Call for proposals

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

2020
Chapter 1: Introduction / Vici

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

1.2 Available budget

The overall budget for the Talent Programme funding in 2020 is 150 million euros. There is 46.5 million euros available for the Vici round, of which 18 million euros for applications of the Science domain, 15 million euros for applications of the SSH domain, 6 million euros for applications within AES domain and 7.5 million euros for applications within ZonMw.

1.3 Validity of the call for proposals

This call for proposals is valid until the closing date August 27, 2020, 14:00 hours CE(S)T.
2 Aim

The aim of the NWO Talent Programme is to provide individual encouragement for talented postdoctoral researchers at various stages of their careers. 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 Vici target group

The Vici 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.

In view of the purpose of the Vici programme, it is obviously essential that researchers should have the ability to formulate and conduct a line of scientific research independently. This implies that they will already have proved their abilities in their field of research.

The Vici scheme is aimed at the excellent senior researcher who has successfully demonstrated the ability to develop his/her own innovative line of research and the ability to act as a coach for young researchers.

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 (see paragraph 3.1 and 5.2 for more information).

The Vici funding focuses on researchers who will be among the top ten percent of their peer group, irrespective of their nationality or research topic. It is expected that they can also convince others of the originality and potential of their ideas.

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.

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

The Vici rounds are linked to the Aspasia premium scheme. Through this scheme premiums of 100,000 euros are made available to university executive boards who promote female Vici laureates to a full professorship within one year of the grant being awarded. Aspasia has also been open to female applicants who were qualified as very good to excellent in the interview phase but who ultimately did not receive a grant. Executive boards receive a premium of 200,000 euros for promoting these applicants. The specific conditions for the awarding of the premium can be found on the Aspasia website (www.nwo.nl/aspasia). Female laureates and candidates who are eligible for the premium will be informed of this by NWO after the decision on their Vici-proposal.

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.

The Dutch National Research Agenda can serve as a source of inspiration when you are thinking through the potential for knowledge utilisation. The routes within the Agenda can inspire Talent Scheme researchers and help them to pinpoint the potential importance of their research for other scientific disciplines as well as for society and to make this tangible.

A browseable online Dutch National Research Agenda book as well as the Portfolio for research and innovation with further information about the current routes in the Agenda (both in Dutch and English) are available at http://www.wetenschapsagenda.nl/publicaties. The digital version of the Agenda that contains all of the questions can be consulted, in Dutch, at vragen.wetenschapsagenda.nl.
3 Guidelines for applicants

3.1 Who can apply

Research proposals can be submitted by applicants who have recently received their doctorates, irrespective of whether they hold tenured positions or whether they come from the Netherlands or abroad. The research will be carried out at one of the host research institutions listed in Section 5.2 of this Call for proposals.

3.1.1 Career deadline

Vici applicants must have obtained their doctorate within the last fifteen years at our reference date on March 1st, 2020.

3.1.2 Extension clause

The maximum career deadline can be extended by NWO if the applicants 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 (see paragraph 5.1).

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 applicant may:

• submit a maximum of one application in the Vici 2020 round;
• submit a Vici application no more than three times;
• enter the application process for the NWO Talent Programme for no more than one type of grant at a time;
• 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. The following additional restrictions apply to researchers who have previously been awarded grants under the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme:

• no researcher who has already received a particular type of grant (Veni, Vidi, Vici) may apply again for a grant of the same kind;
• no researcher in receipt of a current award under the NWO Talent Programme (previously: Innovational Research Incentives Scheme) may apply for another form of grant under the scheme earlier than 24 months before the planned expiry date of the current grant.

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 Vici project offered by NWO is 1.5 million euros for a period of five years. If the proposed research is of shorter duration, 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 Dutch agreement on the funding of academic research (Akkoord bekostiging wetenschappelijk onderzoek; www.nwo.nl/salary-tables), with the exception of indexation and end-of-project payments. The amount of these payments for the 2020 will be based on the standard percentages in the agreement.

Remunerations for PhD students/PhD scholarship students at a Dutch university are not eligible for funding from NWO.

Within the grant, applicants can spend a maximum of 25% of their contracted working time on general scientific activities, such as teaching, administration or management. At least 75 percent of the Vici contracted working time must be spent on their Vici project.

