.5 Meeting of the assessment committee

The committee will make its own assessment based on the available material. The committee will consider the application, preadvices, and rebuttal, and compare the arguments of the pre-advisers (also among each other) and examine whether the rebuttal contains a well-formulated response to the questions from the committee.

The assessment committee establishes a single ranking for each type of grant. Subsequently, the highest ranking eligble proposal per country which meets the minimum funding requirements will be recommended for funding. Lastly, the remaining eligible proposals, regardless of the country, which meet the minimum funding requirements, will be recommended for funding according to the ranking established by the assessment committee until no more funding is available.

Following the discussion, the committee draws up a written recommendation addressed to NWO Executive Board about the quality and rankings of the proposals. This recommendation is based on the assessment criteria and geographic spread. The proposal must receive an overall qualification of at least "good" to be eligible for funding. The proposal must also receive at least the qualification "good" for each of the individual assessment criteria.
For more information about the qualifications, see Applying for funding, how does it work? | NWO.

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

4.2.6 Ex aequo

NWO understands ex aequo to be a situation in which two or more proposals based on their weighted score cannot be distinguished from each other. An ex aequo situation is relevant with respect to the limits of the available budget or the selection limits. 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 to two decimal points. The reference score is the score of the lowest-ranked proposal within the limits of the available budget or the selection limit. All proposals with a score that is within 0.05 or less of the reference score will be considered. In this way, the proposals that are equal within a score of 0.1 will be selected. If an ex aequo situation occurs at the limits of available budget or the selection limit, then the assessment committee will take into account the geographical spread of the proposals. If the ex aequo situation is not resolved with this, then, in order to stimulate the number of women in science, in the case of Exchange grants preference will be given to the female applicant, in the case of Consortium grants the proposal with the highest score for the criterion 'Quality of the research proposal' will end highest. If the proposals subsequently still remain in a tie, the assessment committee, with the help of an (anonymous) majority vote, will determine the ranking (in accordance with Article 2.2.7, third paragraph, sub a, part iv of the NWO Grant Rules 2017). If this vote provides no resolution either, or if it is not desirable to vote, the ex aequo situation will be send on to the decision-making body.

4.2.7 Decision-making

Finally, the NWO Executive Board 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.

4.2.8 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.

October–March	Webinars and matchmakings (dates on programme webpage)
5 March 2024 14:00:00 CET	Deadline submission of documents for eligibility check of main applicant institution
Proposals	
19 March 2024, 14:00:00 CET	Deadline for full proposals first assessment round
April	Pre-advisers consulted
Beginning–mid May	Applicants can submit a rebuttal
Early June	Assessment committee meeting
End of June	Decision by the board

4.3 Criteria

4.3.1 Substantive assessment criteria

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

Research exchange grants

1. Quality of the research proposal
   a. Degree to which the proposal relates to the objective of the scheme (section 2.1).
   b. Clarity of the research proposal
   c. Suitability of the approach and methodology
   d. Feasibility and adequacy of the budget.
2. Quality of the consortium
   a. Suitability of the applicant's expertise and experience for the proposed research, including complementarity with previous or ongoing projects.
   b. Degree to which all disciplines necessary to address the problem appropriately are included in the consortium and their roles are described convincingly.
   c. Degree to which it is convincingly demonstrated that the parties from the knowledge chain (fundamental, applied and practice-oriented) necessary in order to address the problem appropriately, are included or linked to the consortium and their roles are described convincingly.
   d. Degree to which cooperation partners necessary for the project are included in or linked to the consortium, and their roles are described convincingly.
3. Societal impact
   a. Degree to which the proposal convincingly substantiates links to societal discussions and agendas;
   b. Degree to which the proposal convincingly shows how insights from research will be used or implemented, and by whom;
   c. Appropriateness of strategic activity plan.

Consortium grants

All criteria account for one-third of the proposal's final score.

