

NWO Talent Programme

Veni 2020

Call for proposals

Applied and Engineering Sciences
Health Research And Development
Science
Social Sciences And Humanities

2020



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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

From 2020, NWO will convert the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme to the NWO Talent Programme. The programme covers three grant categories (Veni, Vidi and Vici).

Each category has one submission round per year. Procedures may change from year to year, depending in part on the results of interim evaluations.

Each grant category has a separate call for proposals.

NWO is structured into four domains:

- Science;
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH);
- Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES); and
- Health Research and Development (ZonMw).

The 2020 Veni round will therefore be conducted in four procedures corresponding to the NWO domains. As from September 2019, cross-domain Veni applications will be assessed within one of the domains.

Three domains – SSH, AES and ZonMw – will trial a pre-proposal phase in the 2020 Veni round. Applicants in these domains will submit a shortened proposal before the deadline in September 2019.

NWO Domain Science is **not** using a pre-proposal phase for the 2020 Veni round. Applicants in this domain should submit a full proposal in January 2020.

Please note: if applicants are unsure about which domain is best suited to their application, they should contact NWO in good time before submitting it.

1.2 Available budget

The overall budget for Talent Programme funding in 2020 is 150 million euros.

A further 1.5 million euros are available for the AES and Science domains to fund additional proposals from female applicants in the 2020 Veni round.

1.3 Validity of the call for proposals

This call for proposals is valid until the closing date of 9 January 2020.

This call for proposals and any decisions based on this call are subject to the NWO Grant Rules 2017 ([NWO Grant Rules 2017](#)).

2 Aim

The aim of the NWO Talent Programme is to provide individual encouragement for talented postdoctoral researchers at various stages of their careers¹. Providing creative opportunities for adventurous, talented, pioneering researchers to do research of their own choice and to encourage them to make a permanent career of academic research are therefore key aims of the NWO Talent Programme. With a personal grant, researchers have the opportunity to develop their own, innovative line of research which could be structurally embedded in a research institution.

2.1 Veni target group

The Veni target group consists of excellent researchers with a striking and original talent as well as a considerable fascination for doing challenging and pioneering research. The focus in this respect is on innovative and curiosity-driven research. The candidates are at the start of their academic career but have already demonstrated a striking talent for doing scientific research. In view of the purpose of the programme, it is essential that researchers should have the ability to formulate and conduct a line of scientific research independently.

Researchers working at a foreign institution are also eligible to submit an application. If awarded, the project must be carried out at a Dutch institution recognised by NWO.

2.2 Promoting female researchers

We explicitly invite female researchers to apply. The representation and advancement of women in academia are unfortunately far less than those of men. NWO and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) are working together with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) and Dutch universities to rectify this situation; the aim is that the percentage of female applicants will ultimately be at least equal to the percentage of female researchers in the target group.

NWO strives to ensure that the success rates for female applicants will be at least equal to those for male researchers on average and in the medium term. In the event that two or more applications are rated equally, preference will be given to the proposal submitted by a female applicant.

In addition, extra funding is available to improve the gender balance in the research fields of the AES and Science domains (see Section 1.2). This funding will be used to fund up to six additional proposals submitted by female researchers. Proposals which have received a qualification of at least “very good” after the interviews and which cannot be funded from the budget for the 2020 Veni Talent Programme are eligible for this additional funding.

¹ In this call for proposals, the term “researcher” refers to all academics.

2.3 Knowledge utilisation

By knowledge utilisation, NWO means the transfer of knowledge generated with the help of NWO funding. This transfer can take place both to other scientific disciplines and to users outside of science (industry/society). NWO asks all researchers applying for funding to provide an explanation regarding the possible knowledge utilisation of their project by answering several questions (e.g. how will knowledge utilisation be implemented and how does the researcher intend to facilitate knowledge utilisation?). This explanation is one of the assessment criteria.

During the assessment, attention is paid to the following *inter alia*:

- a realistic representation of the knowledge utilisation possibilities (or lack thereof);
- the effectiveness of the action plan and the extent to which it is made tangible in relation to knowledge utilisation.

