1. Am I allowed to apply for an XS grant?
Researchers can submit an application if they: (1) hold a doctorate and/or are professor; and (2) hold a salaried position at one of the institutions mentioned in 3.1 of the call for proposals; and (3) 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. **Please note:** with respect to the third requirement, also check the answer of question 6.

3. Am I allowed to apply for an XS grant in case I have also applied for another NWO grant (e.g. ENW-KLEIN)?
Yes, you are allowed to apply for an XS grant and another (NWO) grant simultaneously. The only restriction we have for submitting XS grants is that each applicant may submit one XS application per deadline and two XS applications in total for the duration of the XS pilot year (which contains 5 deadlines).

4. Where can I use the XS budget for?
There are no restrictions on what the grant is to be used for; it is up to you if you apply for material costs and/or salary costs and/or travel expenses, etc. Costs that cannot be applied for are: basic facilities within the institution (e.g. desks, accommodation costs, overhead costs, etc.) and maintenance and insurance costs.

5. How to calculate salary costs?
Please use the budget-calculation tool that can be downloaded from the [call page](#).

Salary costs need to be in accordance with the agreements reached with the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) and will always start as a ‘first year’ position. For positions for PhD students applies that an XS grant can only cover an extension of an existing position (although the budget you can apply for will start as a ‘first year’ position), because a new PhD position must always be requested for 4 years.

Please use the exact amounts from the [VSNU salary table](#) from 1 July 2019. Specify the type of position, the amount of FTE, and for how many months you apply. Since an XS project last no longer than 12 months, the possibilities to choose from are limited.

**Examples:**
- PhD student 1 FTE, 6 months = € 22.665,-
- Postdoc 0,6 FTE, 8 months = € 28.364,-
- Technician at MBO level 0,8 FTE, 12 months = € 45.774,-

6. Can I use the XS budget to cover my own salary?
Yes, you can also use the budget for your own salary. **Please note:** in this situation you are allowed to apply if you have a salaried employment contract with an end date on or after the decision date of the grant. When awarded, you can then use the XS budget to extend your contract – of course only as long as your institute agrees with an extension of your contract.

7. The applications will be assessed anonymously and thus needs to be written anonymously; when is an application anonymously enough?
You cannot include your name and names of other research team members or collaborators. You are allowed though, to cite your own papers as long as you also cite papers of other research groups. For example: do not write “We have showed that...” with one citation to a paper of your own research group, but write “It has been shown that...” and cite - if possible - multiple papers from different research groups.