NWO Stevin Prize 2021
Introduction and purpose

The NWO 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. NWO understands knowledge utilization as the utilization of knowledge through productive interactions with targeted stakeholders to create societal value (including economic value).

The knowledge utilisation must have demonstrably led to innovative applications, ideas and networks in practice (such as products, instruments, tools, methods and processes, training and education, capacity building etc.) 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. The available total budget is 5 million euros.

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 the Universities established in the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- 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 chair 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 an university or an university medical centre established in the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- should be able to spend the Prize fully before their retirement age\(^1\);
- 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, the cluster in which the focus of the research lies should be marked.

The application of, creative and ground-breaking world-class 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 female researchers.

What can the candidates be nominated for

NWO reserves a budget of 5 million euro’s annually for the Stevin Prize. Each NWO Stevin Prize is worth 2.5 million euros. The recipient(s) 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 nominations be submitted

Nominations should be submitted no later than 14:00 CET on 2 November 2020. Nominations should be sent as a PDF file by email to NWO (stevinpremie@nwo.nl). Should a discussion arise whether the submission is on time or not, the time of receipt of the nomination is decisive, not the moment of sending or submitting the nomination.

\(^1\) A candidate or team member is not eligible for the Stevin Prize if he/she will reach the state pension age or AOW pension age within five years after 1 October 2021 (based on his/her date of birth).
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 (see: www.nwo.nl/grantrules) and the Agreement/Approval of funding for Scientific Research (www.nwo.nl/en/documents/nwo/salary-tables/approval-of-funding-for-scientific-research-2008) apply to all nominations, unless this brochure states otherwise.

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.

Procedure

The first step in the assessment procedure is to determine the eligibility of the nominations. This is done using the conditions mentioned in this brochure. If the nomination is not in accordance with these requirements or is not complete, NWO will return the nomination to the nominator with the request to modify or complete the nomination within five working days. If the necessary information is incomplete or not provided within the period prescribed for that purpose, the nomination will not be taken into consideration by NWO.

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

The selection committee consists of authoritative scholars/academics and experts from the Netherlands and abroad with affinity for and experience in the field of knowledge exchange and impact. The committee will be led by a technical chair. 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: nwo.nl/code-conduct.

NWP processes personal data in accordance with the NWO privacy policy: de NWO Privacyverklaring.

Criteria

The assessment and selection of the candidates/teams takes place on the basis of past performance taking into account the following criteria:

1. **Internationally recognised 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. For example, theoretical or methodological contributions by the candidate(s) and/or scientific innovative breakthroughs that the candidate(s) achieved. The quality is furthermore reflected in national and international collaborations and networks (for example school building) and recognitions.
2. **Ability to attract and inspire early career researchers** (weighting 20%). The quality of mentorship and coaching of young researchers is crucial. 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) is also taken into account. Specific attention will be given to education activities and how the candidate has mentored and stimulated early career researchers in the context of applying research results. If several PhD students and postdocs supervised by the candidate(s) personally have succeeded in advancing their career in academic research, this sustains the quality of supervision by the candidate(s).

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 and/or research products 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: 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.

For (other) examples of knowledge utilisation, see [https://www.nwo.nl/en/policies/knowledge+utilisation](https://www.nwo.nl/en/policies/knowledge+utilisation)

In addition it must be clear that the NWO 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 (synergy). 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 stature, as long as there is a clear synergy between the members.
Contact

For specific questions about the NWO Stevin Prize, please contact:

- Drs. B.D. (Bernice) de Jong Boers - van der Ham
- email: stevinpremie@nwo.nl
- telephone: +31 70 3440 926
- www.nwo.nl/stevinpremie
Annex: Instructions on writing nominations for 2021

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.

- The nomination form will be sent via the personal invitation to nominate candidates.
- Complete the nomination form; save the nomination form as a PDF file and send it to stevinpremie@nwo.nl.

The maximum size of the nomination is four A4 pages (per team member or candidate), 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 request the nominator to 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.

As a result of NWO signing the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) any references to Journal Impact Factors or H-index are not allowed in the nominations. The assessment of nominations will be qualitative. Quantitative data only underpin the descriptions in the nominations.

Nominations should contain the following annexes (according to the nomination format):

1. An overview of the ten most important scientific research products (for relevant categories please see the nomination format) and a description of how these have influenced the scientific field and/or society (in case of a team a maximum of 20).
2. A recent curriculum vitae (please see the questions in the nomination format) 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.
3. An overview of the ten most prestigious achievements and research products that fall under assessment criterion 3 (the application of research results outside of the academic sector). 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 non-scientific publication list (with a maximum of 2 pages) with non-scientific publications targeted at the general public and/or policy officers (such as popular scientific articles, newspaper articles, white papers, blogs and reports). Please do not include a scientific publication list!