NWO acknowledges that the possibilities for knowledge utilisation differ per discipline and that some research projects have few, if any, opportunities for (direct) knowledge utilisation. In such cases, an applicant should explain why there is little to no potential for knowledge utilisation. The selection committee members will be asked to assess this explanation: if they are convinced that the research project indeed has little to no knowledge utilisation possibilities and that the applicant has satisfactorily explained this, then this should not negatively influence the overall assessment score.

More information on the NWO policy on knowledge utilisation can be found at www.nwo.nl/knowledge-utilisation.

3 Guidelines for applicants

3.1 Who can apply

Applications can be submitted by candidates who have recently received their doctorates, irrespective of whether they hold tenured positions or whether they come from the Netherlands or abroad. The appointment will be at one of the host research institutions (see Section 5.2). NWO asks candidates for an “[embedding guarantee](#)” (see Section 3.5.2).

3.1.1 Career deadline

Veni applicants must have obtained their doctorate within the last three years. The 2020 Veni round is open to researchers who meet this criterion on 1 January 2020. A researcher who has not yet been awarded a doctorate can apply. However, the electronic submission of a full Veni application must be accompanied by an official declaration by the entire manuscript committee that the manuscript of the PhD thesis has been approved and that the PhD programme will have been fully completed within four months after the submission deadline.

3.1.2 Extension clause

The maximum career deadline can be extended by NWO if the candidate has taken extended sick, parental, maternity or care leave within the relevant period. The maximum extension that may be granted to any particular applicant is five years.

Parents can obtain an extension if they are caring for a child. Extension is also possible in the case of a part-time appointment in combination with care tasks, or in the case of training for certain clinical specialisations. The maximum extension in the case of care leave in combination with training to become a clinical specialist is also five years.

Further information about extensions is provided in the Frequently Asked Questions section [online](#). If you wish to apply for an extension, please contact NWO before submitting your application (see Section 5.1).

3.1.3 Compensation scheme Parental leave

Applicants in this funding round can make use of the NWO Compensation scheme Parental leave. Information on this subject is available on the [NWO website](#). If you would like to make use of the scheme, please submit an e-mail request to the relevant programme secretary for your round and/or panel.

3.1.4 Additional conditions

The following additional conditions apply to the assessment of applications:

- a. Applications must be submitted by individual researchers (not by pairs or groups of researchers or by research teams).
- b. A candidate may:
 - submit a maximum of one application in the Veni 2020 round;
 - enter the application process for the NWO Talent Programme for no more than one type of grant at a time;
 - submit a Veni application no more than twice.

- If an application that has been admitted to the selection process is withdrawn by the applicant, this submission still counts towards the maximum number of submissions per applicant.

c. Researchers who have previously received a particular type of grant under the Talent Programme may not apply again for a grant of the same kind.

3.1.5 Institutions

Approved host institutions are those universities within the Kingdom of the Netherlands whose terms of reference include the conducting of research, the KNAW and NWO institutes, and a number of other institutions. The full list of institutions is contained in section 5.2.

3.2 What can be applied for

The maximum amount for a Veni project is 250,000 euros for a period of three years. If the proposed research is of shorter duration (in months), the maximum amount will be reduced accordingly.

The budget estimate submitted with the application must be based on eligible direct staff costs and direct non-staff costs. The calculation of the staff costs must be based on actual gross salaries and associated costs as specified in the current Agreement for Funding Scientific Research (<http://www.nwo.nl/salary-tables>), with the exception of indexation and end-of-project payments. The amount of these payments for the Veni 2020 round will be based on the standard rates in the Agreement.

Appointment of additional scientific personnel is not eligible for subsidy for Veni recipients. Thus, it is not permitted to list salary costs for additional scientific personnel in the budget submitted with the Veni application. Salary costs for additional non-scientific support staff may be listed in the budget. The actual appointment of additional non-scientific support staff requires NWO's approval.

