



Caribbean Research: a multidisciplinary approach

Call for Program Chairs

Call for proposals



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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

In 2012, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science decided to establish a strategic research programme for the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.¹ This strategic programme intends to encourage research on and about the six islands, to strengthen the knowledge infrastructure in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom, to facilitate the regional capacity building, and to facilitate the formation of research networks. In the first phase of the programme that led to two open calls for proposals in 2014 and 2016, in which a total of 18 research projects were funded.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has extended the duration of this programme by five years and with a total budget of 10 million euros.² The emphasis of the programme will be on structural strengthening and embedding of research in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.

NWO wants to achieve this objective via two large multidisciplinary research programmes that will be realised and embedded in the region. The research programmes must address multidisciplinary issues that are of (long-term) societal importance for the Caribbean region. Besides scientific and societal impact, the research must also lead to a strengthening of the infrastructure for research in the region, both in terms of human capital (capacity building) as in research facilities. An important part of the programmes is knowledge transfer through education and outreach.

Both programmes must be aligned with the problems and knowledge questions in the Caribbean region. In one programme, the emphasis will be on social sciences and humanities research in a broad sense. In the other programme, the emphasis will be on natural sciences questions in the areas of environment and nature (marine and terrestrial). The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in the context of Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), form the source of inspiration for both programmes.

This call for proposals aims for the selection of two suitable leaders who will establish and lead ambitious research programmes. The leaders will be able to realise their programme thanks to a personal grant. The complexity of the scientific challenges in combination with the size of the programmes and the requirements for embedding and education requires a careful development and selection procedure. The call will therefore be realised in two phases. In the first phase, applicants will submit a pre-proposal. A limited number of candidates will then be selected to further elaborate their proposal for a research programme in the second phase. Important aspects of this phase are the formation of networks and teams, the involvement of local partners in the programme and the elaboration of plans for societal embedding in the region. NWO will provide a development budget in order to realise these tasks.

¹ In this call, the terms 'Caribbean region' and 'Caribbean part of the Kingdom' always refer to the six Caribbean islands of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, namely Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, Curaçao, Bonaire and Aruba.

² From the total budget of ten million euros, three million euros will be reserved for specific initiatives to realise the overall objectives of the Programme Caribbean Research.

1.2 Available budget

The total budget available for this call for proposals is 7.18 million euros. This total budget is separated in two parts.

A maximum budget of 180 thousand euros is available as funding for the elaboration of the selected pre-proposals into full proposals (development budget).

A maximum budget of 7 million euros is available for the funding of full proposals. This budget allows for funding of one proposal per thematic focus area³ with a maximum budget of 3.5 million euros per proposal. Only applications that receive the qualification 'excellent' or 'very good' are eligible for funding.

1.3 Validity of the call for proposals

The deadline for the submission of full proposals is Thursday 16 April 2020, 14:00:00 hours CEST.

The deadline for the submission of the compulsory pre-proposals is Thursday 14 November, 14:00:00 hours CET.

³ There are two thematic focus areas (see section 1.1 and section 2), one with an emphasis on social sciences and humanities research and one with an emphasis on natural sciences.

2 Aim

The aim of this call for proposals is to recruit two researchers⁴ (Programme Chairs) who will set up and lead research groups in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and who, together with regional and local institutions, structures and people, will give the research shape and direction. The two programmes must give a boost to the generation and use of new, high-value knowledge in the region and should contribute to the continuity of research in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.

The two Programme Chairs will develop multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research programmes that will largely be executed in the region. For this they will seek as much collaboration as possible with local parties (research and education institutions, societal partners including government bodies, NGOs and private partners). The two Programme Chairs will acquire research teams around them and make links with relevant researchers and institutions within and outside of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. By doing this they will ensure the right expertise and capacity for the realisation and broader embedding of the research programmes. The Programme Chairs and their groups will also work together as much as possible on complimentary issues and with a multidisciplinary approach.

