What can be applied for

The budget is built up using the NWO-wide standardised building blocks, the so-called modules. These modules are described below. For the call for proposals for the NWA Thematic programme Ecology & North Sea, the following modules are available:

1. Personnel costs (except 1a and 1e)
2. Material costs
3. Investments
4. Knowledge utilisation
5. Internationalisation and Money follows Cooperation

When the budget for the proposal is drawn up, arguments should be provided about how the proposed expenditures in the various categories will contribute to the proposal. NWO will make a budget form available which must be submitted as an annex to the proposal. The funding should be in agreement with the European legislation for state support and tendering

1. Personnel costs

Funding can be requested for the salary costs of personnel that contributes substantially to the research. The personnel costs are dependent on the type of appointment and organisation where the person is/will be employed. A distinction is made between personnel appointed at an academic institute and personnel appointed at other institutes.

The module personnel costs furthermore distinguishes between various budget items (i.e. types of personnel). Apart from the budget item ‘research leave’, there is no limit on the number of times a budget item can be requested. For research leave, a maximum of 10% of the budget requested from NWO applies.

Personnel academic institutes

To request funding for salary costs of personnel appointed at an academic institute the following budget items are available: PhDs/Professional Doctorate in Engineering/MD PhD; postdoc; non-scientific personnel; other scientific personnel; research leave. The budget items are further specified below.

The organisation where the personnel is appointed determines according to which rates the salary costs will be granted:

- For academic institutes other than university medical centres funding is granted according to the most recent VSNU salary tables.

---

1 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
2 Universities and university medical centres located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, NWO- and KNAW institutes, the Netherlands Cancer Institute, the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, researchers from the DUBBLE Beamline at the ESRF in Grenoble, NCB Naturoails, Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL), Princes Máxima Center for pediatric oncology.
3 Universities of applied sciences, TO2 institutes, Governmental Knowledge Institutes and other organisations that participate as applicant and are not the academic institutes mentioned above.
4 In line with the NWO strategy, Industrial and Societal Doctorates are also understood to fall under this category. If an Industrial or Societal Doctorate is appointed, the private or public organisation where the doctorate will obtain his or her PhD will be responsible for (part of) the salary costs. This contribution may be part of the minimally required co-funding.
For university medical centres funding is granted according to the most recent NFU salary tables.

In addition to the salary costs request, a PhD or Postdoc funded by NWO will receive a one-off individual bench fee (€ 5000) to encourage his or her scientific career. The bench fee needs to be included separately in the budget form. Remunerations for PhD scholarship students at a Dutch university are not eligible for funding from NWO.

The guidelines of the budget items are further specified below.

1a PhD/Professional Doctorate in Engineering (PDEng)/MD PhD
In principle, a PhD is appointed for 1 fte PhD for 48 months. The equivalent of 48 full-time months, i.e. an appointment for 0.8 fte for 60 months, is also allowed. The maximum appointment of a PDEng is 1 fte for 24 months.
If a different duration of the appointment is desired for the realisation of the proposed research, then the guidelines may be deviated from as long as this is well justified.

1b Postdoc
The minimum appointment is at least 6 full-time months. The maximum appointment is 48 full-time months. The appointment can be spread over a longer period but should always be at least 0.5 fte or at least 12 months. The product of fte x duration should always be at least 6 full-time months.
For the appointment of an expert for a shorter period of time, the material credit can be used.

1c Non-scientific personnel
Funding for non-scientific personnel that is specifically needed for the execution of the research project can only be requested if there is also funding requested for a PhD or postdoc. Non-scientific personnel can concern personnel such as student assistants, programmers, technical assistants, analysts, et cetera. Salary costs are dependent on the level of the employee. A distinction is made between non-scientific personnel MBO, HBO and Academic. See the relevant salary table for the amount of funding that can be requested.
The minimum appointment is at least 6 full-time months. The maximum appointment is 48 full-time months. The appointment can be spread over a longer period but should always be at least 0.5 fte or at least 12 months. The product of fte x duration should always be at least 6 full-time months.
For the appointment of an expert for a shorter period of time, the material credit can be used.

1d Other scientific personnel
Funding for the appointment of other scientific personnel, such as university graduates, graduate physicians and graduate physicians training to be specialists can only be requested if there is also funding requested for a PhD or postdoc.
The minimum appointment is at least 6 full-time months. The maximum appointment is 48 full-time months. The appointment can be spread over a longer period but should always be at least 0.5 fte or at least 12 months. The product of fte x duration should always be at least 6 full-time months.

1e Research leave
With this budget item, funding can be requested to release the main applicant and/or applicant(s) who are employed at an academic institute from educational, administrative and management tasks (not research tasks) in order to participate in the research project applied for. With funding for research leave, the employer of the applicant concerned can cover costs that are needed to hire replacement for the applicant. The research leave funding can only be used in combination with and for the purposes of activities related to the research project applied for. The activities the applicant will conduct must be specified in the proposal.
Per budget item research leave, the maximum amount that can be requested is the equivalent of 5 full-time months, based on the salary of a postdoc employee according to the most recent salary tables (scale 11.0).

If Personnel other institutes
Funding for the appointment of personnel employed at a university of applied science, TO2 institute, government knowledge institutions and other non-academic organisations in the category applicants (see paragraph 3.1.2) can be
requested by means of using the maximum rates (hour/day) mentioned in the table below (based on the Handleiding Overheidstarieven 2017). The rate used is based on the salary scale of the employee concerned according to the collective labour agreement of the respective organisation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rates per level</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>€ 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting staff NWP MBO</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>€ 59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting staff NWP HBO</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>€ 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior researcher</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>€ 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School teacher</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>€ 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting staff NWP Academic</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>€ 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medior researcher*</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>€ 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medior researcher*</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>€ 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD PhD researcher</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>€ 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher researcher</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>€ 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior researcher</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>€ 95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management/lector</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>€ 119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The first medior researcher scale is the same as PhD level, the second medior researcher scale the same as postdoc level.

