



Call for proposals

Doctoral Grant for Teachers

2012

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Netherlands suffers from a shortage of teachers, especially in secondary education. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) therefore initiated the Teachers Action Plan in 2007. This package of measures must ensure that more people opt for a job in education and that the quality and position of teachers is strengthened. Doctoral Grant for Teachers is one of the measures from the Action Plan and is realised by NWO.

1.2 Available budget

The Ministry of OCW has made 4.5 million euros available for the 2012 round of Doctoral Grant for Teachers. If the quality of the applicants is high enough then about 35 grants can be awarded.

1.3 Validity of the call for proposals

This call for proposals is valid until the closing date 4-09-2012

2 Aim

Doctoral Grant for Teachers aims to increase the number of teachers holding a doctorate. It is open to teachers in primary, secondary, vocational and special education. Increasing the number of teachers holding a doctorate who are employed in the classroom increases the quality of education and strengthens the ties between universities and schools. A separate aim of the programme is that the acquired expertise and research skills will be of benefit to the educational practice.

3 Guidelines for applicants

3.1 Who can apply

Applicants can be qualified teachers from primary, secondary, vocational and special education who have a permanent contract. When the preproposal is submitted, the teacher applying should have held a permanent appointment for at least one year at one or more recognised educational establishments funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) or the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (EL&I).

To be eligible, applicants must spend at least half of their contracted time on teaching-related tasks and bear pedagogic and didactic responsibility for the education provided.

Teachers who hold appointments across several educational establishments can submit an application, as long as at least one of the appointments satisfy the conditions of a permanent contract and of having held a permanent position for at least one year.

Teachers who have already started a doctoral research project can also submit an application. However, in such cases it must be clear from the research proposal that they still need 4 years of at least the exempted time to complete their doctoral research.

There is no allocation formula between the different educational sectors.

Female teachers are particularly encouraged to submit proposals.

3.2 What can be applied for

Applicants can be eligible to be seconded for half of their contract, with a maximum of 0,4 fte. In accordance with the aim that the acquired research skills are of immediate benefit to the educational practice, the applicant should spend the part of the contract which is not exempted primarily on teaching-related tasks.

The employers of the selected teachers will receive a grant to second their researching teachers for a period of four years for at least half of their contract, with a maximum of 0.4 fte. Standard amounts, based on an average salary for 0.4 fte, are:

- for teachers in primary education: 22,960 euros per year
- for teachers in special (secondary) education: 24,375 euros per year
- for teachers in secondary education: 26,045 euros per year
- for teachers in further professional education: 26,775 euros per year
- for teachers in higher professional education: 29,725 euros per year

The amounts for smaller contracts are pro rata.

In addition to this, the selected teachers will receive a limited budget for travel and training costs. The travel budget is 350 euros per year. The training budget is 3000 euros per year and can be used for courses, visiting symposia and purchasing any literature required, or any other expenses directly related to the research.

3.3 When can applications be submitted

The closing date for the submission of preproposals is **27-03-2012**, 23:59 hours. Selected candidates are to submit their full proposals no later than 4 September 2012 (23.59h).

3.4 Drawing up an application

Every research subject can be eligible for consideration. However, every candidate is requested to reflect on the impact of the research proposal on the educational practice of the teacher, or on education in general. The application consists of the application form and a declaration from the employer.

Application form

The application form is available at www.nwo.nl/leraren. Both a Dutch and an English version of this form are available. The application form consists of:

- a curriculum vitae (CV) of the candidate;
- a short, clear description of a research idea (for a preproposal maximum 1500 words, including references; for the full proposal maximum 3000 words, including references);
- a recommendation from the intended supervisor. Please note! The supervisor and the applicant must both sign the last page of the application form. This signed page should be submitted as a separate annex alongside the application form.

The supervisor must be a professor with research responsibilities at one of the Dutch universities. For the recommendation, the supervisor nominates the candidate and the research project to NWO. The recommendation details the quality and relevance of the proposed research, the quality and motivation of the candidate, and how the doctoral candidate will be supervised and trained.

With his signature, the supervisor indicates the following:

- 1) he has carefully studied the doctoral plan and is of the opinion that it is of substantial scientific quality;
- 2) in his view it is both realistic and feasible to expect that the doctoral plan will result in an academic thesis within four and certainly no more than six years and within the assigned time indicated by the teacher;
- 3) he is prepared to supervise the doctoral candidate.

NWO will include this recommendation in the overall assessment.

Employer's declaration

A second compulsory part of the application is a declaration from the employer. In this the employer states that he is familiar with the scheme and, in the event that the application is approved, that he is willing to grant study leave for a period of four years for at least half of the contract, with a maximum of 0.4 fte, to the doctoral candidate. The employer must use a template for this declaration, which can be downloaded via www.nwo.nl/leraren.

