This document contains answers to many of the frequently asked questions about the Hestia – Impulse for Refugees in Science programme. It will be updated and expanded when necessary. If your question has not been answered or if the information provided is not sufficient, then please do not hesitate to contact NWO via hestia@nwo.nl.

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QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CANDIDATES

1. I am following a master's programme in the Netherlands/I have a Dutch master's degree. Am I eligible as a potential candidate?
Yes, if you have a Dutch master's degree, then you are eligible as a potential candidate. If you are still following your master's programme, then you should have graduated before the deadline for applications (preliminary set on) 10 November 2020 or at the very least be able to demonstrate that you have completed all modules and a master's thesis and that you will graduate shortly. In that case, please contact NWO to reach agreement about the matter.

2. I have completed my master's degree in a country other than the Netherlands. Am I eligible as a potential candidate?
Accreditation of the diploma is the responsibility of the knowledge institution where the proposed project will be carried out. If no diploma accreditation has taken place yet – for example through the NUFFIC – then you should discuss this with the project leader.

3. The situations with respect to the residence permit as stated in Annexe 6 of the call for proposals do not apply to me. Can I still be eligible as a potential candidate?
NWO has carefully examined what it wants to achieve with this programme. It has therefore decided that only people who fit the situations described in Annexe 6 of the call for proposals can be eligible as candidates in this pilot. No exceptions will be made to this. On the submission date of 10 November 2020, the potential candidate should possess the residence permit and/or if applicable, the associated documentation for the commencement date of the right to residence.

4. How can I demonstrate the commencement date of my original right to residence?
This can be shown by means of the original decision from the IND with which the temporary asylum residence permit was granted. The original asylum application, or the pass that was obtained after the temporary asylum residence permit was obtained, can also serve as evidence. In the case of doubt, please first contact NWO for advice. On the submission date, all necessary documentation should be complete.

5. I have acquired work experience/done an internship/et cetera at a Dutch knowledge institution. Am I still eligible as a potential candidate?
Yes, this is part of a candidate's CV and does not stop you from being eligible as a candidate.

6. I want to submit an application but have not yet found a project leader with whom I can jointly submit an application. Can I submit an application as a candidate?
No, an application can only be submitted by a project leader with a current NWO or ZonMw project. A candidate cannot submit an application alone.

7. There is more than one project leader who would like to submit an application with me/the project leader who wants to submit an application with me has several projects. May I participate as a candidate in several applications?
No, a candidate may only participate in a single application for one current project of a single project leader. If a project leader has several projects that you could join or if there are several project leaders with whom you could submit an application, then you should choose the project or the project leader that fits you best.
8. Will NWO reimburse my travel costs if I am appointed at a university that is not located where I live? No, NWO will not reimburse any commuter costs. It is up to the candidate to ask the project leader, or his or her university, what the remuneration for travel costs will be. In most cases, travel costs are only partly remunerated and the employee must pay the remaining costs. However, subject to several conditions, the costs can be deducted against tax.

9. As master graduation is a requirement, is it possible for a refugee master student of 2019-2020 academic year to apply based on a prospective graduation on 31st of August 2020? Yes, it is possible to apply, as long as you can prove on the date of the deadline that you have finished all your courses and your master thesis. However in this case it is wise to contact us in advance via hestia@nwo.nl to discuss your specific situation.

10. Holding a Dutch Masters degree in x field, but the application to be submitted for Hestia grant is related to y field, would that still be possible? In other words: should the application’s topic be matching the masters degree’s topic? You should be able to motivate why you want to continue in that other field. If you can motivate that convincingly then it should not be a problem.

11. Can a medical doctor with foreign diploma participate as a candidate? Can his/her MD comparable to MSc? In principle yes, but it depends on the university whether they accept your diploma. In case they do then it is fine for us.

12. Who would be present at the interview? Only the applicant? Both applicant and PI? Both applicant and PI, and we ask the refugee academic to give the presentation.

13. When you say the proposal needs to be linked with an ongoing project, do you mean in terms of objectives (short/long term) of the parent project? Or on institutional level? We mean that in terms of objectives and content of the ongoing project.

14. What is the benchfee and why is it awarded to the project leader? The benchfee is funding meant to promote/stimulate the scientific career of the candidate. Since, the project leader is the applicant it is officially granted to him/her. However it has to be used for the candidate’s scientific career.

QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PROJECT LEADERS/MAIN APPLICANTS

1. I have more than one NWO/ZonMw project. May I submit an application from more than one project? No, a project leader may submit only a single application for one of his/her current projects with a single candidate. If several candidates could join a project or if there are several projects where a candidate could fit, then you should choose the best combination of candidate and project.

2. I have an Aspasia grant. Am I eligible as an applicant? Yes, you are also eligible as a candidate with an Aspasia grant. In that case, please contact NWO so that the details in your specific situation can be checked and confirmed before the deadline for the call on 10 November 2020.

3. I am a sub- or joint project leader within a larger research programme such as Gravitation or Perspectief, but I am not the main applicant of this programme. Am I eligible as an applicant? Yes, as a sub- or joint project leader of a large research programme such as Gravitation or Perspectief, you are also eligible as an applicant. In that case, please contact NWO so that the details in your specific situation can be checked and confirmed before the deadline for the call on 10 November 2020.
4. I have a Rubicon grant. Am I eligible as an applicant?
No, you are not eligible as an applicant. In principle, project leaders of all NWO or ZonMw projects are eligible as an applicant in this programme as long as these projects fit within the objectives of the Hestia Impulse. Unfortunately, there a few exceptions. The objectives and practical implications of a Rubicon grant do not match the objectives of Refugees in science in which the aim is to provide scientists who are refugees access to science and the possibility to build up a network in the Netherlands. You are therefore not eligible as an applicant with funding from Rubicon.

5. When should a project have started to be eligible to the call?
You should be able to proof that you start at least no later than the start of the proposed Hestia project.

6. Is it possible to start the project after February, in May for instance?
Yes that is possible. In general there is a 6-month flexibility (counting from January / February 2021 depending on when the formal decision is being made). However take into account that the 10 months of the Hestia project should fall within the duration of the already running NWO- or ZonMw project.

7. Is it allowed that the candidate is involved in some other activities, e.g. teaching, project management?
As long as you can motivate that it is fitting within the supervision and career plan for the candidate, and you can motivate that the candidate gets better / gets better opportunities with undertaking these activities then it is fine to include this. For a senior for example you could argue that teaching activities would strengthen his/her CV in order to get a suitable job afterwards as a postdoc or assistant professor.

8. How can I reach out to refugee academics?
You can contact the contact person for the Hestia-programme at your university. In case you would like to know who the contact person for your university is, then please contact the Hestia team via: hestia@nwo.nl. We can also get you in touch with Stichting Vluchteling-Student UAF.

9. Do you have any tips for project leaders, how to well guide the applicants?
A laureaat 2019: communication is key. Take time to understand each other because everything is so different in the beginning for the candidate.