

Frequently Asked Questions NWO Open Competition Domain Science - XS

1. Am I allowed to apply for an XS grant?

Researchers can submit an application if they: (1) hold a doctorate and/or are professor; and (2) hold a salaried position at one of the institutions mentioned in 3.1 of the call for proposals; and (3) have an appointment period for at least the duration of the application procedure and the entire duration of the research for which the grant is being applied for. *Please note:* with respect to the third requirement, also check the answer of question 6.

3. Am I allowed to apply for an XS grant in case I have also applied for another NWO grant (e.g. ENW-KLEIN)?

Yes, you are allowed to apply for an XS grant and another (NWO) grant simultaneously. The only restriction we have for submitting XS grants is that each applicant may submit one XS application per deadline and two XS applications in total for the duration of the XS pilot year (which contains 5 deadlines).

4. Where can I use the XS budget for?

There are no restrictions on what the grant is to be used for; it is up to you if you apply for material costs and/or salary costs and/or travel expenses, etc. Costs that cannot be applied for are: basic facilities within the institution (e.g. desks, accommodation costs, overhead costs, etc.) and maintenance and insurance costs.

5. How to calculate salary costs?

Salary costs need to be in accordance with the agreements reached with the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) and will always start as a 'first year' position. For positions for PhD students applies that an XS grant can only cover an extension of an existing position (although the budget you can apply for will start as a 'first year' position), because a new positions must always be requested for 4 years.

Please use the exact amounts from the [VSNU salary table](#) from 1 July 2019. Specify the type of position, the amount of FTE, and for how many months you apply. Since an XS project last no longer than 12 months, the possibilities to choose from are the following:

type of position		amount of research months working on the project (salary budget in euros, amount based on 1 FTE)											
	indicated in VSNU table as: indication in Dutch table <i>indication in English table</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
PhD student	promovendi <i>promovendi (PhD)</i>	3.777	7.555	11.332	15.110	18.887	22.665	26.442	30.219	33.997	37.774	41.552	49.106
Postdoc	sen.wet.medewerker <i>senior scientific employee</i>	5.909	11.818	17.727	23.636	29.545	35.455	41.364	47.273	53.182	59.091	65.000	76.818
Technician MBO level	NWP* MBO <i>Non scientific employees; sen.sec. vocational education</i>	4.401	8.803	13.204	17.605	22.007	26.408	30.809	35.211	39.612	44.013	48.415	57.217
Technician HBO level	NWP* HBO <i>Non scientific employees; uni of applied sciences</i>	5.288	10.577	15.865	21.154	26.442	31.731	37.019	42.307	47.596	52.884	58.173	68.749
Technician Academic level	NWP* Academisch <i>Non scientific employees; academic</i>	6.328	12.657	18.985	25.313	31.641	37.970	44.298	50.626	56.954	63.283	69.611	82.267

*NWP = Niet Wetenschappelijk Personeel

Calculation examples:

- > PhD student 1 FTE, 6 months = € 22.665,-
- > Postdoc 0,6 FTE, 8 months = 0,6 x € 47.273,- = € 28.364,-
- > Technician at MBO level 0,8 FTE, 12 months = 0,8 x € 57.217,- = € 45.774,-

6. Can I use the XS budget to cover my own salary?

Yes, you can also use the budget for your own salary. *Please note:* in this situation you are allowed to apply if you have a salaried employment contract until the decision date of the grant; when awarded, you can then use the XS budget to extend your contract – of course only as long as your institute agrees with an extension of your contract.

7. The applications will be assessed anonymously and thus needs to be written anonymously; when is an application anonymously enough?

You cannot include your name and names of other research team members or collaborators. You are allowed though, to cite your own papers as long as you also cite papers of other research groups. For example: do not write "We have showed that..." with one citation to a paper of your own research group, but write "It has been shown that..." and cite - if possible - multiple papers from different research groups.