

Innovational Research Incentives Scheme

Programme brochure round 2010
(Vernieuwingsimpuls Veni – Vidi – Vici)



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1 Introduction

'Veni, vidi, vici' means 'I came, I saw, I conquered'. It is a quotation from a note sent by the famous Roman general Julius Caesar to notify the Senate of his lightning victory over Pontus (in 47 BC).

The Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science (Science Budget 2000), the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), the Association of Dutch Universities (VSNU) and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) all believe that extra encouragement should be given to innovatory research in the Netherlands. This is why NWO, KNAW and the universities joined forces in 2000 to set up the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme. Since the first selection round in 2000, NWO has been able to offer grants under the scheme to hundreds of highly talented researchers, enabling them to develop their gifts in a way which would otherwise have been impossible for many of them.

In 2007, the programme was evaluated and judged to be successful. The minister responded by making funds available for its extension and expansion over a number of years to come. The extended funding of the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme will make it possible for NWO to continue subsidising the best researchers and encouraging them to pursue sustained careers in academic research in the Netherlands. The increase in the annual budget to 150 million euros will also enable NWO to offer more and larger grants.

Since the start of 2009, the selection procedure includes an additional, broader ranking of applications within three 'domains', each embracing a number of NWO divisions. The aim is both to fund the top researchers in each discipline and to increase the chance of selecting the best proposals across the whole field of scholarship. The three domains are: 'Alpha-Gamma' for applications in the humanities and social sciences, 'Beta' for earth sciences, chemical sciences, physical sciences, physics and technical sciences, and 'Life Sciences' for life sciences, agricultural and food sciences, biochemistry and medical sciences. Interdivisional applications relating to more than one discipline will be considered by a single domain panel, in the domain chosen by the applicant.

Applicants in all disciplines have the chance to include in their applications a section detailing the probable cultural, technological and economic impact or relevance of their research findings. This section will be explicitly assessed but only taken into account in the ranking of the application if the effect of doing so is in the applicant's favor. For further information on this, see section 4.

The programme includes three forms of grant (Veni, Vidi and Vici), for each of which there is one selection round every year. Changes in the procedures may be introduced from year to year, depending (for example) on the results of interim evaluations.

Section 2 outlines the main features of the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme. More specific information about the three different forms of grant (procedures and rules) can be found in the subsequent sections. The brochure applies to the submission period from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010.

2 Aim

The aim of the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme is to promote innovation in the field of academic research. The scheme is directed at providing encouragement for individual postdoctoral researchers at various stages of their careers¹. Since it is vital to the universities that talented researchers should enter the profession and gain promotion within it, two main purposes of the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme are to provide the scope for adventurous, talented and pioneering researchers to conduct creative research of their own choice and to encourage them to make a permanent career of academic research. The grants give the individuals concerned the opportunity to develop their own innovative lines of research within the research programmes of the host institutions. Vidi and Vici candidates also have the opportunity to establish and/or expand their own research teams.

2.1 Three target groups

The target group for the scheme consists of outstanding individuals of exceptional talent and originality who have a great enthusiasm for the conduct of challenging, ground-breaking research.

In view of the purpose of the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme, it is obviously essential that candidates should have the ability to formulate and conduct a research programme independently. This implies that they will already have proved their abilities in the field of research in one way or another. The scheme targets the best research talent, irrespective of nationality. It is open to researchers from abroad as well as from the Netherlands. Successful candidates will be among the top ten to twenty per cent of their peer group. They will also be expected to have the capacity to persuade others of the originality and potential of their ideas.

The Innovational Research Incentives Scheme comprises three forms of grant directed at three different stages in researchers' academic careers.

Veni grants are for excellent researchers who have recently obtained their doctorates and are starting out on their careers, but who have already demonstrated an outstanding talent for academic research.

Vidi grants are for excellent researchers who have completed their doctorates and already conducted post-doctoral research for some years, thereby demonstrating the ability to generate new ideas and bring them independently to fruition.

Vici grants are for excellent senior researchers who have shown that they have the ability successfully to develop their own innovative lines of research and to act as coaches for young researchers.

2.2 Encouragement for women researchers

Women are especially urged to apply. Unfortunately, women are at present seriously under-represented in the academic world, especially in senior posts. NWO and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science intend to take action to change this situation and hope that KNAW, VSNU and the Dutch universities will also strive to ensure that more women submit applications so that the percentage of female applicants is at least equal to that of women researchers in the target group. NWO

¹ In this brochure, the term 'researchers' refers to people of either sex.

guarantees that the average success rate for female candidates, taken over a number of years, will be at least equal to that for male candidates.