The [Small Island Developing States](#) framework (SIDS) of UNESCO and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) jointly form the substantive basis for the research programmes of the Programme Chairs. The [Programme of Action](#) for the Sustainable Development of SIDS and the [SAMOA Pathway](#) are agendas aimed at helping small islands achieve the SDGs. The research programmes will address SIDS- and SDG-related problems relevant for the Caribbean region. Applicants can choose one of two broad thematic focus areas for their research proposals. One of the Programme Chairs will approach the SIDS issues from a broad sociocultural perspective, whereas for the other Programme Chair the starting point and focus will be natural systems (organisms, physical systems) with the associated processes. All main themes within the SIDS framework are to a greater or lesser extent connected with each other. That is one of the characteristics and challenges of small islands. Therefore the programmes of the two Programme Chairs, despite their different focuses, will have a lot of common ground. An intensive collaboration between the Programme Chairs and their research groups and networks is therefore highly desirable. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/priority-areas/small-island-developing-states> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sids>

The research of the Programme Chairs will primarily focus on the six Caribbean islands of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, but can also cover the wider Caribbean region. To ensure geographical spread, the two Programme Chairs and their research groups will be based in different parts of the Caribbean region: the research group with a focus on sociocultural aspects will be based on the Leeward Islands and the group with a focus on natural systems and processes on the Windward Islands. For the Leeward research group one of the universities of Aruba or Curaçao would be an obvious host institution. The other research group can be accommodated at [CNSI](#) on St. Eustatius. <http://www.cnsi.nl/>

With this initiative, NWO wants to encourage the joint realisation of two multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research programmes in the Caribbean region and structurally strengthen the continuity in research efforts in the region. It is therefore important that the Programme Chairs spend a substantial part of their time in the region and that the research groups led by them will be based on the Caribbean islands. The Programme Chairs must include local partners in their research plans and develop initiatives to facilitate an embedding of the research in the region once the projects have been completed.

⁴ In this call for proposals “researchers” refers to all academics.

2.1 Target group

Suitable candidates for this call for proposals are talented researchers with a PhD who have a demonstrable fascination for scientific and societal issues that play a role in the Caribbean region and who have experience with the specific challenges of this region. They have relevant research and management experience and are capable of independently setting up a wide-ranging, multidisciplinary research programme and realising this in collaboration with (new) partners. The future Programme Chairs have a strong "pioneering spirit" that will also enable them to establish functional networks and research structures in a possibly new environment and to embed these locally. They are connectors with demonstrated skills for bringing together people and organisations within as well as outside the (academic) knowledge world. Programme Chairs are willing to spend a substantial part of their time working in the Caribbean region.

2.2 Impact

NWO has a concrete policy that encourages the impact of knowledge generated with the help of NWO funding. Impact can be achieved through knowledge transfer within and outside of science.

For this call, the societal and regional impact forms one of the assessment criteria (see Section 4.2). The regional impact mainly concerns a sustainable strengthening of the research capacity and the associated knowledge and research networks on the Caribbean islands of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute (CNSI) plays a special role in that and with an own budget it will acquire a new role as a regional knowledge hub in the Caribbean research funded by NWO. The CNSI will also serve as a base for one of the two research groups, as an organiser of academic education that will be provided by members of the research groups on both the Windward and Leeward Islands, and as an initiator and organiser of outreach activities. <http://www.cnsi.nl/>

2.3 Pre-proposal and full proposal

The successful programme proposals will be relatively large and complex because they address a broad range of multidisciplinary research questions. The proposals will also contain education and outreach aspects and they must lead to the sustainable embedding of the research in the region. Due to this complexity, the application procedure will consist of two phases. In the pre-proposal phase, the proposals will be assessed based on the criteria and ranked according to their potential and likelihood of success. Based on the advice of the assessment committee, NWO will subsequently decide to invite a limited number of candidates to further elaborate their proposals. In the second phase, successful candidates will be given the opportunity by means of workshops and/or visits to the Netherlands and/or the Caribbean region to make their plans more tangible and to elaborate these, to build a multidisciplinary research team with (new) partners and to make scientific and societal contacts. For these activities, including travel and accommodation costs, a separate development budget can be applied for in the pre-proposal (see Section 3.2.1). For the further elaboration of the research programme and the connection with the regional knowledge need, use can be made of the (draft) knowledge agenda for the Caribbean that NWO will develop before the end of 2019 based on the public online consultation in the Caribbean area.