4. Quality of the research proposal
   a. Degree to which the proposal relates to the objective of the scheme (section 2.1).
   b. Clarity of the research proposal
   c. Suitability of the approach and methodology
   d. Feasibility and adequacy of the budget.
5. Quality of the consortium
   a. Degree to which all disciplines necessary to address the problem appropriately are included in the consortium and their roles are described convincingly.
   b. Knowledge-chain-wide: the degree to which it is convincingly demonstrated that the parties from the knowledge chain (fundamental, applied and practice-oriented) necessary in order to address the problem appropriately, are included in the consortium and their roles are described convincingly.
   c. Societal involvement: the degree to which cooperation partners necessary for the project are included in the consortium, and their roles are described convincingly.
   d. Suitability of the applicants' expertise and experience for the proposed research, including complementarity with previous or ongoing projects.
   e. The degree to which the consortium is coherent and complementary, and has a logical, equitable and clearly designed organisational structure.
6. Societal impact
   a. Degree to which the proposal convincingly substantiates links to societal discussions.
   b. Quality of the impact plan:
      i. a clear problem statement, analysis and vision on the desired societal impact;
      ii. a logical impact pathway presenting plausible pathways to societal impact;
      iii. appropriate and feasible strategic activity planning;
      iv. relevant stakeholder involvement in the development and execution of the impact plan.

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 Content monitoring

NWO will assume responsibility for the substantive monitoring of the proposals awarded funding. For the duration of the programme, NWO will organise programme meetings. All projects within this call will be invited to participate.

Soundingboard committee

To help with the monitoring, evaluation and learning trajectory of this programme as a whole, a sounding board committee, consisting of members of stakeholders from the Netherlands and countries of origin of colonial collections, will be established. This committee can be a sounding board for awarded researchers and give advice if requested, for example on knowledge transfer and knowledge utilisation, as well as advise NWO about the programme. Regular meetings with the sounding board committee will be organised, which awarded researchers can attend when they are in the Netherlands. Whenever desirable, additional experts may also be invited.

5.2 Accountability and project completion

Accountability during the project

During the project, the main applicant is responsible for reports on the project's progress. With a view to monitoring project progress, NWO may request interim-reports on a project's content and finances, as well as an account of co-funding provided. More information about this will follow in the grant award letter.

Project closure

Upon completion of a project, Exchange projects will be requested to submit a final report on the content of the project. Consortium grant projects will submit final reports on both the content and finances of the project. The final amount of funding (and co-funding) for Consortium grant projects will be determined after these final reports have been approved, which includes an external audit.

5.3 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 datamanagement | NWO.

5.4 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.

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

The model agreement that NWO makes available must 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.

5.5 Socially responsible licensing

The knowledge that emerges from the project could be suitable for use in society. When agreements about licensing and/or the transfer of research results developed under this Call for proposals are made, due consideration should be given to the ten principles for socially responsible licensing, as

stated in the NFU factsheet "19.4511_Ten_principles_for_Socially_Responsible_Licensing_v19-12-2019.pdf (nfu.nl)".

5.6 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 specific questions about this Call for proposals, please contact:

Mr. Daan Olthoff
+31 (0)70 349 4300

Ms. Maaike Spiekerman
+31 (0)70 349 4094

Nwa-museumgrants@nwo.nl

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 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.

6.2 Other information

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 Annexes:

7.1 Explanation of budget modules

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.

- For university appointments, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the UNL salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded (Salary tables | NWO).
- For university medical centres, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the NFU salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded (Salary tables | NWO).
- For personnel from universities of applied sciences, educational institutions and 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 (rijksdienstcn.com).

NWO will apply a mandatory one-off indexing of the salary[17] costs with respect to:

- UNL rates: for proposals submitted before 1 July and that are awarded funding after 1 July;
- NFU rates: for proposals submitted before 1 August that are awarded funding after 1 August;
- HOT rates: for proposals submitted before 1 January that are awarded funding after 1 January.

The mandatory one-off indexing has no influence on the level of the grant ceiling or on the maximum amount of the grant awarded per proposal. The level of the grant ceiling and the maximum amount of the grant awarded will remain unchanged during the assessment procedure. The mandatory one-off indexing will be applied after the decision-making about awarding or rejecting proposals has been completed.

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

For personnel outside the Netherlands, the local rates are reimbursed. These rates are capped at a maximum equal to the UNL rates corrected by the NWO Country correction coefficients (CCC) table, see Money Follows Cooperation | NWO. For personnel on Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten, the HOT-rates apply, see Salary tables | NWO.