2.2.1 Position of women researchers

Since 2004 the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has made an extra two million euro's a year available to NWO specifically for distribution to female candidates under the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme. The aim of this additional grant allocation is to make it possible for more women to gain promotion to top positions in the academic world. It enables the Governing Board of NWO to award additional Vidi and Vici grants to a number of female applicants judged under the mainstream selection procedures to have submitted *very good* or *excellent* applications.

2.2.2 Aspasia

The Vidi and Vici rounds of the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme are linked to the Aspasia Programme. Aspasia subsidies (worth € 100,000) are available for university Executive Boards which promote women receiving Vidi and Vici grants to senior lecturer (UHD) or professorial level within a year of the award of the Vidi or Vici grant. The specific conditions for the award of Aspasia subsidies can be found on the Aspasia website (www.nwo.nl/aspasia). Female recipients of Vidi and Vici grants who qualify for Aspasia subsidies will be notified of this by NWO following the award of their grants

2.2.3 Athena (Chemical Sciences)

Athena subsidies are awarded to women researchers who have received Veni grants from the Division for Chemical Sciences and who have subsequently been given tenure as university lecturers (UD) or comparable tenured positions at research institutes in the course of their Veni projects. An Athena subsidy is worth € 100,000 and is awarded to the Veni recipient for a maximum period of three years. Further information is available on the NWO website (www.nwo.nl/athena).

3 Guidelines for applicants

3.1 Who can apply

Applications may be submitted by candidates with or without a permanent contract of employment, irrespective of geographical origin. Appointments must be realised at one or other of the prospective host research institutions (see 3.1.3).

3.1.1 Career deadlines

Veni candidates must have completed their doctorates in the last 3 years, calculated from the date on which the doctorate was formally awarded to the deadline for the relevant round²

Vidi candidates can submit proposals in the period beginning 3 years and ending 8 years after they received their doctorates, calculated from the date on which the doctorate was formally awarded to the deadline for the relevant round²

Vici candidates can submit proposals in the period beginning 8 years and ending 15 years after they received their doctorates, calculated from the date on which the doctorate was formally awarded to the deadline for the submission of pre-proposals in the relevant round.²

NWO may, however, relax the upper limits specified here in the case of individual candidates who have taken extended sick, parental, maternity or care leave within the relevant periods.

The total maximum extension that may be granted to any particular applicant is 5 years.

Female researchers who have given birth to children are granted a standard extension of 18 months per child. In the case of male researchers, formal reductions in working hours are compensated by a maximum extension of 1 year per child born in the period since receipt of the doctorate.

The deadlines may also be relaxed where the candidate has combined a part-time research appointment with care responsibilities or has undertaken training in a clinical specialism recognised by the Royal Dutch Medical Association (KNMG). In the case of care leave combined with training in a clinical specialism, the maximum extension that may be awarded is also 5 years.

Further information about the conditions for these extensions is provided in the notes accompanying the application form. If you wish to apply for an extension, please contact NWO before submitting your grant application. E-mail address: vi@nwo.nl. For further information, go to www.nwo.nl/vernieuwingsimpuls.

3.1.2 Specific requirements

To qualify for consideration, applications must comply with a number of specific requirements.

² The upper limit (Veni max. 3 years, Vidi max. 8 years, Vici max. 15 years) is absolute, while the lower limit (Vidi min. 3 years, Vici min. 8 years) is advisory. Candidates are urged to observe it but outstanding candidates who received their doctorates more recently are not excluded from submitting applications. They must, however, expect competition to be fiercer than usual in their case.

Applications must be submitted by individual researchers (not by pairs or teams of researchers). In the case of Vidi and Vici grants, successful applicants will be expected to appoint and supervise one or more other researchers.

Each candidate may:

- submit no more than one application for any of the forms of grant in any given round;
- have an application for no more than one form of grant within the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme under consideration at any given time;
- submit applications (Veni, Vidi) or pre-proposals (Vici) no more than three times for any form of grant³

In addition, the following restrictions apply to researchers who have previously received grants under the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme or the PIONIER programme:

- No researcher who has already received a particular form of grant may apply again for a grant of the same kind⁴;
- No researcher in receipt of a current award under the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme may apply for another form of grant under this scheme earlier than 24 months before the planned expiry date of the current grant.

