Call for proposals

Innovational Research Incentives Scheme - Vici

2019

The Hague, January 2019
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
Contents

1 Introduction 3
   1.1 Background 3
   1.2 Available budget 3
   1.3 Validity of the call for proposals 3

2 Aim 4
   2.1 Vici target group 4
   2.2 Promoting female researchers 4
   2.3 Knowledge utilisation 5

3 Guidelines for applicants 7
   3.1 Who can apply 7
   3.2 What can be applied for 8
   3.3 When can applications be submitted 9
   3.4 Preparing an application 9
   3.5 Specific conditions 9
   3.6 Submitting an application 12

4 Assessment procedure 14
   4.1 Procedure 14
   4.2 Criteria 16

5 Contact details and other information 18
   5.1 Contact 18
   5.2 Contact addresses of approved institutions 19
1 Introduction

1.1 Background

‘Veni, vidi, vici’ means ‘I came, I saw, I conquered’. It is a quotation from a note sent by the famous Roman general Julius Caesar to notify the Senate of his lightning victory over Pontus (in 47 BC).

In 2000, NWO joined forces with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and the Dutch universities to establish the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme. Since then, NWO has been able to award about 3,000 talented researchers a grant. The Innovational Research Incentives Scheme grant has given these researchers an opportunity to develop their talents in a way that would otherwise have been impossible for many of them.

The programme includes three types of grant (Veni, Vidi and Vici). Each type has one call per year. Changes to the procedures may be made from year to year, depending, for example, on the results of interim evaluations.

There is a separate Call for proposals for each type of grant.

On 1 January 2017, NWO adopted a new organisational structure, based on four domains:

- NWO-Science Domain (ENW),
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH),
- Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES), and
- Health Research and Development (ZonMw).

The 2019 Vici round will be conducted by committees in four separate procedures: which correspond with the new domains. From 2019, proposals that cut across the boundaries of the four NWO domains are assessed within one of the domains.

1.2 Available budget

The overall budget of the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme funding in 2019 is 150 million euros.

For the Vici round 46.5 million euros is available. With this budget we can fund approximately 31 positions.

1.3 Validity of the call for proposals

This call for proposals is valid until the closing date of the Vici call on 27 August 2019.

Any grants awarded on the basis of this call for proposals are subject to the NWO Grant Rules 2017 (see the NWO website).
The aim of the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme is to promote innovation in academic research and to provide encouragement for individual postdoctoral researchers at various stages of their careers. It is vital to the universities that talented researchers enter the profession and gain promotion within it. 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 Innovational Research Incentives Scheme. 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.

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 is unfortunately far less than that of men. NWO and the Dutch Ministry for Education, Culture and Science are working together with the KNAW, the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) and the Dutch universities to rectify this situation such that the percentage of female applicants will finally be at least comparable to the percentage of female researchers in the target group.

NWO strives towards success rates for female applicants both on average and in the medium-term as high as those for male researchers. In case of an ex aequo

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1 In this call for proposals the term 'researcher' refers to people of either sex
prioritisation of two or more applications, preference is given to the application of a female applicant.

### 2.2.1 Aspasia

The Vici rounds of the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme 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](http://www.nwo.nl/aspasia). Female laureates and candidates who are eligible for the premium will be informed of this by NWO after the funding allocation.

### 2.3 Knowledge utilisation

Since 2009, NWO has pursued a concrete policy that aims to stimulate the transfer of knowledge generated with the help of funding from NWO. This transfer can take place to other scientific disciplines as well as to users outside of science (industry/society). The knowledge utilisation policy is mainly targeted at increasing researchers’ awareness of knowledge utilisation. NWO therefore requests all researchers applying for funding to provide an explanation regarding the possible knowledge utilisation of their project by means of answering several questions (for example: 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:
- a realistic representation of the knowledge utilisation possibilities (or the lack of possibilities);
- the extent to which the action plan is made tangible with respect to knowledge utilisation.

NWO realises that the possibilities for knowledge utilisation differ per discipline and that some research projects have few if any opportunities for (direct) knowledge utilisation. In this case, an applicant should explain why no knowledge utilisation can be expected for his or her project. The selection committee members will still be asked to assess this explanation: if they are convinced that the research project indeed has no knowledge utilisation possibilities and that the applicant has satisfactorily explained this, then this should not negatively influence the overall assessment score.