The rates for all budget modules are incorporated in the budget template that accompanies the application form. For the budget modules "PhD student", "EngD" and "Postdoc", a one-off individual bench fee of € 5,000 is added on top of the salary costs to encourage the scientific career of the project employee funded by NWO. Remunerations for PhD scholarship students ('bursalen') at a Dutch university are not eligible for funding from NWO.
The available budget modules are explained below.

PhD student (including MD-PhD student)

A PhD student is appointed for 1.0 FTE for a duration of 48 months. The equivalent of 48 full-time months, for example an appointment of 60 months for 0.8 FTE, is also possible. If a different duration of appointment is considered necessary for the realisation of the proposed research, then the standard time can be deviated from as long as this is properly justified. However, the duration of appointment must always be at least 48 months.

[17] 1 July, 1 August and 1 January are the dates on which the relevant rates are generally adjusted, in the case of indexation the date of actual annual adjustment will be taken into account.

PhD students appointed outside The Netherlands are reimbursed according to in-country regulations and up to a maximum equal to the UNL rates corrected by the NWO Country correction coefficients (CCC) table (see Money Follows Cooperation | NWO). However, a PhD student appointed outside the Netherlands who will spend a longer period of time in the Netherlands should be remunerated according to the UNL salary tables for the duration of their stay in the Netherlands. This should be specified in the budget. During the stay in the Netherlands the PhD student should be formally registered at the research institution in the Netherlands as a guest researcher or external PhD candidate, with conditions listed below.

Due to the nature of the research of this Call, it is foreseeable that a PhD student will spend a significant amount of time both at a research institution in the Netherlands and in the country of origin of a museum collection. The following additional conditions therefore apply:

a. PhD students are guaranteed the support and services foreseen for guest researchers or external PhD candidates and are maximally engaged in relevant supporting initiatives (e.g. Graduate School training);
b. Both research organisations in the Netherlands and in the country of origin of a museum collection commit to effective and fluent support, including logistical support, and supervision of the project and the student.

Fulfilment of these conditions has to be explained upon funding as part of the starting documents

Engineering Doctorate degree (EngD)

Funding for the appointment of an EngD can only be applied for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for.
The appointment for a EngD position is a maximum of 1.0 FTE for 24 months. The EngD trainee is employed by the institution applying for funding and can realise activities that are part of the research at an industrial partner for a specified time. If the research proposal is awarded funding, then an agreement must be concluded with the industrial partner(s) concerned. The underlying "Technological Designer Programme" must be described in the proposal.

Postdoc

The size and duration of the postdoc appointment is at least 6 full months and at most 48 full-time months. The size and duration of the appointment is at the applicant's discretion, but the appointment is always for at least 0.5 FTE or for a duration of at least 12 months. The product of FTE x duration of appointment should always be a minimum of 6 full-time months.
The material budget is available to cover the costs of a more limited appointment of a postdoc.

Non-scientific staff (NSS) at universities

Funding for the appointment of NSS required to realise the research project can only be applied for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for. A maximum of € 100,000 can be requested for NSS. This includes personnel such as student assistants, programmers, technical assistants or analysts. Depending on the level of the position, the appropriate salary table for NSS at MBO, HBO or university level applies.
The size of the appointment is at least 6 full-time months and at most 48 full-time months. The size and duration of the appointment is at the applicant's discretion, but the appointment is always for at least 0.5 FTE or for a duration of at least 12 months. The product of FTE x duration of appointment should always be a minimum of 6 full-time months.
The material budget is available to cover the costs of a more limited appointment of NSS.

Other Scientific personnel (OSS) at universities

Budget for OSS such as AIOS (doctor training to be a specialist), ANIOS (doctor not training to be a specialist), scientific programmers or employees with a master's degree can only be applied for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for. For this category, a maximum of € 100,000 can be applied for.ww
The size of the appointment is at least 6 full-time months and at most 48 full-time months. The size and duration of the appointment is at the applicant's discretion, but the appointment is always for at least 0.5 FTE or for a duration of at least 12 months. The product of FTE x duration of appointment should always be a minimum of 6 full-time months.