3.1.3 Institutions

Potential host institutions are those Dutch universities whose terms of reference include the conduct of research, the KNAW and NWO research institutes, and a number of other specific institutions (see 5.3 for contact addresses). The criteria for the institutions are contained in the General Terms and Conditions of NWO Grants, available via www.nwo.nl.

3.2 What can be applied for

The maximum amounts of grant offered by NWO under the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme are as follows:

- Veni grants: up to € 250,000 for a period of 3 years.
- Vidi grants: up to € 800,000 for a period of 5 years.
- Vici grants: up to € 1,500,000 for a period of 5 years.

The budget submitted with the application must be based on eligible direct staff costs and direct non-staff costs. The calculation of the staff costs must be based on actual gross salaries and associated costs as specified in the current Dutch agreement ('Bekostiging wetenschappelijk onderzoek'), with the exception of indexation and end-of-project payments. The amount of these payments for the 2010 round of the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme will be based on the standard percentages of 1 July 2009. The combined percentage for the 2010 round will be 53.6%. These payments will apply to all staff appointed at the institution at the expense of the project.

³ In this respect, an application/grant under the 2000 and 2001 rounds of the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme will be regarded as equivalent to a Vidi application, while an application/grant under the PIONIER programme will be regarded as equivalent to a Vici application.

⁴ In this respect, an application/grant under the 2000 and 2001 rounds of the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme will be regarded as equivalent to a Vidi application, while an application/grant under the PIONIER programme will be regarded as equivalent to a Vici application.

The applicant may devote up to 25% of his/her working time on the grant-assisted project to non-research activities (teaching/administration/management).

If the applicant is to devote no more than 25% of his/her working time on the grant-assisted research to non-research activities (teaching/ administration/ management), the entire salary may be covered by the grant. If more than this amount of working time is to be spent on such activities, the grant application should relate only to the proportion of working time to be directly devoted to research.

Recipients of Veni grants are not permitted to appoint additional research staff. If a Veni research wants to appoint other additional staff, NWO must be consulted for approval.

The term 'direct non-staff costs' means general non-staff costs plus the costs of knowledge transfer, knowledge valorisation and internationalisation. Infrastructure costs (accommodation and office automation) and overheads are not eligible for funding.

The proposed budget must be approved by NWO. If it exceeds the maximum amount of grant, the prospective host institution or company must send NWO a letter guaranteeing to meet the excess costs. The letter must be sent by post and signed by the dean/manager of the institution or a person with authority to sign on behalf of the company. It should be addressed to the NWO division to which the application is being submitted.

For further information and explanation of grant-eligible costs, see www.nwo.nl/vi.

3.3 When can applications be submitted

- The next deadline for the submission of Veni applications is:
Thursday 7 January 2010.
- The next deadline for the submission of Vidi applications is:
Thursday 11 February 2010.
- The next deadline for the submission of Vici pre-proposals is:
Tuesday 30 March 2010.
- The deadline for the submission of detailed Vici applications is:
Tuesday 31 August 2010.

Further information about the submission of applications can be found in 3.6 and 4.1.

3.4 Drawing up an application

Applications/pre-proposals must comply with the rules stated in this brochure and must be submitted electronically to NWO via the Iris system using the application form provided. The procedure for Vici grants invariably involves the obligatory submission of pre-proposals.

- Application forms for the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme will be available on the NWO website (www.nwo.nl/vi) 2 months before the deadline for their submission.
- Applications/pre-proposals must be written in English and must include:
 - the candidate's curriculum vitae and list of publications;
 - an outline of the research proposal (max. 2000 words for Veni applications, max. 4000 words for Vidi applications, max. 1200 words for Vici pre-proposals, max.

- 8000 words for detailed Vici applications; all excluding bibliographical references);
- cost estimates.

Any Veni application by a candidate who has not yet been awarded a doctorate must be accompanied by a declaration by the entire manuscript committee that the manuscript of the thesis has been approved (to be submitted together with the application in electronic form). Further information on this subject can be found on the NWO website (www.nwo.nl/vi).

3.5 Specific conditions

3.5.1 Arrangements with host institution

The candidate is free to choose the particular host institution at which he or she wishes to conduct the research. By arrangement with that host institution, part of the research may be conducted outside the Netherlands.

The candidate's plans for achieving institutional integration may be a subject of discussion during the selection interviews.

The appointment at the host institution and arrangements for integration within it must always be completed before NWO makes any grant payment. The successful candidate must sign a written agreement with the board of the institution concerned. This may indicate, for example, what prospects and guarantees the institution can offer for the future of the line of research and the candidate following the period of grant.

