SSH Open Competition XS

Call for proposals

Social Sciences And Humanities

2024
1 Introduction

In this Call for proposals information is provided about the application procedure for the SSH Open Competition XS (hereafter SSH-XS), funding rounds 2024. This Call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

In this Call for proposals, you subsequently will find information about the aim of this programme (Chapter 2), the conditions for the grant application (Chapter 3) and how your proposal will be assessed (Chapter 4). This is the information you need to submit a grant application. In Chapter 5, you can read about the obligations for grant recipients if you are awarded funding. Chapter 6 contains the contact details and Chapter 7 the annexes.

1.1 Background

The Dutch Research Council (NWO) promotes excellent, non-programmed disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary research. For this, NWO focuses on all scientific disciplines and the entire knowledge chain, with an emphasis on fundamental research. Fundamental scientific research underpins our understanding of the world around us, our understanding of our human past and that of the natural world, as well as major new discoveries. Non-programmed fundamental research is needed to deliver the innovations that make society economically successful and socially resilient. In turn, questions posed by society can trigger new fundamental questions.

In this Call for proposals you will find details about how to submit research proposals for curiosity-driven, fundamental research in the research fields covered by the NWO Domain Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH). This grant programme is open to research proposals that involve monodisciplinary, multidisciplinary, or interdisciplinary research.

The NWO Domain SSH includes 3 different funding programmes in the Open Competition. These grants are for ideas that hold great promise (XS) and for large-scale grants (M, L). The SSH-XS pilot has been further developed into this SSH-XS programme, which consists of 3 rounds within this Call for proposals. Researchers from the SSH field can submit an application if they have a promising idea, obtained their PhD 5 to 10 years ago and have a paid appointment for at least the duration of the application process and the duration of the proposed project.

SSH-XS grants are available for projects with a maximum budget of € 50,000. The conditions pertaining to the submission of a research proposal are set out in Chapter 3.

The assessment procedure for SSH-XS differs from standard NWO procedures. The researchers who submit research proposals in SSH-XS also act as assessors for other research proposals that have been submitted in the same round, both within and outside their own discipline. This short-duration assessment procedure was designed to assess research proposals for limited-duration projects with a small budget. The assessment procedure is described in detail in Chapter 4. NWO continues to monitor and evaluate the SSH-XS.

1.2 Available budget

The grant ceiling for this Call for proposals is € 9,000,000. This amount is divided into 3 equal parts, each of which is allocated to one of the 3 funding rounds of proposals. For each round, it is expected that a maximum of 60 proposals will be awarded funding. Each round has its own deadline, which is specified in Section 1.3.

For each round, proposals are dealt with by 3 panels. The budget that is available for each round (€ 3,000,000) is divided in proportion to the number of proposals taken into consideration in the 3 panels, to the nearest € 100,000. The budget is then divided equally within the panel between 2 groups; Group A and Group B. Details about the division can be found in Section 4.2.4.
1.3 Submission deadlines

For 2024, 3 deadlines for submitting applications have been specified:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Decision anticipated by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>19 March 2024, before 14:00:00 CET</td>
<td>May 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>27 August 2024, before 14:00:00 CEST</td>
<td>October 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15 October 2024, before 14:00:00 CEST</td>
<td>December 2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When you submit your application in ISAAC, you will also need to enter some details online. Therefore, please start submitting your application at least one day before the deadline of this Call for proposals. Applications that are submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.
2 Aim

This chapter describes the aim of the programme and the societal impact.

2.1 Aim of the programme

The SSH-XS grants enable researchers to conduct fundamental research through promising ideas in small, innovative projects within the SSH disciplines. The NWO SSH main disciplines and associated (sub)disciplines are listed in Annexe 7.2.

The SSG-XS Call for proposals is specifically intended to encourage curiosity-driven and innovative research that involves the relatively rapid exploration of a promising idea. The characteristics of SSH-XS research are:

– the proposed research is innovative;
– it is not certain in advance whether the intended objectives will be achieved;
– the result of each project contributes to the advancement of existing and new scientific insights;
– and the research can aim for societal impact; however, this is not mandatory.

Proposed projects may (but are not required to):

– form the basis for a new line of research;
– concern method development research;
– form the basis of a collaboration or network.

The assessment of each other’s proposals by applicants is done purely on the basis of the research idea; therefore, applicants anonymously write the research idea in the application form.

New knowledge and insights from scientific research can make an important contribution to developing solutions for the various issues faced by society today and tomorrow. By interaction and alignment between researchers and potential knowledge users, the chance of knowledge utilisation increases and, consequently, the likelihood of societal impact as well.
3 Conditions for applicants

This chapter contains the conditions that are applicable to your grant application. First, it describes who can apply for funding (Section 3.1) and what you can request funding for (Section 3.2). Subsequently, you will find the conditions for preparing and submitting the application (Sections 3.3 and 3.4) and the specific funding conditions (Section 3.5).

3.1 Who can apply

Researchers who obtained their PhD between 5 and 10 years ago may submit an application if they have a paid appointment for at least the duration of the application process and the duration of the proposed project at one of the following organisations:

- Universities located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- University medical centres;
- Institutes affiliated to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) or NWO;
- Netherlands Cancer Institute;
- The Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen;
- Naturalis Biodiversity Center;
- Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL);
- Princess Máxima Center.