Applicants who will devote no more than 25 percent of their contracted working hours to non-research activities (e.g. teaching, administration, management) and the other 75 percent to research for their Veni project may charge their entire salary to the project budget. If the applicant is to devote more than 25 percent of his/her contracted working time to other activities, only that proportion of working time devoted to the Veni project may be charged to the project budget.

The term "direct non-staff costs" means general non-staff costs plus the costs of knowledge transfer, knowledge utilisation and internationalisation. Infrastructure costs (accommodation and office automation) and other overheads are not eligible for funding.

The proposed budget will be assessed by NWO. If it exceeds the maximum amount of the grant, the application must be accompanied by a letter from the prospective host institution or a third party (co-funder) guaranteeing to cover the excess costs requested from NWO. This guarantee must be signed by the dean/manager of the institution or by a person with authority to sign on behalf of the body issuing the guarantee.

For further information and explanation of grant-eligible costs, see the document "guidelines for design of expenditures financial accounting reports" at www.nwo.nl/en/documents/nwo/innovational-research-incentives-scheme---guidelines-for-design-of-expenditures-financial-accounting-reports.

3.3 When can applications be submitted

The deadline for the submission of preproposals is **September 3, 2019**, 14:00 hours CE(S)T.

The deadline for the submission of proposals is **January 9, 2020**

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

Veni grant application forms (pre- and full proposal) will be available on the programme website (www.nwo.nl/vi) two months before the submission deadline.

3.4.1 Preparing a pre-proposal for the domains SHH, AES, and ZonMw

- Download the application form from the ISAAC online application system or from the NWO website (at the foot of the domain web page for the relevant funding instrument).
- Complete the application form.

Save the form as a PDF file and upload it to ISAAC (www.isaac.nwo.nl/en/).

- Pre-proposals must be written in English and must include:
- A description of the candidate's academic profile (min. 400 to max. 700 words);
- The research idea (max. 50 words).
- A description of the candidate's key output (max. 10 items, min. 400 to max. 700 words).

The completed and signed embedding guarantee (see also Section 3.5.1) must be uploaded via ISAAC at the same time as the pre-proposal form.

3.4.2 Preparing a full proposal

Download the application form from the ISAAC online application system or from the NWO website (at the foot of the domain web page for the relevant funding instrument). **Note:** the application form for the full proposal may differ between domains. The domains SSH, AES and ZonMw use a form in which the CV section is identical to sections in the pre-proposal form.

- Complete the application form;
- Save the form as a PDF file and upload it to ISAAC (www.isaac.nwo.nl/en/) or, for applications within the medical sciences (ZonMw), to MijnZonMw (mijn.zonmw.nl).

Full proposals must be written in English and must include:

- the candidate's curriculum vitae;
- an outline of the research proposal and a completed motivation for the choice of institution (max. 2000 words, including in-text references);
- a completed knowledge utilisation section (max. 750 words);
- a completed data management section;
- a budget estimate.

Applicants who have not yet obtained a doctorate may submit a full proposal only if the electronic submission of the application is accompanied by a declaration by the entire manuscript committee stating that the manuscript of the applicant's doctoral thesis has been approved.

Applicants in the domains SSH, AES and ZonMw may only submit a full proposal after they have been informed that the board of the domain concerned has taken a positive decision on the applicant's pre-proposal. Applicants are not permitted to submit a full proposal in the 2020 Veni round following a negative decision on the pre-proposal.

Applicants in the NWO Domain Science should upload the completed and signed embedding guarantee (see Section 3.5.1) via ISAAC at the same time as the full application.

3.5 Specific conditions on granting

The [NWO Grant Rules 2017](#) and the [Agreement on the Payment of Costs for Scientific Research](#) apply to all applications.

Open Access

NWO is part of cOAlition S, an international consortium of research funders that announced the definitive version of a plan ("Plan S") in May 2019, for accelerating the transition to Open Access. The core of the plan is that all publications resulting from funding provided by these research funders must be published in compliant Open Access journals or platforms. (See: <https://www.coalition-s.org/>) This is consistent with existing NWO policies concerning open access.