A list of sample points which can be covered in the agreement between the candidate and the host institution will be sent to the candidate together with the award letter.

3.6 Submitting an application

Applications must invariably be submitted using the Iris electronic application system. To do this, first obtain an access code via the NWO's Iris website (www.iris.nwo.nl). Other information about the Iris system can also be found on that site. For questions of a technical nature, contact the Iris helpdesk (www.iris.nwo.nl). Applications to be dealt with by the Medical Sciences division must always be submitted via ProjectNet, accessible via the website of the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research & Development (www.zonmw.nl).

Applications must be submitted directly to NWO, stating which division and which domain panel should deal with them. If the secretariat of the division feels that the application should be reviewed by a different division, it can (in consultation with the applicant) transfer the application to that division. Only one division and one domain can be specified in each application.

When uploading their electronic applications, applicants wishing to conduct cross-disciplinary research relating to more than one NWO division can choose to submit the application as an interdivisional one. This secretariat is run by WOTRO Science for Global Development. An interdivisional application must state (giving reasons) the divisions to which it relates and must specify the domain panel that should deal with it. If the WOTRO secretariat believes that the application does not in fact qualify as interdivisional, it can be transferred to the relevant NWO division. This will be done in consultation with the applicant. Equally, if the secretariat of a division feels

that a particular application should be considered by the interdivisional committee, it can transfer the application to the WOTRO secretariat. Again, this would only be done in consultation with the applicant.

Reprints of publications and letters of recommendation (other than letters exclusively specifying financial/material commitments) will not be sent to referees and committee members and will not be taken into consideration when assessing applications.

Any annexes to the application (the signed statement approving the thesis in the case of applicants whose doctorates have not yet been awarded, or a guarantee to meet excess costs) should be sent to NWO via the Iris system as separate PDF documents. The original documents should be sent to NWO by post within a week of the application deadline.

If such annexes are not available in electronic format, candidates may send them to NWO by post, marking them for the attention of the relevant division. They must be marked for the attention of the division that is to deal with the application and must reach NWO ultimately on the day of the application deadline.

Postal addresses:

Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme/Vernieuwingsimpuls
Attn. Division for
(please specify ALW/CW/EW/GW/MW/MaGW/N/WOTRO (= Interdivisional))
P.O. Box 93138
2509 AC The Hague

STW

NWO/ Innovational Research Incentives Scheme/Vernieuwingsimpuls
TW Division
P.O. Box 3021
3502 GA Utrecht

4 Assessment procedure

4.1 Procedure

Candidates will be assessed in a centrally coordinated nationwide competition. Assessment and ranking will take place within the NWO divisions. The divisions will use broad-based committees of academics to advise on the merits and prioritisation of the applications. In the past (2004 – 2008), cross-disciplinary or 'interdivisional' applications were dealt with by the division to which the application most closely related. Since the start of 2009, there has been a separate selection committee to deal with such applications in each grant category. NWO hopes that this change will be helpful to the growing number of applicants wishing to conduct cross-disciplinary research. The committees for interdivisional applications operate in the same way as divisional selection committees. In the procedures, the term 'committee' refers both to a divisional selection committee and a selection committee for interdivisional applications. The secretariat for the interdivisional selection committees is run by WOTRO.

The Innovational Research Incentives Scheme has a two-stage selection procedure: the divisional stage and the domain stage. At the divisional stage, all the applications within the field of study of a particular division are assessed by the appropriate divisional selection committee (or by an interdivisional selection committee) and a decision is taken about the use of approximately two-thirds of the available resources. The NWO Governing Board then awards grants to the successful candidates and candidates with no further chance of a grant are informed of the fact.

Candidates of outstanding merit who could not be awarded grants at the divisional stage will then go to the different domain panels. The domain panels rate candidates in relation to each other across disciplinary boundaries. The aim of this stage is to compare across the whole field of scholarship and to award grants to the best candidates, irrespective of discipline. There are three different domain panels: 'Alpha-Gamma' (humanities and social sciences), 'Beta' (earth sciences, chemical sciences, physical sciences, physics and technical sciences), and 'Life Sciences' (life sciences, agricultural and food sciences, biochemistry and medical sciences).

These three domain panels consider a limited number of promising candidates from different disciplinary areas in relation to each other. At this second stage of the selection procedure, still a third of the overall budget for the Scheme is awarded by the NWO Governing Board to the best candidates.

Panel members are drawn from the divisional selection committees and each panel has an independent chairman to ensure the procedural correctness of its deliberations. Final responsibility for the overall procedure and decision-making lies with the Governing Board of NWO.