Research leave for applicants

With this budget module, funding can be requested for the costs of the research leave of the main

and/or co-applicant(s). The employer of the applicant(s) can use this to cover the costs of relinquishing him or her from educational, supervisory, administrative or management tasks (not research tasks). The time that is released through the research leave grant can only be used by the applicant(s) for activities in the context of the project. The proposal must describe which activities in the context of the project the applicant(s) will carry out in the time relinquished.
The maximum amount of research leave that can be applied for is 10% of the grant applied for. NWO funds the research leave in accordance with the salary tables for a senior scientific employee (scale 11) at the time the grant is awarded (Salary tables | NWO).

Personnel universities of applied sciences, educational institutions and other organisations

With the exception of personnel that fall under UNL or NFU rates, costs for the funding of personnel employed at a university of applied sciences, educational institution or at other organisations will be remunerated in accordance with 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 calculation you should use the number of productive hours stated in the valid volume of the *Handleiding Overheidstarieven*.

Explanation of budget module Material

For each FTE scientific position (PhD student, postdoc, EngD) applied for, a maximum of € 15,000 material budget can be applied for per year of the appointment. Material budget for smaller appointments can be applied for on a proportionate basis and will be made available by NWO accordingly. Per 0.2 FTE scientific employee applied for at a university of applied sciences, educational institution or other organisation (with a minimum appointment of 0.2 FTE for 12 months) a maximum of € 15,000 in material budget can be applied for per year.

The applicant is responsible for distributing the total amount of material budget across the NWO-funded personnel positions. The material budget that can be applied for is specified according to the three categories below:

Project-related goods/services

- consumables (e.g. glassware, chemicals, cryogenic fluids, etc.);
- measurement and calculation time (e.g. access to supercomputer, etc.);
- costs for acquiring or using data collections (e.g. from Statistics Netherlands [CBS]), for which the total amount may not be more than € 25,000 per proposal;
- 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.);
- personnel costs for the appointment of a postdoc and/or non-scientific personnel for a smaller appointment size than those offered in the personnel budget modules.

Travel and accommodation costs for the personnel positions applied for

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

Implementation costs

- national symposium/conference/workshop organised by the project researchers;
- costs for Open Access publishing (solely in full gold Open Access journals, registered in the "Directory of Open Access Journals" https://doaj.org/);
- costs data management;
- costs involved in applying for licences (e.g. for animal experiments);
- audit costs (only for institutions that are not subject to the education accountants protocol of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science), maximum € 5,000 per proposal; for projects with a duration of three years or less, a maximum of € 2,500 per proposal applies.

Costs that cannot be applied for are:
- basic facilities within the institution (e.g. laptops, office furniture, etc.);
- maintenance and insurance costs.

If the maximum amount is not sufficient for realising the research, then this amount may be deviated

from, if a clear justification is provided in the proposal.

Citizen science

Involving citizens (citizen science) can contribute to the quality of the research. With the help of citizens, data and insights can be acquired that would not otherwise be available for research. NWO also funds citizen science. Applicants can use the budget module "material, project-related goods/ services, work by third parties" to request a remuneration for the involvement of citizens in projects. The budget module offers a possibility and is not a requirement. Applicants are free to decide whether it is worthwhile involving citizens in the project and what exactly they use this budget for (for example, reimbursement of expenses of citizens, skills training for citizens or technical devices for the participating citizen).

Explanation of budget module Knowledge utilisation

The aim of this budget module is to facilitate the use of the knowledge that emerges from the research.[18] Knowledge utilisation takes many different forms in different scientific fields. Examples include producing a teaching package, conducting a feasibility study into potential applications, filing a patent application, or employing a business developer.

It is up to the consortium to specify in the proposal which costs are required.

In the context of the Impact Plan, consortia are expected to earmark budget for the following activities:
- Specific activities to promote knowledge utilisation towards intermediary or other parties not funded in the projects, e.g. knowledge platforms. These activities include joint learning, training and communication activities.
- Stakeholder engagement: activities organised by the consortium aimed at involving stakeholders, such as consultation workshops, expert meetings, round table meetings, etc. Communication: activities organised by the consortium such as national and international learning events, development of videos, blogs, newsletters and other media communications. This may include the hiring in of communication expertise.
- Skills development: Activities aimed at developing skills beyond the levels of individual students, PhD students or postdocs, such as developing courses for stakeholders or Master's students.
- Monitoring and evaluation moments in which knowledge utilisation is discussed, such as interim-evaluations and supervisory committee meetings (see Section 5.1.1).