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). NWO does not accept embargo periods. There are several ways for researchers to publish Open Access. A detailed explanation can be found at www.nwo.nl/openscience-en.

Please note: Costs of Open Access publications can be included in your project budget under "Material".

Data management

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 NWO data management protocol. 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 four 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 on the data management protocol of NWO can be found at www.nwo.nl/datamanagement-en.

Further information on the core criteria on which the format for data management plans is based can be found in the [Practical Guide to the International Alignment of Research Data Management](#) published by Science Europe.

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.

Allocation of IP rights

The following applies with respect to making agreements about intellectual property rights and publication (IP&P): for projects awarded funding by NWO SSH, ZonMw and NWO Science, the project leader is responsible for the allocation of IP rights to the project results.

For Veni applications funded by the domain AES, NWO is responsible for allocating the IP rights to the project results. After the proposal has been awarded, the NWO domain AES will contact the user/users to make agreements about the allocation of IP rights and about publication, with due consideration for the "Guidelines TTW User Committee".

The NWO conditions with respect to IP rights and the publication procedure are stated in Chapter 4 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017.

User committees

After funding has been awarded, for projects for which project management is handled by the NWO domain AES, NWO will appoint a user committee (as described in Article 3.3.2a of the NWO Grant Rules 2017) in consultation with the project leader, to facilitate the actual and effective transfer of knowledge from the research to the users. The user committee's main task is to advise the project leader about the direction the research should take to maximise the application of the research results. How the user committee works and its tasks are stated in the "[Guidelines TTW User Committee](#)". Membership of the user committee is at the invitation of NWO domain AES. By agreeing to participate, the members commit themselves to the rules stated in the "Guidelines TTW User Committee". Costs related to participation in user committees cannot be part of the budget.

3.5.1 Embedding guarantee

NWO asks Veni candidates for an “embedding guarantee”. This means that researchers can only submit applications for Veni funding with the support of the institution where they intend to conduct their research.

The embedding guarantee should be laid down in the relevant Veni embedding guarantee form. This form is available on the [NWO website](#).

Choice of institution

Candidates are free to choose an approved institution (as listed in Section 5.2) in which they plan to conduct their research, but the embedding within the institution should be arranged by signing the embedding guarantee before submitting the pre-proposal (SSH, AES and ZonMw) or application (NWO Science).

In consultation with the host institution, part of the research may be conducted outside the Netherlands. The applicant’s plans for achieving institutional integration may be a subject of discussion during the assessment.

Coordination

In all cases and before submission of the Veni application, the embedding of the proposed research must be coordinated in a discussion between the candidate and the intended supervisor at the hosting institution. The information in the Veni embedding guarantee form will play no role in the selection process.

Appointment

The appointment at the host institution and arrangements for integration within it must always be completed before any grant payment is made by NWO. The successful candidate must sign a written agreement with the board of the institution concerned.

3.5.2 Ethical aspects

Any research proposal that raises ethical issues must be carefully considered in advance. Certain research projects require a statement of approval from a recognised ethical review committee, medical ethics review committee (MREC) or the central animal experiments committee (CCD). Such committees may advise researchers on matters such as the use and handling of patients, subjects and laboratory animals, possible risks of disclosure of data, use of human tissue, risks to the environment or cultural heritage, and possible conflicts of interest. Their recommendations may or may not be binding. In addition to ethical review by an ethics committee, 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 Dutch Association of Animal Experiment Committees (NVDEC) can provide information on animal experiments committees, and the Health Council of the Netherlands can advise on the WBO.

Veni applicants are responsible for determining 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. Veni applicants must subscribe to and comply with the prevailing codes.

Veni projects 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 the Veni 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.

3.6 Submitting a pre-proposal/full proposal

Pre-proposals and full proposals can only be submitted to the domains SSH, AES and NWO Science via the online application system ISAAC Applications not submitted via ISAAC will not be considered. Applications to the Medical Sciences Division can only be submitted via the MijnZonMw application system, which can be accessed via the website of the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research & Development, ZonMw (<https://mijn.zonmw.nl>).