The selection procedure is described below and summarised in the flow diagram in 5.4.

4.1.1 Compliance with formal requirements

NWO will screen applications to ensure that they comply with the formal requirements of the scheme (see 3.1). Only those which do so will qualify for further consideration.

4.1.2 Short-listing

If extremely large numbers of grant applications are received, a short-listing procedure will be operated on the basis of the detailed applications. Due to sharp increases in the number of applications in 2008 and 2009, this procedure may well be necessary, especially in the case of Veni grants. It may only be done if the number of applications of a particular division is at least four times the number of grants available. In such circumstances, it will be difficult to find and consult sufficient referees and the chances of success will be very low for many of the applicants. Where a division decides to use a short-listing procedure, applicants will be notified of this within ten working days of the deadline for applications in the round concerned.

Short-listing will be done by a broad-based selection committee, which will rate the applications in terms of their chances of success without making use of external referees. Those applicants judged least likely to be awarded a grant will be notified that they have not been short-listed for further consideration. They will then have an opportunity to submit a response giving reasons why their applications should be included in the short-list to the division dealing with the application. If persuaded by an applicant's response, the committee may decide to short-list the relevant application after all. Otherwise, a formal decision on the application will be sent to the applicant.

4.1.3 Pre-proposals

The Vici procedure invariably involves pre-proposals. It is quite different from the optional short-listing method available in relation to Veni and Vidi applications. Vici pre-proposals are not detailed applications. The pre-proposals are assessed and compared by a broad-based selection committee on the basis of the set criteria and rated in terms of their chances of success without making use of external referees. The applicants most likely to be successful are invited to prepare detailed applications and submit them by the relevant closing date. The remaining candidates are firmly advised not to pursue their applications. Because the advice given to them does not constitute an official decision, there is no formal procedure for lodging an objection or appeal against it.

4.1.4 Following short-listing (right of reply)

The applications that have got through the short-listing procedure (if any) are submitted to external referees for their consideration. Their views are later sent to the candidate in anonymous form and he/she has the opportunity to respond to them.

4.1.5 Interview (selection)

If large numbers of applications are received, it will be impossible to interview all candidates. The committee may decide to create a provisional short-list of the most promising candidates, based on the views of the referees and the responses of the candidates. Only they will be invited for interview.

4.1.6 Tasks of committees and domain panels

Following the interviews, the committees rate the applications in order of priority. The resulting lists are then examined by the Council Boards. Based on their priority ratings, the Governing Board of NWO takes a final decision on the candidates to be immediately awarded and the candidates to be immediately rejected in view of their low ratings. Following this decision, each division sends a number of the promising

candidates to the relevant domain panel. Each panel produces a comparative rating of the applications within its domain and presents its grant recommendations to the Governing Board. The Governing Board then takes a second decision awarding grants to the best candidates in the domains and rejecting the remaining applications.

4.1.7 Decision by Governing Board of NWO

The Governing Board takes its final award decisions, based on the advice provided by the divisions and domains, in two stages. Only proposals ultimately given a rating of *very good* or *excellent* will be regarded as worthy of grant. However, the final number of grant awards is determined by the resources available in the particular round. Once the Governing Board has spoken, the award decisions are notified to the candidates and boards of intended host institutions.

4.1.8 Practical arrangements and reporting

Once the Governing Board has announced its decisions, applicants have to be notified of the results of the round and practical arrangements have to be made for each award. Successful candidates will be given contracts of employment with the host institutions of their choice and arrangements will be agreed for reporting on progress and final results (see also 3.5.1). The new research projects will be managed by the various divisions of NWO.

4.1.9 Timetables

NWO aims to complete the entire selection procedure for all three forms of grant within 40 weeks. Because of the summer and other holiday periods, the actual duration of the procedure in 2010 may be approx. 43 weeks. The timetables for the Veni, Vidi and Vici selection rounds in 2010 will be *roughly* as follows:

Veni	
Deadline for submission of applications via the Iris system	Midnight (23.59) on 7 January 2010
Consultations with referees and exercise of candidates' right of reply	By mid-May
Interviews	June/early July
Stage 1 decisions by NWO Governing Board	August
Consideration by domain panels	September
Stage 2 decisions by NWO Governing Board	October

Vidi	
Deadline for submission of applications via the Iris system	Midnight (23.59) on 11 February 2010
Consultations with referees and exercise of candidates' right of reply	By mid-July
Interviews	late August/September
Stage 1 decisions by NWO Governing Board	September
Consideration by domain panels	October
Stage 2 decisions by NWO Governing Board	November

