

## Frequently Asked Questions about Mozaïek 2010

Read Mozaïek programme brochure first!

- 1. Do I have to have Dutch nationality to take part?**

No, you can have any nationality. Place of birth is the only thing that counts. Both your parents – or you and minimally one of your parents - must have been born in a country specified in the list at the back of the brochure.
- 2. How long do I have to have been living in the Netherlands?**

If you have done only your university Master's degree (and not your Bachelor's) in the Netherlands, you must have been resident in the Netherlands for the last five years on 14 January 2010. If you have received all of your university education in the Netherlands, you will be assumed to have been living in the Netherlands for five years.
- 3. Can I apply if my degree is from a university outside the Netherlands?**

No, the programme is open only to graduates from Dutch universities.
- 4. When do I have to graduate?**

Candidates must have graduated or be due to graduate at MA/MSc-level no later than 2010.
- 5. Do I have to prove that I belong to the target group?**

As a rule, you have to have proof of everything (where you and your parents were born, how long you have been living in the Netherlands, educational qualifications, etc.), although you will only be asked to show it if you are actually offered a grant.
- 6. Can I apply for a grant if I already have a doctoral research post?**

No. The grants are intended for candidates who have not yet obtained a post.
- 7. How talented do I have to be?**

A survey of applicants showed that good average marks in your final year will definitely help, but that the best indicator of research talent is the mark you get for your final-year dissertation. Applicants selected to attend the workshops in the first round all received a mark of at least 8 for their dissertations.
- 8. How can I find a professor or mentor?**

Perhaps the person who supervised your dissertation can act as your mentor; in this case, s/he is sure to know of a suitable professor. But if you are also looking for a mentor, it is important first to think of a topic and then to identify a professor or research team in the Netherlands that specialises in that area (an easy way to search is via your own university's website or by feeding appropriate search terms into [www.google.nl](http://www.google.nl)). If this fails, NWO may be able to advise. Once you have identified a suitable professor, the best thing to do is to ask for a personal appointment with him or her, explaining that you are keen to discuss your ideas in the context of NWO Mozaïek. If the professor is willing to act as your supervisor, s/he will also be able to help you identify a suitable mentor. This is good because it is very important that the professor and the mentor get on well together (to avoid disputes).
- 9. Do I have to have both a professor and a mentor?**

No, not necessarily. It is enough just to have a professor. But professors are often very busy and it may be useful to have a second person with more time to advise you.
- 10. How important is the letter of recommendation?**

The recommendation letter is very important. The initial selection will be based primarily on the merits of the applicants and the committee will decide these on the basis of the CVs and letters of recommendation. A good letter of recommendation will spell out the candidate's merits.
- 11. How important is my CV?**

The CV is very important. The initial selection will be based primarily on the merits of the applicants and the committee will decide these on the basis of the CVs and letters of

recommendation. Make sure that you fill out the CV section of the form as completely as possible and do not be too modest. Fill in requested grade averages. Mention all your relevant experience! Remember that some things may not be immediately clear to committee members: for example, give brief explanations of prizes and awards (judged on a nationwide or university basis, how many awarded each year, and the size of the award?) and club positions occupied (what sort of club, etc.). Include details of links to relevant websites.

**12. How important is the research plan?**

The research plan plays a secondary role in the initial selection of candidates. Even so, it is important that it should make it clear that your research idea is interesting and original, that there is a good way of tackling the research, that the research is feasible (for one person in max. 4 years) and that it is relevant. Use the structure in the application form.

**13. Are the workshops obligatory?**

Yes, you have to attend the workshops. They are useful anyway, because they will give you tips about drafting research proposals and opportunities to talk to scientists and improve your proposal.

**14. When will the interviews take place?**

The interviews will take place in the period 31 May - 11 June 2010. As soon as we confirm receipt of your application, we should be able to be more precise.

**15. When will the results be announced?**

The results will be announced in August 2010. As soon as we confirm receipt of your application, we should be able to be more precise.

**16. Can I obtain a Mozaïek research grant without taking part in this competition?**

No, that is not possible. Grants are only awarded as a result of the competition.

**17. Are there other ways of obtaining research grants?**

NWO has a large number of grant schemes (see [www.nwo.nl](http://www.nwo.nl)), but only postdoctoral researchers (usually with experience) can apply for them (in some instances on your behalf).

**18. Do applications have to be submitted via the Iris system?**

Yes, use of the Iris system is compulsory in 2010. To submit an application, see [www.iris.nwo.nl](http://www.iris.nwo.nl) for further information. The Iris helpdesk ([iris@nwo.nl](mailto:iris@nwo.nl), tel. 0900-6964747 (€0,15 p/m)) is available only on weekdays between 11 am and 4 pm (Dutch time). A crucial preparatory step in submitting an application via Iris is to convert the completed application form (and letter of recommendation) to pdf format.

**19. Is pdf format really necessary?**

Yes. Pdf is the only format accepted by the Iris system because it is the only one that guarantees that the files received by NWO are completely identical to those sent by the applicants. If you experience any technical problems with conversion from Word to pdf, contact your own computer support service or NWO's Iris helpdesk (see question 18).

**20. In the Iris system the name of a 'kenniseenheid' (university etc.) is asked. What should the Mozaïek applicant fill in here?**

You should first select the institute where you want to do your phd research. Then you fill out your private address, so we can use that for communication.