Applicants must submit their pre-proposals/full proposals via their personal ISAAC/MijnZonMw account. If the applicant does not yet have an ISAAC/MijnZonMw 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 NWO account, then he/she does not need to create a new account to submit an application.

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

For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC/MijnZonMw helpdesk (see Section 5.1.2).

Choice of NWO domain

NWO has four domains: Science, Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES), and Health Research and Development (ZonMw).

Veni candidates should submit their applications to only one domain. If the application is for cross-domain research, the applicant must choose the domain that is best suited to the application. As from September 2019, all Veni applications will be assessed within one of the domains.

Please note: NWO recommends that applicants consider in good time which domain is best suited to their application (bearing in mind the pre-proposal deadline of 3 September 2019 for the domains SSH, AES and ZonMw). If you are not sure which domain is best suited to your application, we urge you to contact NWO. NWO may be able to offer advice on this matter; the ultimate decision is up to the applicant.

If, after submission of the application, the secretariat of the chosen NWO domain is of the opinion that the application would be better assessed by a different assessment committee, NWO will contact the applicant to discuss the possibility of transferring the application to a different NWO domain.

Note, however, that it is not possible to move applications between NWO Science, which uses the regular procedure, and the domains applying a pre-proposal procedure (SSH, AES and ZonMw).

Annexes

NWO asks Veni candidates for an “embedding guarantee”. The Veni embedding guarantee form is available [online](#).

The embedding guarantee form should be uploaded as a separate PDF document via ISAAC/MijnZonMw upon submission for the first deadline. In the case of SSH, AES and ZonMw, the embedding form should be attached to the pre-proposal. In the case of NWO Science, the embedding form should be attached to the full proposal. The embedding form will not be sent to referees or committee members and will not be taken into consideration when assessing the applications.

In the event of a contribution from the host institution and/or a third party, the full proposal must be accompanied by a co-funding declaration from the contributing party. Co-funding declarations must explicitly state the amount contributed by the third party. They are unconditional and do not contain termination clauses. In the case of NWO Science, SSH and ZonMw, co-funding declarations will not be sent to referees or committee members and will not be assessed. In the case of AES, however, co-funding declarations pledging in-cash and/or in-kind contributions will be sent to referees and committee members. **Please note:** the domain-specific form should be used for co-funding declarations. This can be found on the funding page for the domain in question.

In the case of an applicant who has not yet obtained a doctorate, the electronic submission of the application must be accompanied by a declaration by the entire manuscript committee stating that the manuscript of the applicant’s doctoral thesis has been approved.

No additional annexes may be added other than those listed above. Publications or letters of recommendation may not be submitted with your application.

4 Assessment procedure

4.1 Procedure

The first step in the assessment procedure is to determine the admissibility of the pre-proposal/full proposal. This is done using the conditions stated in Chapter 3 of this call for proposals.

The [NWO Code for Dealing with Personal Interests](#) applies to all persons and NWO staff involved in the assessment and/or decision-making process.

The data management section in the application is not evaluated and hence is not considered in the decision on whether or not to award funding. However, both the referees and the committee can issue advice relating to the data management section. After a proposal has been awarded funding, the applicant should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. Applicants can make use of the advice from the referees and committee, if available, when they write the data management plan. The project can start as soon as the data management plan has been approved by NWO.

Veni applications are assessed in a national competition. The assessment of Veni applications takes place within the four NWO domains. This means that applications from different disciplines will be compared within each domain in a competitive procedure. The domains use broad-based committees of academics to advise on the merits and prioritisation of the applications. This should be taken into account when writing the application. The application must also be accessible to committee members from other scientific disciplines within the domain. Where domains use multiple assessment panels, the (disciplinary) composition of these panels is explained in more detail on the domain page in question.

NWO gives all Veni 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: <http://www.nwo.nl/qualifications>.