Vici	
Deadline for submission of pre-proposals via the Iris system	Midnight (23.59) on 30 March 2010
Selection of pre-proposals by NWO divisions	Mid-June
Notification of results of pre-proposals round to candidates	Late June/early July
Deadline for submission of detailed Vici applications	Midnight (23.59) on 31 August 2010
Consultations with referees and exercise of candidates' right of reply	By early November
Interviews and Stage 1 decisions by NWO Governing Board	November
Consideration by domain panels	December
Stage 2 decisions by NWO Governing Board	January 2011

4.2 Criteria

Applications will invariably be assessed on the basis of the quality of the researcher and the quality, innovative nature and academic impact of the proposed research. Candidates in all disciplines also have a chance to discuss the utility of their research. The application form contains a separate section in which applicants can, if they wish, give details of the expected cultural, social, technological or economic impact of their research. If they do so, the section will be explicitly assessed on the basis of the criteria listed in 4.2.3 under the heading of *research impact*. The results of this assessment will only be taken into account in the overall rating of the application if the effect of doing so will be in the candidate's favour.

If the application contains no research impact section or if the assessment of that section has no positive effect on the final rating, it will be judged solely on the criteria relating to the *quality of the researcher* (4.2.1) and *quality, innovative nature and academic impact of the proposed research* (4.2.2).

It is up to the candidate whether or not to discuss research impact in the application. However, the option presents a unique opportunity to influence the final rating of the research proposal in a positive direction. Because of the application-oriented character of the research funded by Technology Foundation STW, candidates wishing to submit their applications to the Technical Sciences (TW) Division are advised by STW to complete the research impact section. In all the divisions, however, the assessment of the section will take place in accordance with the rules stated above.

4.2.1 Quality of the researcher

Veni

- membership of target group;
- among the top 10-20% of his peer group;
- academic excellence demonstrated by the applicant's doctoral thesis, publications and/or other relevant achievements in the field;
- inspiring enthusiasm for research or technology;
- persuasiveness;
- clear indications that the applicant possesses an outstanding talent for academic research.

Vidi

- membership of target group;
- among the top 10-20% of his peer group;
- academic excellence demonstrated by the applicant's doctoral thesis, publications and/or other relevant achievements in the field;
- inspiring enthusiasm for research or technology;
- persuasiveness;
- demonstrable ability to generate new ideas and bring them independently to fruition;
- an established national and international reputation;
- ability to lead and supervise other researchers and support staff.

Vici

- membership of target group;
- among the top 10-20% of his peer group;
- academic excellence demonstrated by the applicant's doctoral thesis, publications and/or other relevant achievements in the field;
- inspiring enthusiasm for research or technology;
- persuasiveness;
- numerous publications of international stature and/or other relevant achievements in the field;
- demonstrable ability to bring his or her own research line of innovatory research to fruition;
- a leading national and international reputation;
- demonstrable leadership and coaching skills.

4.2.2 Quality, innovative nature and academic impact of the proposed research*Veni*

- challenging content;
- originality of the topic;
- innovative elements;
- potential to make an important contribution to the advancement of science or technology;
- suitability of proposed method.

Vidi and Vici

- challenging content;
- originality of the topic;
- innovative elements;
- directed at the establishment of a new line of research;
- potential to make a pioneering contribution to the advancement of science or technology;
- suitability of proposed method;
- international importance of the proposed field of research.

4.2.3 Cultural, social, technological or economic impact of the proposed research*Veni, Vidi and Vici*

- potential for the results and/or new understandings flowing from the proposed research to help solve a problem;
- potential for practical application of results of the proposed research in the medium to long term;
- expected cultural, social, technological or economic impact of the results of the proposed research;
- effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed approach.

NWO funds high quality research irrespective of whether it is motivated by internal scientific considerations or external factors. In addition, NWO wishes to encourage all researchers actively to reflect, before, during and after their research projects, on the potential output or impact of their research outside the field of academia. With this in mind, the criterion and the section is included. If appropriate, it should be used to describe how the output of the proposed research can lead to new technology, insights or applications in other areas of scholarship, in society or the social discourse, in technology or in industry generally. Such impacts can be extremely various. For example, research on dead languages can lead to insights of relevance to society in the 21st century. Or research may generate knowledge of value in cultural, economic or policy fields or that is in the general public interest (for example, relating to climate change).

