



## **Call for proposals**

# **Cooperation with Germany - Von Humboldt Stiftung (VHS)**

2012

## **Introduction and purpose**

*Please note: The original Dutch-language text of this brochure is the authoritative version. Where the English-language text is open to a different interpretation, no additional rights may be derived from it.*

NWO has a cooperation agreement with the Von Humboldt Stiftung (VHS) in Bonn. Under this agreement, VHS makes two research prizes available each year to enable Dutch senior researchers to conduct their own research for a period of between 4 and 12 months at a German research institute, while NWO offers the same opportunity for two German senior researchers to conduct their own research in the Netherlands.

The aim of this reciprocal award of research prizes is to promote existing or new international cooperation between outstanding researchers in the two countries. Successful candidates will be outstanding researchers at the peak of their careers who currently occupy executive positions, have a high international reputation in the relevant field of study and may be expected to make further substantial contributions to the advancement of science.

## **Who can apply**

It is open to any eminent researcher (preferably of professorial status) with a permanent contract of employment at a Dutch university, KNAW or NWO research institute, NKI or MPI Nijmegen to nominate a German candidate for an NWO Von Humboldt Research Prize. Similarly, German researchers can nominate Dutch candidates for the prizes awarded by VHS.

## **What can be applied for**

Applications may request funding for a period of research lasting no less than four months and no more than one year. The period of research may be discontinuous, providing that the maximum total duration is not exceeded.

The budget requested may include the candidate's international travel expenses (1 standard return fare to the Dutch destination), his/her subsistence costs for the relevant period of 4 to 12 months (€ 1,750 a month for a senior researcher and € 2,000 a month for a professor), and associated research costs (including costs of attending conferences and costs of local travel but, depending on the proposed duration of the research, not exceeding a total of € 5,000).

The proposed budget must not include overheads.

In addition, funding may be provided to cover the costs of international travel (1 standard return fare to the Dutch destination) for the candidate's partner and children under the age of 18, providing they are accompanying the candidate for a period of at least six months.

## **When can applications be submitted**

Applications may be submitted at any time. Applications must reach NWO at least six months before the proposed starting date of the visit.

## Drawing up an application

Your grant application has two parts: a fact sheet and the application form.

- You complete the fact sheet directly in NWO's electronic application system Iris.
- The application form is on the grant page for this programme on the NWO website. As soon as you have completed it you can add this form to the Iris fact sheet as a PDF file.

## Specific conditions

A researcher is eligible for a Von Humboldt Research Prize only once in his/her career. In view of the purpose of the programme, it is not the intention that these prizes and the periods of research associated with them should be used in combination. Researchers who have received any award in recognition of their academic achievements in the last year are not eligible for nomination and applicants must inform NWO if their candidates are awarded such prizes in the course of the procedure.

At the date on which the application is received, candidates must not have been based in the Netherlands for more than six months. If a researcher has in the past spent between 6 and 12 months in the Netherlands, s/he must no longer be based in the Netherlands at the time of nomination. If a researcher has in the past spent more than 12 months in the Netherlands, s/he must not have been based in the Netherlands for at least a year at the time of nomination.

Applications will not be accepted for consideration by NWO if:

- the applicants fail to comply with any written request from NWO to supply information/documentation within a specified period;
- the entire costs have already been covered from another source;
- there is no room for them within the available budget.

Prizes can only be awarded within the available budget and within the quota and limits for visitors travel grants.

This form of grant does not imply any contract of employment with NWO.

## Submitting an application

An application can only be submitted to NWO via the electronic application system Iris. Applications not submitted via Iris will not be admitted to the selection procedure. A main applicant is obliged to submit his/her application via his/her own Iris account.

If the main applicant does not have an Iris account yet then this should be created at least one day before the submission. Then any possible registration problems can still be solved on time. If the main applicant already has an Iris account then he/she does not need to create a new account to submit a new application.

For technical questions, please contact the Iris helpdesk.

## Procedure

VHS selects the Dutch prize-winners and awards research prizes to them, while NWO is responsible for the selection of the German prize-winners and the award of their prizes.

The NWO office will screen the applications to determine if they comply with the formal requirements of this call for proposals. Applications that do not comply with these requirements will not be considered.

As part of the subsequent assessment process, NWO may seek the views of one or more referees. The number of referees will depend on the duration and amount of grant requested.

As a rule, for a visit of maximum six months, no external referee will be consulted. For a visit of between six and twelve months, the views of at least one external referee will be sought.

The Visitors Travel Grants selection committee will assess the application and accompanying documents and will advise NWO whether to award the grant; the final decision will then be taken by the Governing Board of NWO.

The assessment procedure may take up to six months to complete.

The NWO Code of Conduct on Conflicts of Interest applies to all persons and NWO staff involved in the assessment and/or decision-making process.

## Criteria

Proposals will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- scientific quality, originality and relevance of the research programme;
- quality of the researcher.

## Contact details and other information

### Contact

For specific questions about Cooperation with Germany - Von Humboldt Stiftung (VHS) and this call for proposals please contact:

- NWO Secretariat for Visitors Travel Grants
- Winnifred Geldof, tel. +31 (0)70 344 05 27, e-mail [w.geldof@nwo.nl](mailto:w.geldof@nwo.nl)
- Sonja Krapels, tel. +31 (0)70 349 44 37, e-mail [s.krapels@nwo.nl](mailto:s.krapels@nwo.nl).

For technical questions about the use of Iris please contact the Iris helpdesk. Please read the Iris manual before consulting the helpdesk.

The Iris helpdesk is available from Monday to Friday from 11.00 to 17.00 hours on +31 900 696 4747. Unfortunately not all foreign phone companies allow you to phone to a 0900 number in the Netherlands. You can also send your question by e-mail to [iris@nwo.nl](mailto:iris@nwo.nl).

**Other information**

There is no other information.

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