3 Guidelines for applicants

3.1 Who can apply

Applications can be submitted by researchers with a doctoral degree, irrespective of whether or not they hold tenured positions and whether they come from the Netherlands or abroad. The appointment of the applicant will take place at one or multiple hosting research institutions within the Kingdom of the Netherlands (see section 3.1.1).

When a part of the requested funding will be used for the appointment of personnel at one of the academic partners of the research team or for the salary or research leave of one of the academic partners of the research team (see section 3.2.3), then this partner must be included as a co-applicant in the application. In this case the applicant acts as main applicant. The co-applicant must have a doctorate or be a lector/senior researcher and must also have an appointment period for at least the duration of the application procedure and the entire duration of the research for which the grant is being applied for. The co-applicant must be employed (i.e. hold a salaried position) at one of the organisations that is included in section 3.1.1, an university of applied sciences, Dutch applied knowledge institution (TO2 institution), government knowledge institution or other organisations as meant in article 1.1, section three, of the NWO Grant Rules 2017⁵.

3.1.1 Choice of institution

Applicants may choose at which institution(s) they wish to carry out their research, provided that this institution is included in the list in article 1.1, section one, of the [NWO Grant Rules 2017](#). Knowledge institutions that can act as a host are, amongst others, universities located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the KNAW and NWO institutes. Also double appointments at an institution in the Netherlands and an institution in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands are possible. In this case, the applicant will designate one institution as Coordinator (main institution). <https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0039531/2019-02-07>

The host institutions issue a welcome statement for the duration of the programme, which is submitted as an annex to the full proposal. In this statement, the host institution(s) confirm(s) that, if the application is granted, the applicant is welcome to carry out the intended research at this institution, including use of all the necessary facilities, for at least the duration of the research project as described in the application.⁶

3.1.2 Academic education

Besides the research programme, applicants are required to develop a related academic education programme in the Caribbean region. Within the appointment as Programme Chair a maximum of 0.2 fte of their time will be assigned for this task for the duration of the research programme. The study programme that is going to be developed will be accommodated at an education programme which has an accreditation as meant in the Higher education and Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek) (article 1.1, section q). In this way, the developed education programme will be performed under the responsibility of an Educational Programme Board and Board of Examiners of a Dutch university, which will assure the quality of the programme. If this university is not the host institution of the applicant, the applicant should accept an

⁵ Article 1.1, section three, is limited to organisations located in the Netherlands. If the organisation of the partner within in the research team is not located in the Netherlands, but is located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the costs for personnel can be financed via 'work by third parties' within the budget module Material (see section 3.2.3). The organisation must satisfy the other conditions in article 1.1, section tree. Furthermore, the partner must have a doctorate or be a lector/senior researcher and must also have an appointment period for at least the duration of the application procedure and the entire duration of the research for which the grant is being applied for.

⁶ NWO will make a form available for the welcome statement for the second phase of the application process.

appointment (minimum zero-hour appointment and maximum 0.2 fte appointment) at this university where the education programme will be accommodated. The members of the research team (such as PhD students and postdocs) shall also contribute to the execution of the education programme. Other members of the research team are encouraged to contribute to the education programme.

3.1.3 Additional conditions

For the submission of an application within this call the following specific requirements must be satisfied:

- Applications are made by individual researchers who design a plan for a multi- and interdisciplinary research programme;
- Each candidate may submit a maximum of one application.
- The applicant will spend a minimum of 0.8 fte and a maximum of 1 fte on the research programme and the tasks corresponding to the role of Programme Chair for the duration of the research programme.

3.2 What can be applied for

3.2.1 Budget

For each full proposal a maximum budget of 3.5 million euro can be requested.

Applicants can request in their pre-proposal a maximum amount of thirty thousand euro as a development budget for the elaboration of a full proposal.

3.2.2 Duration of projects

Projects within this call have a duration of a maximum of five years.

3.2.3 Project budget & budget modules

In the pre-proposal, funding with maximum of thirty thousand euro can be requested to cover the costs of elaborating a full proposal. This budget is allocated for activities necessary for the development of a full proposal, including coordination with potential partners. Such activities include organising workshops in The Netherlands and/or the Caribbean part of the Kingdom, as well as travel and accommodation costs directly related to the proposal. These development budgets will be awarded at the end of the pre-proposal phase to those candidates who are invited to submit a full proposal⁷. The funding can be used from the moment of awarding until the deadline for submission of the full proposal.