Travel expenses for co-funding partners are explicitly not eligible for funding in this module. However, travel expenses for cooperation partners and external parties in the social practice of the project are eligible. The budget applied for should be adequately specified in the proposal.

NB: costs budgeted by the applicant for knowledge utilisation should be proportionate to the applicant's plan for impact.

Explanation of budget module Internationalisation

A maximum of 20% of the budget can be requested under this call as funding for internationalisation activities. The following conditions apply:

The budget for internationalisation is intended to encourage international collaboration. The amount requested must be specified. If the maximum amount is not sufficient for realising the research, then it may be deviated from if a clear justification is provided in the proposal.

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.

Explanation of budget module Project management

The module project management provides a possibility to request a budget for project management

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

that is at most 5% of the total budget requested from NWO. This budget can only be used for activities that solely support the project for which the grant is requested. The applicant must satisfactorily justify this budget.

Amongst other things, project management is understood to mean the optimal shaping of the organisation structure of the consortium, support of the consortium and the main applicant, monitoring coherency, progress and unity of the project, and alignment between the sub-projects within the project. This task may also be realised by external parties insofar as the expertise is not available at the knowledge institution of the main and/or co-applicant(s). During the tendering procedure for the selection of a third party, knowledge institutions should take into account the procurement rules of the government and, where necessary, follow a European tendering procedure. The activities of the main applicant and co-applicants in the context of the project (management) may not be funded from this budget module.

The budget to be requested for project management can consist of material costs, realisation costs and personnel costs. For personnel costs a maximum rate of 119 euros per hour may be used. The hourly rate of with the standard productive number of hours used by the organisation. The cost-covering rate includes:
- (average) Gross salary for the post of the employee who will contribute to the project (based on the collective labour agreement scale of the employee concerned);
- Holiday allowance and 13th month (if applicable in the relevant collective labour agreement) in proportion to the use in fte;
- Social security contributions;
- Pension costs;
- Overheads.

7.2 Public Knowledge Organisations in the Netherlands

The public knowledge organisations listed below may act as co-applicants in a consortium. The check mentioned in Section 3.1.1 is not required for these organisations.

National knowledge institutes (https://www.knmi.nl/kennis-en-datacentrum/project/rki):
7. CBS – Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Statistics Netherlands)
8. CPB – Centraal Planbureau (Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)
9. KiM – Kennisinstituut voor Mobiliteitsbeleid (Netherlands Institute for Transport Policy Analysis)
10. KNMI – Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut (Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute)
11. NFI – Nederlands Forensisch Instituut (Netherlands Forensic Institute)
12. PBL – Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving (Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency)
13. RCE – Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands)
14. RIVM – Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment)
15. RKD – Nederlands Instituut voor Kunstgeschiedenis (Netherlands Institute for Art History)
16. RWS – Rijkswaterstaat (Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management)
17. SCP – Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau (Netherlands Institute for Social Research)
18. WODC – Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek- en Documentatiecentrum (Research and Documentation Centre)

Other public knowledge institutions (from: https://www.rathenau.nl/en/kennisgedreven-democratie/public-knowledge-organisations-netherlands):
19. Boekman Foundation – Institute for arts, culture and related policy
20. Clingendael – Netherlands Institute of International Relations
21. Geonovum – Knowledge organisation for geographic information
22. Movisie – Centre for social issues
23. Mulier Institute – Centre for sports research
24. (N) IFV – (Netherlands) Institute for Safety
25. NIVEL – Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research
26. NJi – Nederlands Jeugdinstituut (Netherlands Youth Institute)
27. Police Academy – Training, knowledge and research for the Dutch National Police
28. SWOON-NLDA – Stichting Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs en Onderzoek Nederlandse Defensieacademie (foundation for scientific education and research of the Netherlands Defence Academy)
29. SWOV – Stichting Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Verkeersveiligheid (Institute for Road Safety Research)
30. Trimbos Institute – Institute for mental health, drug abuse and addiction
31. VeiligheidNL – Organisation to promote safe behaviour
32. Vilans – Research into long-term care

7.3 Knowledge institutions that do not need to be verified

The following knowledge institutions from outside the Kingdom of the Netherlands do not need to submit additional documents to NWO to assess whether they meet the eligibility criteria for main- or co-applicant institutions, because they have been verified as public research institutions by partner organisations of NWO in other programmes conducted jointly with NWO.