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...
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

Applications can be submitted by candidates who have received their doctorates, irrespective of whether or not they hold tenured positions and whether they come from the Netherlands or abroad. The appointment will be at one of the host research institutions (see 3.1.4).

3.1.1 Career deadline

Vici applicants must have obtained their doctorate within the last fifteen years. The 2019 Vici round is open to researchers who meet this criterion on 1 March 2019.

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. In addition, an extension will be granted for the period after the PhD graduation that is devoted to the training to become a clinical specialist. The maximum extension that may be granted to any particular applicant is five years.

Extension for parents:
- Biological mothers who have given birth to one or more children are granted a standard extension of eighteen months per child. This extension is a compensation for the duration of the pregnancy, including the child-birth and the parental care and is irrespective of any parental leave taken and/or a reduction in the formal working hours.
- Other parents (fathers and non-biological mothers) are granted a standard extension of six months per child that is part of the applicant’s household*. This period is a compensation for the duration of child care required and is irrespective of parental leave taken and/or a reduction in the formal working hours.

*An extension on the grounds of childcare should be supported by the signed parent-declaration form (parent-declaration), in which the applicant declares that the child or children are part of his or her household.

Further information about the conditions for these extensions is provided in the Frequently Asked Questions section at www.nwo.nl/vi. If you wish to apply for an extension, please contact NWO well before submitting your grant application (see section 5.1).

3.1.3 Additional conditions

The following specific 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 no more than one application in the Vici 2019 round;
   - have an application for no more than one type of Innovational Research Incentives Scheme grant under consideration at any given time;
   - submit a preproposal for a Vici grant no more than three times.
   - If a preproposal or detailed proposal that has been admitted to the selection process is withdrawn by the applicant, then 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 may apply again for a grant of the same kind;
   - No researcher in receipt of a current award under the 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.

3.1.4 Institutions

Approved host institutions are those Dutch universities whose terms of reference include the conduct of research, the KNAW and NWO research institutes, and a number of other specific institutions (see 5.2 for contact addresses). The full list of recognized institutions is listed in the NWO Grant Rules 2017, available NWO grant rules.

3.2 What can be applied for

The maximum amount for a Vici project offered by NWO under the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme 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; salary-tables ), with the exception of indexation and end-of-project payments. The amount of these payments for the 2019 round of the Vici 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.

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

For further information and explanation of grant-eligible costs, see the document ‘guidelines for design of expenditures financial accounting reports’ at www.nwo.nl/vi under the domain specific funding instrument.
3.3 When can applications be submitted

The next deadline for the submission of Vici preproposals is **March 26, 2019, 14:00:00 hours (Central European Time)**.

The closing date for the submission of detailed proposals is **August 27, 2019, 14:00:00 hours (Central European Summer Time)**.

When you submit your application to ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw you need to enter several additional details online. We strongly advise you to start applying at least a day before the deadline. Applications that are submitted after the deadline will not be included in the procedure.

Further information about the submission of applications can be found in sections 3.6 and 4.1.

3.4 Preparing an application

Vici grant application forms will be available on the programme website (www.nwo.nl/vi) two months before the submission deadline.

- 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 (www.isaac.nwo.nl) or in Mijn ZonMw for applications to the Health Research and Development domain (Mijn-ZonMw).

Applications must be written in English and must include:
- the candidate’s curriculum vitae and list of publications;
- 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 data management section;
- a budget estimate;

3.5 Specific conditions

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

**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).

Note that as of January 1, 2018, NWO has discontinued its Incentive Fund Open Access. There are different ways available to researchers to publish open access. There are several ways for researchers to publish Open Access. Costs related to realising the project can be included in the budget of the project proposal as part of the module ‘material credit’. A further explanation can be found on the NWO website www.nwo.nl/openscience-en.

**Data management**

Responsible data management is part of good research. NWO wants research data that emerges from publicly funded research to become findable, accessible,
interoperable and reusable (FAIR) for the use by other researchers. Furthermore NWO wants to raise awareness among researchers about the importance of responsible data management. Proposals should therefore satisfy the data management protocol of NWO. 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 plan should be submitted to NWO via ISAAC within a maximum of 4 months after the proposal has been awarded funding. NWO will assess the plan as quickly as possible. Approval of the data management plan by NWO is a condition for disbursement of the funding.

Further information about the data management protocol of NWO can be found at [datamanagement](#).

**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 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 and ZonMw 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.