If a teacher is employed at several schools then the school where the teacher has the largest contract, should submit a declaration. This contract should comply with the conditions stated under 3.1.

If the study leave is split over several schools then it is up to the schools and the teacher to make agreements about this. NWO shall pay the amount to the employer who submitted the declaration. However in such a case, the school concerned shall state in its declaration that several employers are prepared to grant study leave.

3.5 Specific conditions

The teacher who receives a grant has a maximum of six years after the starting date in which to complete the doctoral research. The first four years will be funded. If the thesis is still not completed within this period of time then the teacher has a further two years to complete the thesis without any further funding. From the award of the grant onwards, NWO shall monitor each year whether the progress made in the research project is such that both the teacher and the supervisor believe that a doctorate will be conferred within this timeframe. If it appears that this timeframe is no longer feasible, then NWO will contact the teacher and the professor concerned. Should this contact reveal it is unlikely that a doctorate will be conferred within this timeframe, then NWO will stop the grant.

Teachers who receive a grant commit themselves to spending at least another two years working as a teacher at an educational institute funded by the Minister of OCW or EL&I once they have obtained their doctorate. If they transfer to another sector within one year of gaining their doctorate then they must pay back part of the travel and training budget: an amount of 10,000 euros. If they leave education between the first and the second year after gaining a doctorate then they must pay back 5000 euros.

The research project must start no later than August of the year following the year in which the grant was awarded.

3.6 Submitting an application

Applications can only be submitted using the Iris electronic application system. You can make your account via www.iris.nwo.nl. On this page there is also a link to the Iris helpdesk. Please direct any questions you have about Iris to this 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.

4 Assessment procedure

4.1 Procedure

The various steps in the assessment procedure are now described. The programme works with a broadly composed committee of scientists.

NWO will not consult any external referees for this evaluation.

4.1.1 Admissibility

The first step in the assessment procedure is to determine the admissibility of the application. This is done using the conditions stated in Chapter 3 of this call for proposals.

With effect from 1 January 2012 NWO will use a new qualification for applications submitted. Information about the qualification can be found on the NWO website: www.nwo.nl/kwalificaties.

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.

4.1.2 Assessment preproposals

A broad scientific committee will evaluate the preproposals using the criteria (see Chapter 4.2) and will prioritise these according to their chances of success.

Candidates with the greatest chance of success will be invited to submit a full proposal. The applicants with less of a chance are strongly advised not to write a full proposal. As this is an advice, a formal appeal or objection cannot be submitted.

4.1.3 Assessment full research proposal (selection interview candidates)

A selection committee will evaluate proposals using the criteria (see Chapter 4.2) and will prioritise these. In the event of sufficient quality, about 50 candidates will be invited to present their research during an interview.

4.1.4 Interview

The candidate will present his or her detailed research idea to the evaluation committee. The following factors count in the evaluation: the proposal, including the recommendation of the supervisor, and the interview. Based on the criteria (see Chapter 4.2) the evaluation committee will subsequently formulate an advice to the Governing Board of NWO.

NWO will inform candidates in good time regarding the dates on which the interviews will be held.

4.1.5 Decision

The Governing Board of NWO will take the final decision. After that the candidates will be notified of the result as soon as possible.

4.1.6 Settlement and reporting

If NWO awards a grant, the candidate will start no later than August of the following year. Agreements will also be made about the progress and final reports as well as the financing.

4.1.7 Timeframe

27 March 2012	Deadline submission preproposals
Mid April 2012	NWO will send confirmation of receipt
Mid June 2012	Candidates will receive advice on the preproposal
4 September 2012	Deadline submission full proposals
Mid-October 2012	Result interview selection
Early November 2012	Interviews
Mid December	Decision Governing Board NWO
Late December	NWO informs the applicants about the decision

4.2 Criteria

The quality of the candidate and the research proposal are evaluated against two criteria. These are:

1. Quality, motivation and persuasiveness of the applicant – apparent from CV and interview;
2. Quality of the proposed research, apparent from the application, including the supervisor's recommendation, and the interview. The quality of the research plan will further be assessed according to the following aspects:
 - scientific innovation (creativity, originality);
 - clearly written proposal with clear research questions;
 - effectiveness of the approach;
 - feasibility in terms of: available research time, available infrastructure, supervision and quality of the research group;
 - the ability to position the intended research in a wider context (potential to contribute to science, society or technology);
 - impact of the research results on the educational practice of the teacher or on education in general.

5 Contact details and other information

5.1 Contact

5.1.1 Specific questions

For specific questions about Doctoral Grant for Teachers and this call for proposals please contact the programme coordinator:

Isabel van der Heiden
Tel. +31 70 344 0720
e-mail: leraren@nwo.nl

5.1.2 Technical questions about the electronic application system Iris

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.

5.2 Other information

The latest information can be found on the website of Doctoral Grant for Teachers (www.nwo.nl/leraren).

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