4.1.1 Eligibility

NWO screens applications to ensure that they comply with the formal requirements of the scheme (see Chapter 3). Only those proposals that meet the conditions are eligible and will be taken into consideration by NWO.

4.1.2 Pre-proposal

The domains SSH, AES and ZonMw will trial a pre-proposal procedure in the 2020 Veni round. Candidates wishing to apply in the social sciences and humanities, applied and engineering sciences or health research and development within the 2020 Veni round must submit a pre-proposal before the deadline of 14:00 CEST on 3 September 2019.

The SSH, AES and ZonMw Veni committees first assess the pre-proposals using the relevant criteria (see Section 4.2) and then prioritise them according to likelihood of funding, without making use of external referees. AES and ZonMw use a broadly composed multidisciplinary Veni committee. SSH divides the Veni committee into eight multidisciplinary panels. The disciplinary composition of these panels can be found on the [NWO website](#).

Pre-proposal decision

Candidates whose pre-proposals are judged least likely to be awarded grants will be notified that the committee does not intend to select their applications for further consideration. If candidates have legitimate grounds to object to the committee's decision, they may send a reasoned response to the domain handling the application. On the basis of this response, the committee may change its decision and select the application for further processing after all.

The assessment of pre-proposals by the Veni committee results in a recommendation to the relevant domain board, which decides whether or not to invite applicants to submit a detailed proposal. The decision of the domain board is binding. Applicants who have submitted a pre-proposal in the 2020 Veni round are not permitted to submit a full proposal unless their pre-proposal has received a positive decision.

4.1.3 Pre-selection

Pre-selection only takes place if the number of applications received by a particular division is at least four times the number of grants available. Otherwise, all applications are sent to external referees without pre-selection. Pre-selection is used because otherwise the number of referees to be consulted becomes too large and the chance of success for many candidates very small.

Pre-selection is based on the three Veni selection criteria for full proposals (see Section 4.2). In the event of pre-selection, the committee will assess all applications globally and comparatively and rate them in terms of their chance of success, without making use of external referees. Candidates whose applications are judged least likely to be awarded grants will be notified that the committee does not intend to select their applications for further consideration. If candidates have legitimate grounds to object to the committee's decision, they may send a reasoned response to the domain handling the application. On the basis of this response, the committee may change its decision and select the application for further processing after all. Otherwise, a formal decision letter rejecting the application will be sent to the applicant.

Pre-selection will not be used in the domains SSH, AES and ZonMw.

4.1.4 Hearing and rebuttal

All full proposals (or, if applicable, those successful in the pre-selection round) are submitted to external referees for their consideration. Candidates will then be given the opportunity to respond to the anonymised referee reports.

It is possible to indicate up to three non-referees. Candidates can submit the names of non-referees via ISAAC when they submit their application. Even if ISAAC offers room for more non-referees, candidates may not indicate more than three names. Candidates applying to ZonMw may submit the names of up to three non-referees by sending an email to (veni@zonmw.nl). NWO will not approach these non-referees to assess the application as external referees.

4.1.5 Interview (selection)

The full proposals, referees' reports and rebuttals are presented to the relevant assessment committee. The assessment committee selects a number of candidates for an interview. The selection committee makes its own consideration based on the referees' reports received and the candidates' responses to them. The highest-ranked candidates are then invited for an interview.

During the interview, the assessment committee has an opportunity to ask questions, including new ones not yet raised by the referees. The candidate can respond to these during the interview discussion with the committee. This again provides an opportunity for a hearing and rebuttal. The interview is an important part of the assessment and can result in a review of the assessment and the proposal's score to date.

4.1.6 Decision-making

After the interviews, the assessment committee formulates its funding recommendation and submits it to the relevant domain board, which then takes its decision. The final number of grants to be awarded to applications with a minimum qualification of “very good” depends on the funds available in the round. Once the relevant domain board has taken its decision, the result is announced.