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 Regulation on Granting 2017.
**User committees for applications in the AES domain**

After funding has been awarded, NWO will appoint a user committee (as described in Article 3.3.2a of the NWO Regulation on Granting 2017) in consultation with the project leader for projects for which project management is handled by the NWO domain AES. This user committee will 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 TTW”. 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 TTW”. Costs related to participation in user committees cannot be part of the budget.

### 3.5.1 Choice of institution

Researchers are free to choose one of the approved host institutions, see 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 candidate 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 candidate following the period of grant.

### 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 medical ethics review committee or an animal experiments committee. In addition, 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 Central Committee Animal Experiments (CCD) can provide information on animal experiments committees, and the Health Council of the Netherlands can advise on the WBO.

Vici applicants are responsible to determine 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 candidates 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 Innovational Research Incentives Scheme (see 5.1.1 for contact details).

### 3.6 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. The only exceptions to this rule are applications to the Health Research and Development domain. These applications can only be submitted via Mijn ZonMw. This can be accessed via www.zonmw.nl.

Applicants must submit their applications via their personal ISAAC /Mijn ZonMw account. If an applicant does not yet have an 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 account, then (s)he does not create a new account to submit an application.

When you submit your application in ISAAC /Mijn ZonMw, 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.

For technical questions please contact the ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw helpdesk respectively, see Section 5.1.2.

### Choice of domain

On 1 January 2017, NWO adopted a new organisational structure, with four domains: Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), NWO-Science domain (ENW), Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES) and Health Research and Development (ZonMW).

Vici applicants apply to no more than one domain. If the proposal cuts across the boundaries of the NWO domains, applicants have to choose the domain the application fits best. From March 2019, all applications are assessed within one of the domains. If you are not sure in which domain your application fits best, please contact NWO.

If the secretariat of the chosen domain is of the opinion that the application can be better assessed by another assessment committee than the one chosen by the applicant, the secretariat will contact the applicant to discuss the possibility of transferring the application to another domain. The ultimate decision on this matter is up to the applicant.

### 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 ENW, 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 (see www.nwo.nl/aes-supportletter-vici).

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

4.1 Procedure

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

The NWO Code of Conduct on Conflicts of Interest (1 October 2010) 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 not included in the decision about whether or not to award funding. However both the referees and the assessment committee can issue advice with respect 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 possible advice from the referees and assessment committee when they write the data management plan. The project can start as soon as the data management plan has been approved by NWO.

Applicants are assessed in a national competition. The assessment of Vici applications takes places within the NWO Domains. This means that all applications from different disciplines within one domain will be compared in one competition. The domains use broad-based assessment committees of academics to advise on the merits and prioritisation of the applications. When writing the application the applicant should bear in mind that the committee members’ backgrounds are diverse. The application should be comprehensible for assessment committee members from very different academic fields within each domain.

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: www.nwo.nl/qualifications.

4.1.1 Preproposals

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 candidates will receive message that they are not invited to submit a detailed proposal. As this is an advice, no formal objection can be made against it.

4.1.2 Detailed proposal, referees and rebuttal

After the applications are screened to ensure they comply with the formal requirements, they are submitted to external referees for their consideration. Applicants are then given the opportunity to respond to the anonymised referee reports.

It is allowed to indicate a maximum of three non-referees when submitting a pre-proposal. Please list the names of non-referees in ISAAC. If you are applying to ZonMw, you can submit them by email (vici@zonmw.nl). NWO will not ask the non-
referees to assess your application. When you submit your full proposal you cannot submit (new) non-referees.

4.1.3 Detailed proposal, interview

Detailed proposals, referee reports and rebuttals are sent to the respective assessment committee. The assessment committee selects a number of candidates for an interview, making its own consideration based on the referees’ reports obtained and the responses of the candidates to these. Subsequently, the candidates with the highest prioritisation are invited for an interview.

During the interview, the assessment committee has the opportunity to pose questions, also new ones that have not been raised by the referees. The candidate can respond to these in the discussion with the assessment committee. With this approach a hearing and rebuttal once again takes place. The interview is an important part of the selection process and may lead to a re-evaluation of the written proposal.

4.1.4 Decision

The assessment committee will formulate its funding recommendation to the accredited board of NWO who then takes the decision. However, the number of grants with a minimum qualification very good to be awarded will depend on the resources available in the particular round. Once the accredited board has reached its decision, the candidates are notified of the outcome.