The budget of the full proposal is built up with budget modules. In the application, the applicant chooses which combination and size of the budget modules are necessary for the realisation of the research programme. For an application within this call the following budget modules are available:

- Budget module for personnel
 - o PhD (including MD-PhD)
 - o Postdoc
 - o Non-scientific staff (NSS) at universities
 - o Research leave for applicants
 - o Personnel at universities of applied sciences and other knowledge institutions
 - o Salary applicant (Programme Chair)
- Budget module Material

⁷

NWO will pay the development grant to the institution where the application has an appointment at the time of awarding, providing that this institution is included in section 3.1.1. If the applicant does not have an appointment at an institution that satisfies this criterion, the applicant must make arrangements with the prospective host institution for the management of the development budget.

- Budget module Knowledge Utilisation
- Budget module Internationalisation
- Budget module Money follows Cooperation (MfC)

The specification of the budget modules is described in annex 6.1 of this call for proposals. For the personnel budget modules PhD, Postdoc, NSS, and Personnel at universities of applied sciences and other knowledge institutions, the applicant chooses the number of positions that is necessary for the realisation of the research programme. Within this call 'other knowledge institutions' refers to Dutch applied knowledge institutions (TO2 institutions), government knowledge institutions or other knowledge organisations as meant in article 1.1, section three, of the [NWO Grant Rules 2017](#).

Possible salary costs of personnel for project management can be funded within the module NSS with a maximum of 5% of the total at NWO requested budget.

When drawing up the overall budget the applicant must motivate how the proposed expenses within the different modules will contribute to the proposal. The funding should be in agreement with the European legislation for state support and tendering⁸.

3.3 When can applications be submitted

The deadline for the submission of pre-proposals is November 14, 2019, 14:00 hours CET.

The deadline for the submission of full proposals is April 16, 2020, 14:00 hours CEST.

When you submit your application to ISAAC you will also need to enter additional details online. You should therefore start submitting your application at least one day before the deadline of this call for proposals. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

3.4 Preparing an application (pre-proposal and full proposal)

For this call a pre-proposal is compulsory (see section 2.3).

- Download the application form for the pre-proposal / full proposal from the electronic application system ISAAC or from the NWO website (on the grant page for this programme);
- Complete the application form for pre-proposal / full proposal;
- Save the application form for the pre-proposal / full proposal as a pdf file and upload it in ISAAC.

3.5 Conditions on granting

The [NWO Grant Rules 2017](#) and the "[Approval of funding for scientific research 2008](#)" apply to all proposals.

3.5.1 Start of the project

The research should start within six months after receiving the Grant Award Decision. The project can start as soon as the data management plan has been approved by NWO and the appointment of the Programme Chair at the host institution is formalised. To achieve this the Programme Chair must come to an agreement with the Executive Board of the institution(s).

3.5.2 Open Access

NWO is part of cOAlition S, an international group of research councils, that announced a plan (plan S) for accelerating the transition to open access in 2018. The essence of the plan is that from 1 January 2020 onwards,

⁸ See Directive EU 1407/2013 dated 18/12/2013, EU 651/2014 dated 17/06/2014 and the announcement of the European Commission 2014/C 198/01 to check whether there is compliance with these rules for state support. For the tendering rules, we refer you to: <http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0032203/2016-07-01>

all publications that emerge from research funded by these research councils must be published in open access journals or open access platforms. (See: <https://www.coalition-s.org/>)

All scientific publications resulting from research that is funded by grants derived from this call for proposals are to be immediately (at the time of publication) freely accessible worldwide (Open Access). There are several ways for researchers to publish Open Access. A detailed explanation regarding Open Access can be found on www.nwo.nl/openscience-en.

Please note: it is possible to request funding for costs for Open Access publication under the budget module Material.

