Call for proposals

Cooperation Taiwan (MOST) - Scientist Exchange

2016

The Hague, December 2015
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
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 Ministry of Science and Technology of Taiwan (MOST, former National Science Council of Taiwan NSC). The aim of this cooperation programme is to promote contact between Dutch and Taiwanese researchers. The programme gives Dutch researchers the opportunity to spend time in Taiwan and Taiwanese researchers have the chance to visit the Netherlands.

The programme ‘Cooperation Taiwan (MOST) – Scientist exchange – Joint research’ offers the opportunity to apply for grants for a stay (1 to 12 months) in Taiwan.

Grants for such short stays are provided jointly by NWO and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Taiwan (MOST).

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 €370,000 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

This NWO programme is open only to highly qualified and experienced researchers with a tenured position at one of the following knowledge institutions:
- 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).

Preference will be given to researchers who already have established academic contacts with research teams in Taiwan.

All fields of study are eligible.

What can be applied for

This concerns a grant for a stay of 1-12 months in Taiwan.

At MOST a Taiwanese researcher in Taiwan can submit for a stay in the Netherlands.

NWO and MOST grants for a short stay in the Netherlands or Taiwan are composed of standard allowances. Grants for a maximum of 24 months are available each year for short stays and seminars taken together.
In this form of cooperation grant, the home organisation is responsible for the costs of international travel and the host organisation for costs of subsistence, local travel and health insurance.

In the case of a grant for a short stay in Taiwan, NWO meets the costs of international travel (max. € 1070) and MOST covers the costs of local travel, subsistence and health insurance.

In the case of a grant for a short stay in the Netherlands, NWO meets the costs of subsistence (max. € 1750 for a senior-researcher – € 2000 for a professor per month) and local travel (€ 125 per month) and makes a contribution to the costs of health insurance (€ 100 per month).

There is a yearly total period for short stays and seminars together of maximum 24 months.

**When can applications be submitted**

You may submit at any time. There are no deadlines.

An application for a stay in Taiwan must be submitted at least 6 months before the intended departure date.

**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**

Applications will not be accepted for consideration by NWO if:
- the submission deadline has passed;
- 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.

Applications can only be awarded within the available budget and within the limits for short stays and seminars.

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

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 about 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 as 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.
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Procedure

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 a rule, for an application for a visit to Taiwan of maximum six months, no external referee will be consulted. For an application for a visit of between six and twelve months, the views of at least one external referee will be sought. The Visitors Travel Grants committee will assess the application and accompanying documents and will advise; the Governing Board of NWO will decide whether the application will be nominated to MOST.

When the application is nominated to MOST and if MOST also takes a positive view of the application, the grant is awarded jointly by NWO and MOST. MOST can likewise select Taiwanese candidates for short stays in the Netherlands and nominate their applications to 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:

1. Quality of the research teams;
2. Scientific quality, originality and relevance of the proposed visit in Taiwan with work plan;

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

Contact

For specific questions about Cooperation Taiwan (MOST) and this call for proposals please contact:
- NWO Secretariat Cooperation Taiwan (MOST)
- Winnifred Geldof, tel. +31 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.