4.1.5 Arrangements and reporting

Once the accredited board of NWO has announced its decisions, arrangements are made for each award. Successful candidates are given 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 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.

4.1.6 Indicative timetable

NWO aims to complete the entire Vici selection procedure within eleven months. The indicative timetable for the 2019 Vici round is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 March 2019, at exactly 14:00:00 hours CET</td>
<td>Deadline for the submission of Vici preproposals via the Isaac/Mijn ZonMw system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2019</td>
<td>Announcement result preproposal round to candidates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 August 2019, at exactly 14:00:00 hours CEST</td>
<td>Deadline for the submission of Vici detailed proposals via the Isaac/ Mijn ZonMw system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September/October 2019</td>
<td>Consultations with referees and candidates’ rebuttals in response to the referee reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2019</td>
<td>Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2020</td>
<td>Decision by the NWO accredited Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2020</td>
<td>Information applicants about the decision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.1.7 Adjustments procedure

It is possible that NWO finds it necessary to make adjustments in the procedure during the 2019 round. Any adjustments in the procedure will be communicated 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 of the researcher (see 4.2.1);
2. quality, innovative character and academic impact of the proposed research (see 4.2.2);
3. knowledge utilisation (see 4.2.3).

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

4.2.1 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 numerous publications of international standing and/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.

4.2.2 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.

4.2.3 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 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 he/she should explain why he/she thinks that knowledge utilisation is not applicable. The assessment committee will assess the arguments given for this.
5 Contact details and other information

5.1 Contact

5.1.1 Questions about the scheme itself

The latest information about the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme can be found on www.nwo.nl/vi. A document with answers to frequently asked questions can be found under the domain specific funding instrument. Candidates are advised to check the website before contacting NWO. Questions about the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme 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 Innovational Research Incentives Scheme projects should be posed to the NWO domain responsible for the project concerned.

Central coordinator Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Website: www.nwo.nl/vi (information about Innovational Research Incentives Scheme funding) or: www.nwo.nl/vi-programma (general information about the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme)
Email: vi@nwo.nl
Telephone secretariat: +31 70 344 0940

Postal address

Postal addresses
NWO Science Domain
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme/Vici
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2509 AC The Hague
vici_science@nwo.nl

NWO Social Sciences and Humanities
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P.O. Box 93461
2509 AC The Hague
Vici.sgw@nwo.nl

AES (Applied and Engineering Sciences)
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme/Vici
P.O. Box 3021
3502 GA Utrecht
Vici-ttw@nwo.nl

Health Research and Development
ZonMw/Innovational Research Incentives Scheme/Vici
P.O. Box 93 245
2509 AE The Hague
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 before consulting the helpdesk (see https://www.isaac.nwo.nl/en/help). The ISAAC helpdesk can be contacted from Monday to Friday between 10:00 and 17:00 hours CE(S)T at +31 20 346 71 79. You can also submit your question by email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will then receive an answer within two working days.

Technical questions about the use of Mijn ZonMw can be addressed to the helpdesk during normal office hours (tel: +31 70 349 5178 or email: servicedesk@zonmw.nl). Please read the Mijn ZonMw manual first before consulting the helpdesk (see https://www.zonmw.nl/nl/over-zonmw/mijn-zonmwprojectnet/).

5.1.3 Committee for appeals NWO

Where appropriate, candidates can use NWO’s appeal procedure to lodge formal appeals within six weeks after the decision has been communicated against decisions made under the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme. After lodging an appeal they will be invited to attend a hearing of the committee for appeals NWO. Further information about the appeals procedure can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat, email: secretariaatbezwaarschriftencommissie@nwo.nl, telephone: +31 70 349 45 57.

5.2 Contact addresses of approved institutions

5.2.1 Universities

Delft University of Technology
Executive Board, Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Drs. D. Van de Sande, D.vandeSande@tudelft.nl
Drs. M.P.W. Strijbosch, M.P.W.Strijbosch@tudelft.nl
Valorisation Centre
P.O. Box 5, 2600 AA Delft

Eindhoven University of Technology
Executive Board, Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Dr. M.A.M. Leermakers, m.a.m.leermakers@tue.nl
Drs. Laura Pander, L.S.Pander@tue.nl
General Affairs Department/University Council
P.O. Box 513, 5600 MB Eindhoven

Erasmus University Rotterdam
Executive Board, Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Petra Roelfzema, roelfzema@ubib.eur.nl
University Library
P.O. Box 1738, 3000 DR Rotterdam