3.5.3 Datamanagement

Responsible data management is part of good research. NWO wants research data that emerge from publicly funded research to become freely and sustainably available, as much as possible, for reuse by other researchers. Furthermore NWO wants to raise awareness among researchers about the importance of responsible data management. Proposals should therefore satisfy the data management protocol of NWO. This protocol consists of two steps:

1. Data management section

The data management section is part of the research proposal. Researchers should answer four questions about data management within their intended research project. Therefore before the research starts the researcher will be asked to think about how the data collected must be ordered and categorised so that it can be made freely available. Measures will often need to be taken during the production and analysis of the data to make their later storage and dissemination possible. Researchers can state which research data they consider to be relevant for storage and reuse.

2. Data management plan

After a proposal has been awarded funding the researcher should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. The data management plan is a concrete elaboration of the data management section. In the plan the researcher describes whether use will be made of existing data or a new data collection and how the data collection will be made FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable. The plan should be submitted to NWO via ISAAC within a maximum of 4 months after the proposal has been awarded funding. NWO will approve 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.

Further information about the data management protocol of NWO can be found at www.nwo.nl/datamanagement.

3.5.4 Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol became effective on 12 October 2014 and 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 (www.absfocalpoint.nl). NWO assumes that researchers will take all necessary actions with respect to the Nagoya Protocol.

3.5.5 Ethische aspecten

Any research proposal that raises ethical issues must be carefully considered in advance. Certain research projects require a statement of approval from a recognised medical ethics review committee or an animal experiments committee. In addition, some research proposals require a licence under the Population Screening Act (WBO). More information on medical ethics review committees is available from the Central Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects (CCMO), while the Central Committee Animal Experiments (CCD) can provide information on animal experiments committees, and the Health Council of the Netherlands can advise on the WBO.

Applicants are responsible to determine whether their research proposals raise possible ethical issues. If so, they are also responsible for obtaining any necessary statement of approval from the appropriate ethics review committee and/or licence under the Population Screening Act.

NWO subscribes to the Dutch Freedom of Information on Animal Experiments Code (Code Openheid Dierproeven) and the Biosecurity Code. Applicants must subscribe to and comply with the prevailing codes.

A project must commence within six months of the grant award. Research projects requiring a statement of approval and/or licence under the Population Screening Act may not start until NWO has received a copy of the relevant statement and/or licence. NWO expects candidates to pay attention to the timetable for selection procedure and take account of the time required by ethics review committees to conduct project assessments or for the Population Screening Act licence application procedure to run its course. Where an application raises complex ethical issues, NWO reserves the right to seek external advice.

If at any point, after discussing the matter with the applicant, NWO feels that an ethical review is required, the applicant must take the necessary measures to obtain it. If the applicant fails to obtain the required statement of approval from an ethics review committee, any grant awarded will be cancelled.

3.6 Submitting an application

An application can only be submitted to NWO via the online application system ISAAC. Applications not submitted via ISAAC will not be considered.

Applicants must submit their applications via their personal ISAAC account. If an applicant does not yet have an account, it should be created well in advance of the application deadline, to ensure that any registration problems can be resolved in time. If the applicant already has an account, then (s)he does should not create a new account to submit an application.

For technical questions please contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see Section 5.1.2.

4 Assessment procedure

4.1 General

All members that are involved with the advising on and/or the decision-making are subject to the [Code for Dealing with Personal Interests](#).

4.2 Procedure

4.2.1 Assessment committee

The NWO Programme Committee Caribbean Research⁹ will appoint an independent assessment committee. The committee will consist of experts from science and from other fields relevant for this call. The assessment committee will assess both the pre-proposals as well as the full proposals.

4.2.2 Pre-proposal

a) Eligibility

The first step in the assessment procedure is to test whether the pre-proposal is admissible. That is done on the basis of the following conditions:

- The pre-proposal is submitted before the deadline via ISAAC.
- The pre-proposal form is fully completed and written in English.
- The pre-proposal is submitted by an applicant who satisfies the conditions stated in Section 3.1.