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 overhead are not eligible for funding.

The proposed budget will be assessed by NWO. If it exceeds the maximum amount of the Vici grant, the application (preproposal and full proposal) must be accompanied by a letter from the prospective host institution or a third party (co financer) guaranteeing to cover the excess costs. 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.


### 3.3 When can applications be submitted

The deadline for the submission of preproposals is **March 26, 2020, 14:00 hours CE(S)T**.

The deadline for the submission of proposals is **August 27, 2020, 14:00 hours CE(S)T**.

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

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

- Download the form from the electronic application system ISAAC or from NWO’s website (on the grant page for this programme);
- Complete the form;
- Save the application form as a pdf file;
- Upload it in ISAAC ([www.isaac.nwo.nl](www.isaac.nwo.nl)) or in Mijn ZonMw ([https://mijn.zonmw.nl](https://mijn.zonmw.nl)) for applications to the Health Research and Development domain (ZonMw).

Pre- and full proposals must be written in English and must include:

- an outline of the research proposal (max. 1,200 words for a Vici preproposal and max. 8,000 words for a Vici detailed proposal, not including references);
- a knowledge utilisation section (max. 500 words for a Vici preproposal and max. 1,000 words for a Vici detailed proposal);
- a narrative CV, consisting of a description of the applicant’s academic profile (max. 1200 words) and a description of the key output (max. 10 items);
- a budget estimate;
- a Data Management section (full proposals).

### 3.5 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
As a signatory to the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities (2003), NWO is committed to making the results of scientific research funded by NWO freely available in open access on the internet. In doing so, NWO is implementing the ambitions of the Dutch government to make all publicly funded research openly available. All scientific publications of research funded on the basis of this call for proposals should therefore be available in open access immediately (at the time of publication). NWO accepts various routes:
- publication in an open access journal,
- deposit a version of the article in a repository or
- publication in a hybrid journal covered by one of the agreements between the VINT and publishers. See www.openaccess.nl.

Any costs for publication in full open access journals can be incurred in the project budget. NWO does not reimburse costs for publications in hybrid journals. These conditions apply to all forms of scholarly publications arising from grants awarded on the basis of this call for proposals. Also academic monographs, edited volumes, proceedings and book chapters. For more information on the NWO’s open access policy, see: www.nwo.nl/openscience.

Data management
The results of scientific research must be replicable, verifiable and falsifiable. In the digital age this means that, in addition to publications, research data must also be freely accessible. As much as possible, NWO expects that research data resulting from NWO-funded projects will be made publicly available for reuse by other researchers. “As open as possible, as closed as necessary” is the guiding principle in this respect. As a minimum, NWO requires that the data underpinning research papers should be made available at the time of the article’s publication. The costs for doing so are eligible for funding and can be included in the project budget. In the data management section, and in the data management template if the project is awarded funding, researchers explain how they plan to manage the data expected to be generated by the project.

1. Data management section
The data management section is part of the research proposal. Researchers are asked to prospectively consider how they will manage the data the project will generate and plan for which data will be preserved and be made publicly available. Measures will often need to be taken during the production and analysis of the data to make their later storage and dissemination possible. If not all data from the project can be made publicly available, the reasons for not doing so must be explained in the data management section. Due consideration is given to aspects such as privacy, public security, ethical limitations, property rights and commercial interests.

2. Data management plan
After a proposal has been awarded funding, the researcher should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. In this plan, the researcher describes whether use will be made of existing data, whether new data will be collected or generated, and how the data will be made FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable. The data management plan must be completed in consultation with a data steward or equivalent research data management support staff at the home institution of the project leader. 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 NWO data management protocol can be found at www.nwo.nl/datamanagement-en.
Chapter 3: Guidelines for applicants / Vici

**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 Vici applications at the domain AES there are two options that laureates can choose from after being awarded funding (see below). NWO assumes a choice for option i, unless otherwise specified by the applicant in section 3b/3c of the Vici application form.

i) 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 the publication with due consideration for the “Guidelines TTW User Committee”.

ii) The project leader is responsible for allocating the IP rights to the project results. The knowledge institutions involved make their own agreements with the users. Part 3 of the “Guidelines TTW User Committee” does not apply in this case. Within three months of the grant being awarded, the NWO domain AES will receive a signed contract in which the agreements between the users about the allocation of IP rights and about the publication are recorded, including a statement from the knowledge institution that the agreements fit within the EU rules for state aid.