4.1.7 Arrangements and reporting

Once the relevant domain board has announced its decisions, arrangements are made for each award. Successful candidates are awarded contracts of employment with the host institutions of their choice and arrangements are made for final reporting and for any necessary supervision by the domain concerned (see also Section 3.5.1). Veni projects must always start within six months of the grant being awarded. The projects awarded funding will be managed by one of the NWO domains.

4.1.8 Indicative timetable

NWO aims to complete the entire selection procedure for the 2020 Veni round within seven months. Including the Veni pre-proposal phase, NWO aims to complete the procedure within eleven months. The indicative timetable for the 2020 Veni round (the exact timetable varies according to the domain) is:

<i>Pre-proposals</i>	<i>(Domains AES, SSH, and ZonMw)</i>
3 September 2019 by 14:00 CEST	Deadline for submission of Veni pre-proposals via the Isaac system/MijnZonMw
October 2019	Notification of decisions for the pre-proposal phase
<i>Full proposals</i>	<i>(All domains)</i>
9 January 2020 by 14:00u CET	Deadline for submission of Veni full proposals via the Isaac system/MijnZonMw
By mid-May 2020	Consulting of referees and candidates' rebuttals
May 2020	Interview selection and notification of interview selection results
Mid-May/mid-June 2020	Interviews
Mid-July 2020	Decisions by NWO domain boards
From mid-July juli 2020	NWO notifies applicants of decisions.

4.1.9 Adjustments to the procedure

It is possible that NWO may deem it necessary to make adjustments to the procedure during the current round. Any adjustments to the 2020 Veni procedure will be published on the NWO website. Please check the website regularly for accurate information.

4.2 Criteria for the pre-proposal

All pre-proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Academic profile (see Section 4.2.1);
2. Research idea (see Section 4.2.2);
3. Key output (see Section 4.2.3).

These criteria are weighted 45%, 5% and 50% respectively in the overall assessment of the pre-proposal.

4.2.1 Academic profile

- Fit in terms of profile in the target group;
- clear vision of the researcher about his/her place in science;
- clear positioning of the researcher's work with respect to scientific and (where possible) public themes or questions;
- national and international visibility;
- clear indication(s) that the researcher has a striking talent for doing scientific research;
- collaborations;
- indication(s) of independence and/or independent research line(s);
- indications of other academic activities, including education, and the linking of these to science;
- ability to translate the output of scientific research for the benefit of potential knowledge users outside of the own academic work area as well as within society;
- persuasiveness;
- inspiring enthusiasm for research and/or technology in general and for the execution of the research idea in particular.

4.2.2 Research idea

- Originality of the research idea;
- importance of the research idea for the disciplines concerned, and (where possible) for relevant public themes or issues.

4.2.3 Key output

- Scientific excellence apparent from, amongst other things, the quality of the PhD thesis, publications and/or other scientific output;
- the quality of the scientific productivity in relation to the norm within the discipline concerned;
- pertinence of the description as to why the publications and/or other output are important for the disciplines concerned, and where possible for the research idea and/or relevant public themes or issues.

4.3 Criteria for the full proposal

All full proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. quality of the researcher (see Section 4.3.1);
2. quality, innovative character and academic impact of the proposed research (see Section 4.3.2);
3. knowledge utilisation (see Section 4.3.3).

These criteria are weighted 40%, 40% and 20% respectively in the overall assessment.

4.3.1 Quality of the researcher

- Fit in terms of profile in the target group;
- in the top 10 to 20% of his/her international peer group;
- academic excellence as demonstrated by the PhD thesis, publications and/or other relevant achievements in the field;
- inspiring enthusiasm for research and/or technology;
- persuasiveness;
- clear indications of an outstanding talent for academic research.

4.3.2 Quality, innovative character and academic impact of the proposed research

- Challenging content;
- originality of the topic;
- innovative elements;
- potential to make an important contribution to the advancement of science;
- effectiveness of the proposed methodology;
- scientific embedding of the research.

4.3.3 Knowledge utilisation

Potential

- Contribution to society and/or other academic areas;
- disciplines and organisations that might benefit from the results.