If correction of the pre-proposal is necessary, the applicant will be given the opportunity to modify the pre-proposal within 48 hours. If the corrected proposal is not received within the time set, then NWO will not take the proposal into consideration. Corrected proposals that are received on time will still be considered if approved.

b) Assessment

The assessment committee will assess the pre-proposals using the criteria (see Section 4.3) and rank these according to their potential and potential of success, without making use of external referees. The assessment committee will issue an intended advice for the selection of maximum three pre-proposals per thematic focus area for the elaboration of a full proposal. The applicants will receive the intended advice of the assessment committee. Applicants who are not selected to elaborate their proposal can submit a motivated reaction within five working days. In response to this reaction, the assessment committee can adjust the intended advice and still select the pre-proposal. Subsequently, the assessment committee will draw up a final advice for the Board of the NWO Domain Science.

c) Decision-making

The Board of the NWO Domain Science will make a binding decision on which pre-proposals may be elaborated and which not, based on the advice of the assessment committee. The applicants with the highest potential of success will receive an invitation to submit a full proposal. The Board of the NWO Domain Science will also decide on the granting of the development budget applied for by these most promising candidates

⁹ The NWO Programme Committee Caribbean Research is mandated for this purpose by the Boards of the NWO Domain Science and NWO Domain Social Sciences and Humanities.

4.2.3 Full proposals

a) Eligibility

The first step in the assessment procedure is to test whether the full proposal is admissible. That is done on the basis of the following conditions:

- The full proposal is submitted before the deadline via ISAAC.
- The full proposal form is fully completed and written in English.
- The full proposal satisfies the conditions stated in Chapter 3.
- The applicant has submitted one or more signed welcome statements (see Section 3.1.1) together with the full proposal.

If correction of the full proposal is necessary, the applicant will be given the opportunity to modify the pre-proposal within 48 hours. If the corrected proposal is not received within the time set, then NWO will not take the proposal into consideration. Corrected proposals that are received on time will still be considered if approved.

b) Referees

Full proposals will be assessed by at least three independent experts. These referees will issue an advice based on the assessment criteria of this call for proposals (see Section 4.3). Applicants can indicate a maximum of three non-referees.

c) Rebuttal of the applicant

The anonymised advice from the referees will be sent to the applicant. The applicant will be given the opportunity to respond to the referees' comments (rebuttal). The rebuttal is addressed to the assessment committee and must be written in English. The rebuttal may be no more than two pages of A4 in length.

d) Assessment committee

The applicants will be invited for an interview with the assessment committee. During the interview the applicant will explain the proposal by means of a presentation to the assessment committee. The committee members will then have the opportunity to ask questions. The committee can also ask new questions that were not raised by the referees. During the interview the applicant can respond to these in a discussion with the committee so that a hearing and rebuttal procedure takes place.

For each assessment criterion the committee will award a score. This will result in an assessment advice for each proposal and a ranking advice for all proposals. Based on the assessment advice and the ranking, the committee will draw up a final granting advice for the Board of the NWO Domain Science. In the case of sufficient quality, the assessment committee will put forward one proposal per thematic focus area for granting to the Board of the NWO Domain Science (see section 1.1 and 2).

e) Decision-making

The Board of the NWO Domain Science will take a granting decision about the awarding and rejection of proposals based on the advice of the assessment committee. Only proposals assessed to have the NWO qualification "excellent" or "very good" are eligible for funding.

4.2.4 Datamanagement

The data management section in the application is not evaluated and therefore not included in the decision about whether to award funding. However, both the referees and the committee can issue advice with respect to the data management section. After a proposal has been awarded funding, the researcher should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. Applicants can use the advice from the referees and the committee when writing the data management plan.

4.2.5 Qualification

NWO will award a qualification to all full proposals and will make this known to the researcher with the decision about whether or not the application has been awarded funding.

Only applications that receive the qualification "excellent" or "very good" will be eligible for funding.

For more information about the qualifications please see:

www.nwo.nl/en/funding/funding+process+explained/nwo+qualification+system.