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

**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 Users’ Committee NWO Domain AES”. 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 Users’ Committee NWO Domain AES”. Costs related to participation in user committees cannot be part of the budget.

**Choice of institution**

Researchers are free to choose one of the host institutions listed in Section 5.2, at which they wish to conduct their research. In consultation with the host institution, part of the research may be conducted outside of the Netherlands. The applicant’s plans for achieving institutional integration may be a subject of discussion during selection interviews.
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 applicant must sign a written agreement with the board of the institution concerned. This may state, for example, what prospects and guarantees the institution can offer for the future of the line of research and the applicant following the period of grant.

3.5.1 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.

Vici 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. Vici applicants must subscribe to and comply with the prevailing codes.

Vici 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 applicants to pay attention to the timetable for the Vici 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.

If at any point, after discussing the matter with the applicant, NWO feels that an ethical review is required, the applicant must take the necessary measures to obtain it. If the applicant fails to obtain the required statement of approval from an ethics review committee, any grant awarded will be cancelled. Applicants with questions in this respect should contact the central coordinator of the NWO Talent Programme (see 5.1.1 for contact details).

3.5.2 Research integrity

The research that NWO finances must, in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules, be conducted in accordance with the nationally and internationally accepted standards of scientific conduct as laid down in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2018). When submitting the application, the applicant commits himself to this code. In the event of a (possible) violation of the aforementioned standards in a research funded by NWO, the applicant must immediately inform NWO of this and must
submit all relevant documents to NWO. More information about the code of conduct and policy on scientific integrity can be found on the website: Netherlands code of conduct for research integrity 2018.

### 3.6 Submitting an application

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

Applicants must submit their pre-proposals/full proposals via their personal ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw account. If the applicant does not yet have an ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw 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 (s)he does not need to create a new account to submit an application.

When submitting your application to ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw 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/Mijn ZonMw 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 Medical Sciences (ZonMw).

Vici applicants should submit their preproposal and their full proposal 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.

Please note: NWO recommends that applicants consider in good time which domain is best suited to their application. 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.

#### Annexes

If your host institution or a third party co-funds your project, your application must be accompanied by an authorized letter guaranteeing that this funding will be provided. The guarantee must explicitly state the amount of the co-funding.

Letters of guarantee are unconditional and do not contain termination clauses.

Letters of guarantee should be sent to NWO via the ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw system as a separate PDF document. For applications to Science, SSH and ZonMw these annexes will not be sent to referees and assessment committees and will not be taken into consideration when assessing the applications. AES does
send letters of guarantee to referees and committee members. For these letters of guarantee it is required to use the AES Domain specific format.

Please do not include any publications or letters of recommendation without in cash or in kind contributions when submitting your application.

3.7 Arrangements and reporting

Once the relevant domain board has announced its decisions, arrangements are made for each award. Successful applicants 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). Vici 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. During the Vici project you are responsible for the progress and final reports and for the final financial responsibility. The grant decision will inform you who your contact person and which obligations you must meet.
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.

Vici applications are assessed in a national competition. The assessment of Vici 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 Vici 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: 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

Vici applications must be submitted first as preproposals, which are abridged versions of the detailed proposals. Four assessment committees (Social Sciences and Humanities committee, Science committee, Applied Sciences and Engineering Sciences committee and Health Research and Development committee) assess the preproposals comparatively, using the criteria and subsequently prioritise these according to likelihood of funding, without making use of external referees. The most likely candidates receive an invitation, before the end of June 2019, to submit a detailed proposal before the second deadline. Other applicants will receive message that they are not invited to submit a detailed proposal. Since this is an advice and not a formal decision, these applicants can still submit a full proposal despite the negative advice.
Chapter 4: Assessment procedure / Vici

4.1.3 Hearing and rebuttal

All full proposals that are handled by NWO in accordance with section 4.1.1 are submitted to external referees for their consideration. These are specialist in the research topic of your application. Applicants will then be given the opportunity to respond to the anonymised referee reports with a rebuttal. The response time to the reports is 5 working days.