Implementation

- Action plan to allow the outcomes of the research project to benefit the potential knowledge users;
- if and how the potential knowledge users will be involved;
- (concrete) outcomes for society and/or other academic disciplines;
- the period over which knowledge utilisation is expected to occur.

The assessment committee assesses:

- whether the applicant has given a realistic description of the potential for knowledge utilisation;
- in case there is indeed potential for knowledge utilisation: to what extent the applicant has presented a concrete and convincing plan for the implementation of the available potential.
- If there is no potential for knowledge utilisation: the applicant's arguments as to why the proposed research does not lend itself to knowledge utilisation.

5 Contact details and other information

5.1 Contact

5.1.1 Specific questions

The latest information about the NWO Talent Programme can be found on (www.nwo.nl/vi). A document with answers to frequently asked questions can also be found under the division specific funding instrument. Candidates are advised to check the website before contacting NWO. Questions about the NWO Talent Programme can be directed towards the central coordinator of this grant programme at NWO or to the coordinator of the relevant NWO domain. Contact details can be found at www.nwo.nl/vi/contact.

Questions about current Talent Programme projects should be posed to the coordinator of the NWO unit handling the project concerned (www.nwo.nl/vi/contact).

Central coordinator Talent Programme

Website: www.nwo.nl/vi (information on Talent Programme funding) or:
www.nwo.nl/vi-programma (general information on the Talent Programme)

E-mail: vi@nwo.nl

Secretariat telephone number: +31 70 344 0707

Addresses

Talent Programme/Veni
NWO Science
PO Box 93460
2509 AC The Hague, The Netherlands
veni_science@nwo.nl

Talent Programme/Veni
NWO Social Sciences and Humanities
PO Box 93461
2509 AC The Hague, The Netherlands
sgw-veni@nwo.nl

Talent Programme/Veni
NWO Applied and Engineering Sciences
PO Box 3021
3502 GA Utrecht, The Netherlands
veni-ttw@nwo.nl

Talent Programme/Veni
NWO Health Research and Development
PO Box 93245
2509 AE The Hague, The Netherlands
veni@zonmw.nl

For specific questions about NWO Talent Programme and this call for proposals please contact:

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 (see <https://www.isaac.nwo.nl/nl/help>) 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 20 346 7179. You can also submit your question by email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will receive an answer within two working days.

Technical questions about the use of the MijnZonMw application system can be addressed to the helpdesk during normal office hours (tel: +31 70 349 5178) or by email: servicedesk@zonmw.nl.

5.2 List of institutions

A list of approved knowledge institutions is given below. Applicants are encouraged to contact the institution of their choice in good time, in order to obtain the compulsory embedding guarantee.

5.2.1 Universities

Delft University of Technology
 Eindhoven University of Technology
 Erasmus University Rotterdam
 Leiden University
 Maastricht University
 Open University of the Netherlands
 Protestant Theological University
 Radboud University Nijmegen
 Theological University of Apeldoorn
 Theological University of Kampen
 Tilburg University
 University of Humanistic Studies
 University of Amsterdam
 University of Aruba
 University of Curacao
 University of Groningen
 University of Twente
 Utrecht University
 VU Amsterdam
 Wageningen University and Research Centre

5.2.2 KNAW institutes

Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW)

5.2.3 NWO institutes (NWO-I)

AMOLF - Physics of functional complex matter
 ARCNL - Advanced Research Center for Nanolithography
 ASTRON - Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy
 CWI - National research institute for mathematics and computer science
 DIFFER - Dutch Institute for Fundamental Energy Research
 Nikhef - Institute for Subatomic Physics Nikhef

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NIOZ - Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research

NSCR - Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement

SRON - Netherlands Institute for Space Research

5.2.4 Other

Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics

NCB Naturalis

Netherlands Cancer Institute

Princess Máxima Center for Paediatric Oncology

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Visiting address:
Laan van Nieuw Oost-Indië 300
2593 CE The Hague
The Netherlands
www.nwo.nl/en

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