Call for proposals

Cooperation Germany - Von Humboldt Stiftung (VHS)

2016
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.

For the programmes Visitor's Travel Grant, Cooperation Germany – Von Humboldt Stiftung, Cooperation Japan, Cooperation Taiwan and Cooperation China travel grants and seminars, NWO has reserved €370 for 2016, which is divided into two equal parts over the year.

NWO aims to increase researchers’ awareness of the possibilities for knowledge utilisation. NWO asks applicants to consider the potential for knowledge utilisation and, where relevant, to suggest how the results of the proposed research could be used by third parties outside the academic sector or working in other academic disciplines. This does not mean the use of such knowledge by fellow researchers within the same academic discipline; after all, the relevance of the proposed research to the advancement of science within the applicant’s own discipline is assessed through the application of the existing quality criteria.

Who can apply

Any eminent researcher (preferably of professorial status) who holds a tenured position at one of the following knowledge institutions can nominate a German candidate for an NWO Von Humboldt Research Prize:
- Dutch universities;
- NWO and KNAW institutes;
- the Netherlands Cancer Institute;
- the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen;
- researchers from the DUBBLE Beamline at the ESRF in Grenoble;
- NCB Naturalis;
- Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL).

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

You may submit at any time. There are no deadlines. Applications must reach NWO at least six months before the proposed starting date of the visit.

Preparing an application

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

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, the Prize should not be combined with other prizes and the periods of research associated with them. 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.

A condition is that that the granted application is carried out within two years after the grant decision.

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 limits for this programme.

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

**Ethical Aspects**
Any research proposals that raise ethical questions must be carefully considered before the scientific research is carried out. Certain research require a statement of approval from a recognised medical ethics review committee (MERC) or an animal experiments committee (DEC). For some research proposals a licence in accordance with the Population Screening Act (WBO) is required. More information on MERCs is available from the Central Committee On Research Involving Human Subjects (CCMO), on DECs the Dutch Association for Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees provides information and on the WBO the Health Council of the Netherlands can provide information.

An applicant is responsible for determining whether his/her research proposal might raise ethical questions and for obtaining a statement of approval from the correct ethics review committee and/or obtaining a licence on the basis of the Population Screening Act, if necessary.

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

A research project can only start when NWO (if applicable) has received a copy of the approving ethical statement and/or Population Screening Act licence. NWO also expects that the candidates pay due consideration to the timetable of the evaluation and the time needed for the assessment by the ethics review committee or the application for a Population Screening Act licence. For complex questions related to ethical issues, NWO reserves the right to consult an external adviser.

If after consulting the applicant, NWO is of the opinion that an ethical assessment is needed for an application then the applicant is obliged to take the necessary measures for such assessment. If the applicant fails to obtain the necessary statement of approval from an ethics review committee then the grant shall be withdrawn immediately.

**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.

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**.
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. A principal applicant must submit his/her application via his/her own ISAAC account. If the principal applicant does not have an ISAAC account yet, then this should be created at least one day before the application is submitted to ensure that any registration problems can be resolved on time. If the principal applicant already has an NWO account, then he/she does not need to create a new account to submit an application.

When you submit your application to ISAAC you need to enter several additional details online. Make sure you allow enough time for this.

For technical questions please contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see the section Contact.

Procedure

The Von Humboldt Stiftung 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.

NWO gives all full proposals a qualification. The applicant is informed of this qualification when the decision about whether or not to award funding is announced. For further information about the qualifications see www.nwo.nl/kwalificaties.

Criteria

Proposals will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:
- quality of the researcher;
- scientific quality, originality and relevance of the research programme;
- knowledge utilisation.

These criteria weigh 40%, 40% and 20% respectively in the overall assessment.
Contact

For specific questions about Cooperation 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 0527, e-mail w.geldof@nwo.nl

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 CET on +31 (0)900 696 4747. Unfortunately, not all foreign telecom companies support calling to 0900-numbers. 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.

Other information

There is no other information.