It is possible to indicate up to three non-referees. Applicants can submit the names of non-referees via ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw when they submit their pre-proposal. Even if ISAAC offers room for more non-referees, applicants may not indicate more than three names. NWO will not approach these non-referees to assess the application as external referees.

4.1.4 Interview (selection)

The full proposals, referees’ reports and rebuttals are presented to the relevant assessment committee. The selection committee makes its own consideration based on the referees’ reports received and the applicant’s responses to them. The highest-ranked applicants 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 applicant 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.

4.1.5 Decision-making

After the interviews each application is reassessed and prioritized. Based on this final prioritization 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.

4.1.6 Indicative timetable

NWO aims to complete the entire selection procedure for the 2020 Vici round within seven months. Including the Vici pre-proposal phase, NWO aims to complete the procedure within eleven months. The indicative timetable for the 2020 Vici round is:

**Pre-proposals**

**26 March 2020, 14:00:00 hours CET** Deadline for the submission of Vici preproposals via the ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw system

June 2020 Announcement result preproposal round to applicants

**Full proposals**

**27 August 2020, 14:00:00 hours CEST** Deadline for the submission of Vici detailed proposals via the ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw system

September/ October 2020 Consultations with referees and applicant’s rebuttals in response to the referee reports

December 2020 Interviews
4.1.7 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 Vici procedure will be published on the NWO website. Please check the website regularly for accurate information.

4.2 Criteria

Applications are assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. quality, innovative character and academic impact of the proposed research (see 4.2.1);
2. knowledge utilisation (see 4.2.2);
3. quality of the researcher (see 4.2.3);

The weighting given to these criteria in the overall rating of the application is 40%, 20% and 40% respectively.

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

- challenging content;
- originality of the research question;
- innovative scientific elements;
- aimed at building up a new line of research;
- potential to make important contributions to science;
- effectiveness of proposed methodology;
- international importance of the proposed research area.

4.2.2 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.
Chapter 4: Assessment procedure / Vici

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 utilization: to what extent the applicant has presented a concrete and convincing plan for the implementation of the available potential.

If a researcher is of the opinion that the proposed research is not appropriate for knowledge utilisation then (s)he should explain why (s)he thinks that knowledge utilisation is not applicable. The assessment committee will assess the arguments given for this.

4.2.3 Quality of the researcher

- in terms of profile fit in the target group;
- in the top 10% of his/her international peer group;
- academic excellence as demonstrated by the quality and the impact of publications or other academic achievements;
- inspiring enthusiasm for research and/or technology;
- persuasiveness;
- demonstrably capable of successfully developing own new innovative line of research;
- has both a national and international prominent position;
- demonstrable leadership and coaching skills.
Chapter 5: Contact details and other information / Vici

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 NWO-Talent. A document with answers to frequently asked questions can also be found under the division specific funding instrument. Applicants 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 NWO Talent Programme projects should be posed to the coordinator of the NWO unit handling the project concerned (www.nwo.nl/vi/contact).

Central coordinator NWO 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: talent@nwo.nl
Secretariat telephone number: +31 70 344 0707

Addresses
NWO Talent Programme/Vici
Science
PO Box 93460
2509 AC The Hague, The Netherlands
E-mail: enw-vici@nwo.nl

NWO Talent Programme/Vici
Social Sciences and Humanities
PO Box 93461
2509 AC The Hague, The Netherlands
E-mail: sgw-vici@nwo.nl

NWO Talent Programme/Vici
Applied and Engineering Sciences
PO Box 3021
3502 GA Utrecht, The Netherlands
E-mail: ttw-vici@nwo.nl

NWO Talent Programme/Vici
Health Research and Development
PO Box 93245
2509 AE The Hague, The Netherlands
E-mail: vici@zonmw.nl
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 Mijn ZonMw 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

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

Hubrecht Instituut voor Ontwikkelingsbiologie en Stamcelonderzoek
Huygens ING
Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis (IISG)
Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde (KITLV)
Meertens Instituut
Nederlands Herseninstituut
Nederlands Instituut voor Ecologie (NIOO)
NIOD Instituut voor Oorlogs-, Holocaust- en Genocidestudies
Nederlands Interdisciplinair Demografisch Instituut (NIDI)
Westerdijk Fungal Biodiversity Institute
Chapter 5: Contact details and other information / Vici

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
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