Stevin Prize 2020

Call for proposals
Stevin Prize

Introduction and purpose

The Stevin Prize is an individual research grant. The Prize is an honour and a one-off and unique award. Its aim is to encourage and recognise knowledge exchange and impact. The prize will be awarded to a researcher or a team of two or three persons who have achieved an exceptional success in the area of knowledge exchange and impact for society. The knowledge utilisation must have demonstrably led to innovative applications in practice and the researcher and/or team must have played a crucial role in this. The laureates are thus rewarded for an exceptional performance with respect to the utilisation of scientific research and encouraged to continue the direction pursued. A select number of people can nominate candidates at the invitation of NWO. Each year, two Stevin Prizes worth 2.5 million euros each are awarded.

Who can nominate

Candidates can only be nominated by those persons whom NWO has invited to do so; researchers cannot apply for the grant. NWO will give the following persons the opportunity to personally nominate two candidates at most:

- The Rectores Magnifici of Dutch universities
- The president of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) (a maximum of two candidates for each domain and The Young Academy)
- The president of the Netherlands Academy of Technology and Innovation (AcTI)
- The chair of the Dutch Network of Women Professors (LNHV)
- The chair of the Netherlands Federation of University Medical Centres (NFU)
- The chair of the Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities (KHMW) (a maximum of two candidates per chair of the appointment committees (humanities and social sciences and natural sciences))
- The chair of the TO2 federation (the institutes for applied research)
- The president of the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW)
- The chair of the Association for Science Journalism and Communication Netherlands (VWN).

Who can be nominated

Candidates for the Stevin Prize:

- are employed by a Dutch university or university medical centre;
- are expected, in view of their age, to continue to function at a top level for a considerable time
- have not previously received a Spinoza or Stevin Prize. A researcher can only be awarded a Stevin or Spinoza Prize once. If a candidate is independently nominated by different rectores/chairs for both prizes then the candidate will only be eligible for either the Stevin Prize or the Spinoza Prize.

The nomination should clearly state which scientific cluster a candidate belongs to: Social Sciences and Humanities or Life Sciences and Natural Sciences. If a candidate carries out multidisciplinary research, then several clusters can be stated as well as the cluster in which the focus of the research lies.

The application of excellent, creative and ground-breaking research frequently requires a team with a diversity of researchers, in order for subjects to be approached from different points of view. NWO therefore strives to achieve a better gender balance, to ascertain that Dutch science is drawing upon all its available talent. The nominators are therefore warmly encouraged to nominate women.
What can the candidates be nominated for

The Stevin Prize is worth 2.5 million euros. The recipient will enjoy a considerable degree of freedom as to how the grant may be used: for personnel (scientific and non-scientific), equipment, investments, travel and accommodation costs, costs for hosting foreign researchers, activities related to knowledge exchange and impact, et cetera. However, a concise spending plan must be submitted to the NWO executive board for approval.

In principle, the prize should be spent within a period of five years.

When can nomination be submitted

Nominations should be submitted no later than 14:00 CET on 1 November 2019.

Drawing up a nomination

Instructions on how to write a nomination for the Stevin Prize are available in the annex to this brochure.

Funding conditions

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

NWO expects and makes every effort to realise complete confidentiality during the nomination procedure; also towards the candidates. If it comes to NWO's attention that the confidentiality is not safeguarded, then NWO retains the right to refuse the nomination.

Each year, a maximum of two Stevin Prizes can be awarded: one prize is intended for the Social Sciences and Humanities and one prize is intended for the Life Sciences and Natural Sciences.

Submitting a nomination

Nominations should be sent as a PDF file by email to NWO (stevinpremie@nwo.nl). The deadline is 1 November 2019, 14:00 CET.

Procedure

An international committee appointed by NWO will make a selection from the nominations and will advise the NWO executive board on the awarding of the Stevin Prizes. The executive board will subsequently take a decision based on the advice of the selection committee.

The NWO Personal Interest Code applies to all persons and NWO employees involved in the handling, assessment and/or decision-taking process. More information concerning the Personal Interest Code can be found on the NWO website.
Criteria

1. Internationally recognised top quality as scientific researcher (weighting 30%). This must be apparent from the candidate’s scientific track record, the influence that he/she has exerted on the development of the discipline concerned, scores in research competitions, recognition in the form of prizes, invitations, memberships of societies and editorial boards, et cetera.

2. Ability to attract and inspire early career researchers (weighting 20%). This is the extent to which the candidate has managed to attract and inspire master students, PhDs and postdoctoral researchers from the Netherlands and abroad (e.g. establishing a school of thought). Specific attention will be given how the candidate has mentored and stimulated early career researchers in the context of applying research results, for example the establishment of a start-up company.