4.2.6 Indicative timetable

August 2019	Publication of the call for proposals
14 November 2019	Deadline submission pre-proposals
December 2019	Assessment pre-proposals and selection advice
January 2020	Decision selection for full proposals
16 April 2020	Deadline submission full proposals
May/June 2020	Consulting referees and rebuttal
June 2020	Interviews with candidates / assessment committee meeting
July 2020	Granting decision and informing applicants about the decision

4.3 Assessment criteria

For this call (pre-proposals and full proposals) the following assessment criteria apply:

1. Quality and suitability of the applicant (40%)
2. Relevance of the proposal for the objective of this call and potential for impact in the Caribbean region (30%)
3. Scientific quality of the proposal (30%)

Specification of the assessment criteria:

1. Quality and suitability of the applicant:
 - degree of fit of the profile with the target group (see Section 2.1);
 - demonstrable research and management skills;
 - demonstrable network, communication and outreach skills that are necessary to locally embed a wide-ranging and multi- and interdisciplinary research and education programme.
2. Relevance of the proposal for the objective of this call and potential for impact in the Caribbean region:
 - extent to which the proposed programme contributes to the objectives and ambitions of this call (see Chapters 1 and 2), including effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed approach; quality and scope of regional embedding through collaboration with relevant partners and institutions in the Caribbean region; potential for international collaboration in the wider Caribbean region;
 - chance of local embedding after the funding; potential for societal impact (incl. economic application).
3. Scientific quality of the proposal:
 - innovative and challenging character of the proposal;
 - scientific approach, feasibility of the objectives and research scope of the proposal, including alignment with the SIDS/SDG framework;
 - quality of the research team, including fit of the expertise of the partners involved as well as national and international scientific embedding;
 - relationship between the size of the funding applied for (personnel and material) and the intended results (effectiveness).

5 Contact details and other information

5.1 Contact

5.1.1 Specific questions

For specific questions about this call for proposals you can contact:

Dr Linda Jongbloed (programme manager)
Science(ENW)
T: +31 (0)70 349 46 00
caribbean@nwo.nl

Dr Niels van den Berg
Science(ENW)
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Dr Arnold Lubbers
Social Science and Humanities (SGW)
T: +31 (0)70 349 4525
caribbean@nwo.nl

5.1.2 Technical questions about the electronic application system 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 CE(S)T on +31 (0)20 346 71 79. However, you can also submit your question by e-mail to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will then receive an answer within two working days.

6 Annexe(s)

6.1 Budget Modules NWO

The following budget modules are available for applications in this call. Only request what is essential for carrying out the proposed research.

Explanation of budget modules for personnel

Funding for the salary costs of personnel who make a substantial contribution to the research can be applied for. Funding of these salary costs depends on the type of appointment and the organisation where the personnel are or will be appointed.

- For university appointments, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the VSNU salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded (www.nwo.nl/salary-tables).
- For university medical centres, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the NFU salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded (www.nwo.nl/salary-tables).
- For personnel from universities of applied sciences and other institutions, the salary costs are funded on the basis of the collective labour agreement salary scale of the employee concerned, based on the *Handleiding Overheidstarieven 2017*.
- 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.
(<https://www.rijksdienstcn.com/werken-bij-rijksdienst-caribisch-nederland/arbeidsvoorwaarden>)

The rates for all budget modules are incorporated in the budget format that accompanies the application form. For the budget modules “PhD”, “PDEng” and “Postdoc”, a one-off individual bench fee of € 5,000 is added on top of the salary costs. This bench fee is intended to encourage the scientific career of the project employee funded by NWO. Remunerations for PhD students/PhD scholarship students at a Dutch university are not eligible for funding from NWO.

The available budget modules are explained below.

- **PhD (including MD-PhD)**
A PhD 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 as long as this is properly justified, the standard time can be deviated from. However, the duration of appointment must always be at least 48 months.
- **Postdoc**
The size of the appointment of a postdoc 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 a postdoc.
- **Non-scientific staff (NSS) at universities**
Funding for the appointment of non-scientific personnel necessary for the realisation of the research project can only be applied for if funding for a PhD or postdoc is also applied for. A maximum of € 400,000 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 non-scientific staff 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 non-scientific personnel.

- **Research leave for applicants**

With this budget module, funding can be requested for the research leave costs of the main and/or co-applicant(s). The employer of the applicant concerned 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 the equivalent of 15 full-time months. NWO funds the research leave in accordance with the salary tables for a senior scientific employee (scale 11.0) at the time the grant is awarded (www.nwo.nl/salary-tables).