Be as specific and concrete as possible on how knowledge transfer to potential users (such as companies, institutes, etc.) may be achieved and what role the applicant and the proposed research can play in this. Although it may also be perfectly valid to say that (at least at present) there is no prospect of any application or impact outside the field of scholarship.

Keep in mind that the information on research impact must be both comprehensible to people with no specific prior knowledge and detailed enough for referees and committee members.

4.3 Selection committees and domain panels

The divisions will use broad-based committees of academics who are willing to apply their expertise on a voluntary basis in order to ensure a soundly based assessment of the applications. Divisional selection committees will be appointed by Council Boards, while the interdivisional committees will be appointed by the Board of WOTRO. Domain panels will be composed of members of divisional and interdivisional committees. The chairman of each domain panel will not have taken part in the assessment at divisional level and will be responsible for ensuring the procedural correctness of the panel's deliberations.

Members of the committees and panels must comply with the NWO Code of Conduct on Conflicts of Interest, the purpose of which is to prevent undesirable personal involvement in the outcome of assessments. Information about the membership of the committees in 2009 will be available on the NWO website (www.nwo.nl/vi) once the entire procedure has been completed in each round.

5 Other information

5.1 Contact

The latest information about the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme can be found on its website, together with answers to Frequently Asked Questions. Candidates are advised to check the website before contacting NWO. Any other questions about the various forms of grant available under the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme can be addressed to the scheme's central coordinator at NWO. The central coordinator will not, however, deal with criticisms or complaints about procedural matters. These must be submitted in writing to the contact point (see 5.2).

Central coordinator for the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme

Website: www.nwo.nl/vernieuwingsimpuls or www.nwo.nl/vi

E-mail: vi@nwo.nl

Tel: +31 (0)70 344 09 40

Postal addresses:

Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme/Vernieuwingsimpuls
Attn. Division for
(please specify ALW/CW/EW/GW/MW/MaGW/N/WOTRO (= Interdivisional))
P.O. Box 93138
2509 AC The Hague

STW
NWO/ Innovational Research Incentives Scheme/Vernieuwingsimpuls
TW Division
P.O. Box 3021
3502 GA Utrecht

5.2 Contact point for complaints and committee for objections and appeals

5.2.1 Contact point for complaints

NWO has established a contact point for candidates' criticisms or complaints concerning the operation or result of procedures for the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme. These may concern not only NWO but also the universities or institutes and must be submitted in writing, preferably by e-mail (meldpunt@nwo.nl). They will be dealt with in complete confidentiality by a member of staff who is not directly involved in the procedures. The contact point has no formal powers to intervene, but can mediate on behalf of candidates if asked to do so. In addition, it collects information on the implementation of the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme for use in the evaluation of the programme.

5.2.2 Committee for objections and appeals

Where appropriate, candidates can use the existing objection and appeal procedures to lodge formal objections or appeals against decisions made under the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme. They will then be invited to attend a hearing of the committee for objections and appeals. Further information about the objections and

appeals procedure can be obtained from the committee secretary, Dr L. van der Valk, tel. +31-70-3440737, e-mail L.vandervalk@nwo.nl.

5.3 Addresses of potential host institutions

5.3.1 Universities

Delft University of Technology

Executive Board,
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Ms. Ir. A.G.S. Versleijen
a.g.s.versleijen@tudelft.nl
Ms. drs. L.S. Pander
l.s.pander@tudelft.nl
Valorisation Centre
Mekelweg 2, 2628 CD Delft
PO box 5, 2600 AA Delft

Eindhoven University of Technology

Executive Board,
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Ir. E.W. Gerritsen, e.w.gerritsen@tue.nl
Dr. ir. M.A.M. Leermakers, m.a.m.leermakers@tue.nl
General Affairs Department/University Council
P.O. Box 513, 5600 MB Eindhoven

Erasmus University, Rotterdam

Executive Board,
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Ms drs. F.J. Duijndam,
duijndam@oos.eur.nl
Education and Research Department
University Office
P.O. Box 1738, 3000 DR Rotterdam

Free University of Amsterdam

Executive Board,
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Ms M. Grcic, m.grcic@dienst.vu.nl
Office for Management Affairs
De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam

Radboud University Nijmegen

Executive Board,
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Dr. G. Bögels, g.bogels@mso.ru.nl
Marketing, Strategy & Development Department
P.O. Box 9102, 6500 HC Nijmegen

University of Amsterdam

Executive Board,
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Dr. J.A. le Loux-Schuringa, j.a.leloux-schuringa@uva.nl
Office of Academic Affairs
P.O. Box 19268, 1000 GG Amsterdam