3. Internationally recognised track record in realising applications of scientific research results and achieved knowledge exchange and impact (weighting 50%). This must be apparent from the relevance of the research results for third parties outside of the academic sector as well as the extent to which these results meet the needs of those parties. Although the intrinsic motivation in particular is important, the following indicators can provide general guidance.
   - Demonstrable knowledge exchange and impact or a clear perspective of knowledge exchange and impact that has a considerable societal and/or economic impact. This can be national and international regarded as distinctive with respect to knowledge exchange and impact within the scientific discipline concerned.
   - Crucial active national and international involvement with the commercial and/or societal activities that emerge from the research and/or public activities, for example in the form of setting up knowledge platforms, expertise centres, start-ups and/or spin-offs.
   - Publications aimed at knowledge exchange and impact with non-scientific organisations. Examples are conference proceedings, guidelines, policy documents, professional publications, publications aimed at the general public, designs, manuals, software, constructions and/or patent documents.
   - Any form of communication aimed at specific public or private parties and target groups.
   - General outreach activities aimed at a wide public to reinforce the knowledge exchange and impact, for example interviews in the media, lectures for the general public, exhibitions, teaching material, documentary films or television series, websites and blogs.
   - Capacity building of human capital in the area of knowledge exchange and impact: number of employees/PhDs/Postdocs who come from or leave for industry, government and/or public organisations.
   - Private (third flow of) funding acquired in cash and in kind with due consideration to the diversity and impact of the partners concerned.

In addition it must be clear that the Stevin Prize is expected to make a major contribution to the further development of the candidate’s ability to apply research results.

Additional criterion for nominating a team

When nominating a team, the added value of the team (especially with respect to the third criterion: knowledge exchange and impact) should be demonstrably more than the sum of the individual contributions of the team members. The team members should complement each other and should have achieved more by cooperating than they might have achieved on the basis of their individual qualities. This does not necessarily mean that all members of the team are of the same calibre.
Composition of the selection committee

Members of the selection committee will be authoritative academics and experts from the Netherlands and abroad with affinity for and experience in the area of knowledge exchange and impact. The committee will be led by a technical chair.

Contact

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- http://www.nwo.nl/stevinpremie
Annex

Annex: Instructions on writing nominations for 2020

The nominations should be written in English. The nominations should clearly state which achievements of the candidate have gained them a national and international reputation in the area of applying research results, what the expectations are for the future of the candidate, and how the Stevin Prize will strengthen the position and reputation of the candidate’s team.

To facilitate a comparable and streamlined assessment of the nominated candidates, nominations should be completed in the digital form and submitted via the email address stevinpremie@nwo.nl.

- Fill in the form.
- Save the form as a PDF file and send it to stevinpremie@nwo.nl.

The maximum size of the nomination is four A4 pages, excluding annexes and the general details about the candidate and nominator.

No letters of recommendation may be sent with the nominations. If necessary, NWO will remove such documents from the nominations.

It should be borne in mind that the selection committee has a broad composition and that, in general, several members will be ‘lay persons’ with respect to the discipline concerned. In the first phase of the assessment, the nomination is the committee’s primary source of information. A good assessment can only be made if the nominations are well-written.

Nominations should contain the following annexes:

1. Ten most important publications (in case of a team a maximum of 20)
2. Relevant numerical data:
   - number of PhD candidates supervised as primary supervisor since full professorship
   - number of periods abroad longer than six months in duration
   - number of invited lectures

Output figures, structured according to the Standard Evaluation Protocol (SEP) 2015-2021, including at least: refereed articles, non-refereed articles, books, book chapters, PhD theses (primary supervisor), conference papers, professional publications (e.g. patents), publications aimed at the general public and other research output. Refer to the table and the associated footnotes in the nomination form.

3. A recent curriculum vitae (in which it is expressly stated whether there have been periods of relatively low working activity during the candidate’s career and consequently low scientific output due, for example, to caring responsibilities or other reasons).

4. An overview with the (most prestigious) achievements that fall under assessment criterion 3. From this overview it should be clear that there is demonstrable knowledge exchange and impact or a visible perspective of knowledge utilisation and impact in everyday practice that has a large societal and/or economic impact (e.g. active involvement in commerce and/or societal activities that emerge from the research, (co-)publications with non-scientific partners, targeted forms of communication, outreach activities, capacity building of human capital in the area of knowledge exchange and impact, and the acquisition of research funding from third parties with due consideration to the diversity and impact of the partners concerned). This annex may include a publication list (with a maximum of 2 pages) with publications targeted at the general public and/or policy officers, such as popular scientific articles, newspaper articles or white papers. Please do not include a scientific publication list.