- **Personnel universities of applied sciences and other knowledge institutions**

For the funding of salary costs of personnel employed at a university of applied sciences or other type of institution (such as TO2), the following maximum rates (hours/day) are used in accordance with the *Handleiding Overheidstarieven 2017* (HOT). For the Taskforce for Applied Research (NPRO SIA), the HOT table *kostendekkend* is used, and for the Netherlands Initiative for Education Research (NRO) and other institutions, it is the HOT table *kostenplus*.

- **Salary applicant**

For applicant it is possible to request partial¹⁰ or full funding for their own salary for the part of the appointment that will be spent on the activities of the Programme Chairs within the proposed research programme. This part is minimum 0.8 fte and maximum 1.0 fte for the duration of the research programme. Within this part ancillary activities are not allowed. The calculation of the salary costs of the applicant must be based on actual gross salaries and associated costs as specified in the current Dutch agreement on the funding of academic research (Akkoord bekostiging wetenschappelijk onderzoek; salary tables), with the exception of indexation and end-of-project payments. The amount of these payments will be based on the standard percentages in the agreement.

Explanation of budget module Material

For each fte scientific position (PhD, postdoc, PDEng) 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 accordingly¹¹.

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 (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), for which the total amount may not be more than € 25,000 per proposal

¹⁰ In this case, part of the salary of the applicant will be covered by the host institution(s).

¹¹ Per 0.2 fte scientific employee at a university of applied sciences (junior, medior and senior level, with a minimum appointment of 0.2 fte for a period of 12 months), a maximum of € 15,000 material budget can be applied for each year of the appointment.

- access to large national and international facilities (e.g. cleanroom, synchrotron, etc.)
- work by third parties (e.g. laboratory analyses, data collection, etc.)
- personnel costs for the appointment of a post-doc 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 within the research project
- costs for Open Access publishing (solely in full gold Open Access journals, registered in the “Directory of Open Access Journals” <https://doaj.org/>)
- data management costs
- 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, desks, etc.);
- maintenance and insurance costs.

If the maximum amount of € 15,000 per year per full-time scientific position is not sufficient for realising the research, then it may be deviated from if a clear justification is provided in the proposal.

Explanation of budget module Knowledge utilisation

The aim of this budget module is to facilitate the use of the knowledge that emerges from the research¹². The budget applied for may not exceed € 75,000.

Because knowledge utilisation takes many different forms in different scientific fields, it is up to the applicant to specify the costs required, e.g. costs of producing a teaching package, conducting a feasibility study into potential applications, or filing a patent application.

The budget applied for should be adequately specified in the proposal.

Explanation of budget module Internationalisation

The budget for internationalisation is intended to encourage international collaboration. The budget applied for may not exceed € 75,000. 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.

¹²

In this budget module, the definition for “knowledge transfer” used by the European Commission in the Framework for State Aid for research and development and innovation applies (PbEU, 2014, C198).

Explanation of the budget module Money follows Cooperation (MfC)

The module Money follows Cooperation provides the possibility of realising a part of the project at a publicly funded knowledge institution outside of the Netherlands.

The applicant must convincingly argue how the researcher from the foreign knowledge institution will contribute specific expertise to the research project that is not available in the Netherlands at the level necessary for the project.

This condition does not apply if NWO has concluded a bilateral agreement concerning Money follows Cooperation with the national research council of the country where the foreign knowledge institution is located.

The budget applied for within this module cannot be more than 50% of the total budget applied for .

A researcher from the foreign institution should satisfy the conditions set for co-applicants in Section 3.1 of this call for proposals, with the exception of the condition that the co-applicant should be employed in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The applicant receives the grant and is responsible for transferring the amount to the foreign knowledge institution and for providing accountability for the MfC part of the grant.

The exchange rate risk lies with the applicant. Therefore, gains or losses due to the exchange rate are not eligible for funding. The applicant is responsible for:

- The financial accountability for all costs in both euros and the local currency, for which the exchange rate used must be visible;
- a reasonable determination of the size of the exchange rate. If requested by NWO, the applicant must always be able to provide a description of this reasonable determination.

NWO will not issue any funding to co-applicants in countries that fall under national or international sanction legislation and rules. The EU Sanctions Map (www.sanctionsmap.eu) is guiding in this respect.

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