Leiden University
Leiden University Research & Innovation
Dr. J.H.E.M. Klerkx, J.H.E.M.Klerkx@luris.nl
Rijnsburgerweg 10, 2333 AA Leiden

Maastricht University
Executive Board, Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
Ms M. Achten, merle.achten@maastrichtuniversity.nl  
Maastricht University Office, unit Academic Affairs  
P.O. Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht

Open University of the Netherlands  
Executive Board, Innovational Research Incentives Scheme  
J.B.M. Roffelsen, han.roffelsen@ou.nl  
University Office – Policy and Administration  
P.O. Box 2960, 6401 DL Heerlen

Protestant Theological University  
Executive Board, Innovational Research Incentives Scheme  
D.J. de Boer, djdeboer@pthu.nl  
P.O. Box 5021, 8260 GA Kampen

Radboud University Nijmegen  
Executive Board, Innovational Research Incentives Scheme  
Dr. G. Bögels, g.bogels@mso.ru.nl  
Marketing, Strategy & Development Department  
P.O. Box 9102, 6500 HC Nijmegen

Theological University of Apeldoorn  
J.W. van der Zande-de Roo, secretariaat@tua.nl  
Wilhelminapark 4, 7316 BT Apeldoorn

Theological University of the Reformed Churches  
G.D. Harmanny, gdharmanny@tukampen.nl  
Broederweg 15, 8261 GS Kampen

University of Amsterdam  
Executive Board, Innovational Research Incentives Scheme  
Dr. N. Brunsveld – N.Brunsveld@uva.nl  
Office of Academic Affairs  
P.O. Box 19268, 1000 GG Amsterdam

University of Groningen  
Executive Board, Innovational Research Incentives Scheme  
Dr. A. Koster, a.schuster-koster@rug.nl  
Division ‘Research & Valorisation’  
P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen

University for Humanistics  
L.J. van der Spek, l.vanderspek@uvh.nl  
P.O. Box 797, 3500 AT Utrecht

University of Twente  
Executive Board, Innovational Research Incentives Scheme  
Dr. A. H. Zomer, a.h.zomer@utwente.nl  
Strategy and Coordination  
P.O. Box 217, 7500 AE Enschede

Utrecht University  
Executive Board, Innovational Research Incentives Scheme  
S. Vrancken, s.vrancken@uu.nl  
P.O. Box 80125, 3508 TC Utrecht

University of Tilburg  
Executive Board, Innovational Research Incentives Scheme
5.2.2 KNAW institutes

Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW)
Dr. W.A.A van der Wal,
Nanneke.van.der.wal@knaw.nl
P.O. Box 19121, 1000 GC Amsterdam

5.2.3 NWO institutes

ASTRON Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy
A. Steenbergen, steenbergen@astron.nl
P.O. Box 2, 7990 AA Dwingeloo

Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI)
M. Brouwer, Margriet.Brouwer@cwi.nl
Project and Subsidy Officer
P.O. Box 94079, 1090 GB Amsterdam

Foundation for Fundamental Research on Matter (FOM)
FOM Institutes: AMOLF, NIKHEF and DIFFER
Mark de Graef, mark.de.graef@fom.nl
P.O. Box 3021, 3502 GA Utrecht

Netherlands Institute for the Study of Criminality and Law Enforcement (NSCR)
Drs. M. Last, M.last@nscr.nl
P.O. Box 71304, 1008 BH Amsterdam

NIOZ Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research
Prof. dr. H. Brinkhuis, Henk.Brinkhuis@nioz.nl
P.O. Box 59, 1790 AB Den Burg (Texel)

SRON Netherlands Institute for Space Research
Y.H. Vermeulen, Y.H.Vermeulen@sron.nl
Sorbonnelaan 2, 3584 CA Utrecht
5.2.4 Other

Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL)
Prof. dr. J. Frenken,
frenken@physics.leidenuniv.nl

Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics
P. Lommen, Lommen@vw.mpi.nl
P.O. Box 310, 6500 AH Nijmegen

Netherlands Cancer Institute
Prof. dr. R.H. Medema, r.medema@nki.nl
Director of Research
Plesmanlaan 121, 1066 CX Amsterdam

Naturalis
J. Mols, johan.mols@naturalis.nl
Research and Education Sector
P.O. Box 9517, 2300 RA Leiden

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