The maximum rates mentioned are based on the cost covering rates according to the standard productive hours of the organisation concerned. The cost covering rate needs to be specified and includes:
- (average) gross salary of the employee that will contribute to the project;
- Holiday allowance and (if applicable according to the collective labour agreement concerning) year-end bonus;
- Social insurance premiums;
- Pension costs.

2. Material costs

For material costs, a maximum of € 15,000 per year per fte scientific position requested (i.e. PhD, postdoc and scientific positions at other institutes (junior, medior and senior level with a minimum appointment of 0.2 fte for 12 months)) can be requested. The breakdown of the total amount of material budget between the various personnel positions is up to the applicants. In case of a smaller appointment, the material budget should be applied for and will be granted proportionally.

Funding may be requested for the following type of costs, specified to the three categories stated below.

**Project-related goods/services**
- Consumables (glassware, chemicals, cryogenic fluids, etc.);
- Equipment and/or software (e.g. lasers, specialist computers or computer programs, etc.). For these small items of equipment and/or software, the maximum amount to be requested is € 160,000 per proposal.
- Measurement and calculation time (e.g. supercomputer access, etc.);
- Costs for acquiring or using data collections (e.g. from Statistics Netherlands);
- Access to large national and international facilities (e.g. cleanrooms, synchrotrons, datasets, etc.);
- Work by third parties (e.g. laboratory analyses, data collection, etc.);
- Personnel costs smaller in size than those offered in the module personnel costs.

**Travel and accommodation costs for the scientific positions request**
- Travel and accommodation costs (national and international);
- Congress visits;
- Fieldwork;
- Work visits.
Implementation costs
- National symposium/conference/workshop organised by the consortium;
- Costs of open access publishing;
- Data management costs;
- Costs involved in applying for licences (e.g. for animal experiments).

Costs that cannot be applied for are:
- Basic facilities within the institution (e.g. laptops, desks, et cetera);
- Maintenance and insurance costs.

If the maximum amount of €15,000 per year per fte scientific position is not sufficient for realising the research, then it may be deviated from if a clear justification is provided in the proposal. The only exception to this is the maximum amount (€160,000) for small equipment. If more budget than €160,000 is needed for equipment, the module ‘Investments’ should be applied for.

3. Investments
With this module, funding can be requested for investments in scientifically innovative equipment and data collection of (inter)national importance. For equipment, the minimum amount for an NWO contribution is € 160,000. For data collections, the minimum is € 25,000. The maximum amount that can be requested for investments is € 1,000,000.

The institute that requests the investment must contribute at least 25% of the costs for the investment, both for equipment and data collections. The own contribution must be confirmed in writing by the concerned institute when submitting the full proposal.

The costs for investments need to be adequately specified and motivated in the proposal.

Funding can be requested for:
- Costs for investments in scientific equipment and datasets;
- Personnel costs for the setting up of databases and the initial digitisation for the bibliographic equipment if this cannot be purchased;
- Personnel costs for employees with a specific and vital technical expertise needed for the development or construction of an investment.

If funding is requested to cover personnel costs, then it must be justified why these personnel costs are necessary, why the facility concerned cannot be purchased, and why the necessary personnel expertise cannot be hired elsewhere against comparable costs. To guarantee efficient and legitimate purchasing, the internal purchase guidelines of the applicant requesting the funding apply to the purchase.

Funding cannot be requested for:
- Costs for infrastructural facilities that can be attributed to the standard infrastructure;
- Data collections and any possible associated software and bibliographies that are already available through other means (see for this material costs);
- Other personnel costs, including personnel costs for the exploitation of the facility and the research carried out using it;
- Maintenance and use of the equipment; the costs for the use of equipment by the researchers that are appointed to the project can be requested via the material costs module.

4. Knowledge utilisation
In the proposal at least 5% of the total budget requested from NWO must be reserved for activities in this area. The proposal budget should specify which costs are necessary.

The aim of this module is to facilitate the use of the knowledge that emerges from the research.

---

5 For the purposes of this module, the definition for “knowledge transfer” as set out in the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (OJ 2014, C 198) applies.
As knowledge utilisation can assume very different forms in the various scientific disciplines, it is up to the applicant to specify which costs are needed, for example for producing an educational package, realising a feasibility study into proposal possibilities or costs related to applying for a patent. The requested budget needs to be adequately specified and motivated in the proposal.

5. Internationalisation and Money follows Cooperation

Two types of modules are available for internationalisation.

Internationalisation

The aim of this module is to encourage international collaboration. The requested budget needs to be adequately specified in the proposal.

Funding can be requested for:

- Travel and accommodation costs insofar as these are direct research costs that emerge from the international collaboration and for additional costs that are not covered in a different manner, for example from the bench fee;
- Travel and accommodation costs for foreign guest researchers;
- Costs for the organisation of international workshops/symposia/scientific meetings.

Money follows Cooperation

The aim of this module is to encourage international collaboration via the principle of Money follows Cooperation (MfC), for which the national research budget is used for cross-border collaboration that offers the possibility to create added value for individual research projects by including expertise from abroad which is not available in the Netherlands at the desired level for the project. This concerns expertise from organisations outside of the Netherlands that have a public task and carry out research independently. In the proposal, the applicant must convincingly demonstrate that the expertise concerned is not available in the Netherlands. This will be assessed by the selection committee. If the arguments are not sufficiently convincing, then the funds for this module cannot be made available.

Furthermore, the applicant needs to state the necessary amount for this module in the budget. In principle, there is no limit to the amount that can be requested.