South Africa

University of Limpopo (UL)
University of Fort Hare (UFH)
University of Venda (Univen)
Walter Sisulu University (WSU)
University of the Western Cape (UWC)
University of Zululand (UniZulu)
Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT)
Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU)
Stellenbosch University
University of Johannesburg
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Cape Peninsula University of Technology
University of Cape Town
University of Pretoria
Agricultural Research Council of South Africa
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
University of the Witwatersrand
Midlands State University
Human Sciences Research Council
Tshwane University of Technology

Indonesia

Universitas Gadjah Mada
Institut Teknologi Bandung
Universitas Indonesia
Universitas Airlangga
Institut Pertanian Bogor
Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember
Universitas Padjadjaran
Universitas Diponegoro
Universitas Brawijaya
Universitas Bina Nusantara
Universitas Telkom
Universitas Hasanuddin
Universitas Sebelas Maret
Universitas Andalas
Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta
Universitas Sumatera Utara
Universitas Katolik Indonesia Atma Jaya
Universitas Islam Indonesia
Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta
Universitas Udayana
Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia
Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta
Universitas Atma Jaya Yogyakarta
Universitas Katolik Parahyangan
Universitas Negeri Malang
Universitas Syiah Kuala
Universitas Negeri Semarang
Universitas Pelita Harapan
Universitas Tarumanagara
Universitas Surabaya
Universitas Ahmad Dahlan
Institut Teknologi Nasional
Universitas Kristen Maranatha
BRIN Institutes

Suriname

Anton de Kom University of Suriname

7.4 Conditions for co-funding

Please note: co-funding is not mandatory in this Call for proposals.

Invoicing in-cash co-funding

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

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

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

Determining the value of in-kind co-funding

- The use of personnel is valued on the basis of hours x rate, whereby the hourly rate is based on the actual salary costs (incl. a premium for social benefits and employer costs). Furthermore, 1400 hours is taken as the standard number of productive hours per year for the calculation of the hourly rate. This hourly rate may be no more than 119 euros per hour;
- The value for material in-kind contributions is determined on the basis of the cost price of consumables. The value of investments/equipment is determined based on standard depreciation costs bearing in mind the intensity of use and any existing depreciations according to applicable reporting principles;
- For in-kind contributions in the form of services or know-how (knowledge, software, access to databases or cell lines) the economic value must be established and only the actual costs that can be directly attributed to the project may be counted as co-funding. This is always without a profit margin. Furthermore, the service or know-how must not already be present at or available to the applicant.

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

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

- funding awarded by NWO;[19]
- PPP allowance;
- co-funding may not come from parties that on the basis of this call for proposals can submit a funding proposal to NWO
- discounts on commercial rates, e.g. on materials, equipment and services;
- costs related to overheads, supervision, consultancy and/or participation in the supervisory committee (see Section 5.1.5);
- costs of services that are conditional. The co-funding provided may not be subject to any conditions. The provision of the co-funding does not depend on whether a certain stage in the research plan is achieved (e.g. go/no-go moment);
- costs that are not reimbursed according to the call for proposals;
- costs of equipment if one of the (main) objectives of the proposal is the improvement or creation of added value for this equipment.

Accounting for in-kind co-funding

The main applicant reports to NWO about the in kind co-funding that he or she has received from a co-funder. The main applicant provides accountability in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017 on an annual basis. If a co-funder fails to partly or entirely fulfil its obligations to the main applicant

[19] Funding awarded by NWO is understood to be funding obtained through a proposal submitted to NWO that is granted funding. In this regard it does not matter from which programme this funding was obtained or who the recipient of the funding is.

and/or NWO, then this can have consequences for the grant settlement (see Article 3.4.5 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017).