University of Groningen

Executive Board,
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Dr. C. Streefland, c.streefland@rug.nl
Academic Affairs Department
P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen

University of Leiden

Executive Board,
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Ms dr. M.E. Kroon,
m.e.kroon@bb.leidenuniv.nl
Academic Affairs Department
Board Office
P.O. Box 9500, 2300 RA Leiden

Leiden University Research & Innovation
Mw. dr. ir. J.H.E.M. Klerkx
J.H.E.M.Klerkx@luris.nl

University of Maastricht

Executive Board,
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Dr. E.H.S. Drenthe,
erik.drenthe@bu.unimaas.nl
Maastricht University Office, Academic Affairs unit
Tel: 043-388 31 10
P.O. Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht

University of Tilburg

Executive Board,
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Ms drs. C.M. Schoots, marieke.schoots@uvt.nl,
s.a.m.baert@uvt.nl
Institutional Policy Office
University Office
P.O. Box 90153, 5000 LE Tilburg

University of Twente

Executive Board,
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
M P.P. Hoetink,
p.p.hoetink@utwente.nl
Strategy and Coordination
P.O. Box 217, 7500 AE Enschede

University of Utrecht

Executive Board,
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Ms drs. E.H. Weenink
vernieuwingsimpuls.oo@uu.nl
E.H.Weenink@uu.nl
Education and Research Directorate
Tel: 030 253 30 95
P.O. Box 80125, 3508 TC Utrecht

Wageningen University and Research Centre

Executive Board,
 Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
 Ms dr. ir. H.A. Ruiter,
 henriekederuiter@wur.nl
 Research and Education Strategy Department
 P.O. Box 9101, 6700 HB Wageningen

Open University of the Netherlands

Executive Board,
 Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
 Drs. J.B.M. Roffelsen, han.roffelsen@ou.nl
 University Office – Policy and Administration
 P.O. Box 2960, 6401 DL Heerlen

Theological University Kampen

Executive Board,
 Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
 Mr. drs. D.J. de Boer, djdeboer@pthu.nl
 P.O. Box 5021, 8260 GA Kampen

Theological University of Apeldoorn

Ms J.W. van der Zande-de Roo,
 secretariaat.tua@tua.nl
 Wilhelminapark 4, 7316 BT Apeldoorn

University for Humanistics

Drs. L.J. van der Spek,
 l.vanderspek@uvh.nl
 Office of the Research Institute
 P.O. Box 797, 3500 AT Utrecht

5.3.2 KNAW institutes**Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW)**

Dr C. Blom, corrien.blom@bureau.knaw.nl
 Research Organisation
 Tel. 020 551 08 70
 P.O. Box 19121, 1000 GC Amsterdam

5.3.3 NWO institutes**ASTRON Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy**

Mw. D. van Dijk, dijk@astron.nl
 P.O. Box 2, 7990 AA Dwingeloo

Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI)

Mw. M. Brouwer, Margriet.Brouwer@cwi.nl
 Project- en Subsidie Officer
 Tel: 020 592 42 53
 P.O. Box 94079, 1090 GB Amsterdam

Foundation for Fundamental Research on Matter (FOM)

FOM Institutes:
 AMOLF, NIKHEF and Rijnhuizen
 Mw. dr. A.R.T. van Eerd, rianne.van.eerd@fom.nl
 P.O. Box 3021, 3502 GA Utrecht

Institute of Dutch History (ING)

Dr. D. Haks, Donald.Haks@inghist.nl
P.O. Box 90755, 2509 LT The Hague

Netherlands Institute for the Study of Criminality and Law Enforcement (NSCR)

Ms A. van Poppel,
nscr@nscr.nl
P.O. Box 71304, 1008 BH Amsterdam

NIOZ Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research

Prof. dr. C.H.R. Heip
P.O. Box 59, 1790 AB Den Burg (Texel)

SRON Netherlands Institute for Space Research

Drs. G.C. Klamer,
G.C.Klamer@sron.nl
Head of Personnel and Organization
Sorbonnelaan 2, 3584 CA Utrecht

5.3.4 Other**Netherlands Cancer Institute**

Prof. dr. A. Berns,
a.berns@nki.nl
Director of Research
Plesmanlaan 121, 1066 CX Amsterdam

Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics

Dr. J.A. van Berkum, jos.vanberkum@mpi.nl
P.O. Box 310, 6500 AH Nijmegen

5.4 Flow diagram of Veni/Vidi/Vici assessment procedure