Persons with a zero-hour employment agreement may not submit a proposal.

Extra conditions:

- an SSH-XS application has a single applicant and no co-applicants;
- an applicant may submit a maximum of one application in the SSH-XS, call round 2024;
- an applicant – when using the extension scheme – may not submit an application for multiple types of funding instruments within the SSH Open Competition programme during the same calendar year (2024);
- applicants may not be part of an XS project for which the end date has not yet passed at the time of submission.

3.2 What can be applied for

For an application in this Call for proposals, a maximum of € 50,000 can be applied for. The minimum duration of the proposed project is 6 months and the maximum duration is 12 months. The budget modules (including the maximum amounts) available for this Call for proposals are listed in the below table. Please only apply for funding that is vital to realise the project. A more detailed explanation of the budget modules can be found in the Annexe to this Call for proposals (7.1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget module</th>
<th>Maximum amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postdoc</td>
<td>according to UNL or NFU rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-scientific staff (NSS) at universities</td>
<td>according to UNL or NFU rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Scientific personnel (OSS) at universities</td>
<td>€ 50,000, in accordance with the collective labour agreement (CAO) of the organisation of implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research leave</td>
<td>according to UNL or NFU rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material costs</td>
<td>€ 50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The submission deadline for the round is the reference date of the graduation date. The graduation date on the PhD diploma (degree) is leading. Example: for round 1, the researcher must have obtained the PhD at least 5 years ago, and no more than 10 years ago, on 19 March 2024, i.e. the applicant must have obtained their PhD between 20 March 2014 and 19 March 2019.
3.3 Preparing an application

The steps involved in writing your application are:

- download the application form, the budget form and the information form for data that is not part of the anonymised proposal. These forms can be downloaded from the NWO web application ISAAC or from the NWO website (on the grant page of the relevant funding instrument);
- complete the application form;
- save the application form as a PDF file in ISAAC and upload it with the compulsory annexes;
- fill in the requested information online in ISAAC.

Compulsory annexes:
- budget;
- information form.

Optional annexe only:
- declaration co-funding.

The annexes must be drawn up in accordance with the templates provided by NWO. Annexes must be uploaded in ISAAC separately from the application. All of the other annexes, except for the budget, must be submitted as PDF files (without encryption). The budget must be submitted in ISAAC as an Excel file. Any annexes other than those stated above are not permitted.

You must write your application in English.

An application can only be submitted via the web application ISAAC. Applications that are not submitted via ISAAC will not be taken into consideration. As the applicant, you are required to submit the application via your own personal ISAAC account.

It is important to start with your application in ISAAC in time:
- if you do not yet have an ISAAC account, then you should create this in time to prevent any possible registration problems;
- any new organisations may also need to be added to ISAAC by NWO;
- you also need to submit other details online.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration by NWO. For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see contact (Chapter 6).

NWO expects applicants to have informed the organisation where they work about submitting the application and it expects the organisation to accept the grant conditions of this Call for proposals.

3.4 Conditions for submission

3.4.1 Formal conditions for submission

NWO will assess your application against the conditions listed below. Your application will only be admitted to the assessment procedure if it meets these conditions. After submitting your application, NWO requests you to be available to implement any possible administrative corrections so that you can (still) meet the conditions for submission. These conditions are:

- the applicant meets the conditions stated in Section 3.1;
- the application complies with the DORA guidelines as described in Section 4.1 and the application form;
- the application form of the relevant round is, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled out according to the instructions;
- the application is submitted via the applicant’s ISAAC account;
Chapter 3: Conditions for applicants | SSH Open Competition XS

- the application is received at or before the deadline set for the relevant round;
- the application is written in English;
- the research idea has been drawn up anonymously, which means that the application form meets the following conditions:
  - applicants should not include their own name nor the name of any individuals in their research group;
  - applicants should not include details of any affiliations with institutes or knowledge institutions;
  - applicants should not include references to any publications that they have authored or co-authored;
  - applicants should not include the names of any partners (or potential partners);
- the application budget is drawn up in accordance with the conditions for this Call for proposals and uses the most recent version of the budget form of the relevant round;
- the information form is drawn up in accordance with the conditions for this Call for proposals and uses the most recent version of the information form of the relevant round;
- the proposed project has a minimum duration of 6 months and a maximum duration of 12 months;
- all of the required annexes are, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled out and submitted according to the instructions in this Call for proposals.

When submitting their application, applicants agree to assess proposals submitted by other applicants within the same round. If an applicant misses the deadline for submitting assessment reports, then that applicant’s own application will be removed from the procedure. See Section 4.2 for details about the procedure.

Applicants should be aware that they will be required to assess 10 applications from the panel in which they submitted the application. Therefore, their application must also be written with a wide audience in mind.

The broad SSH field is divided into 3 panels for this Call for proposals, each a combination of 2 of the usual SSH panels, namely:
- Panel I: Behaviour and Education + Social Sciences
- Panel II: Law and Public Administration + Economics and Business Administration
- Panel III: Humanities: Cultural Sciences and Linguistics + Philosophy, Historical Sciences and Religious Studies

The SSH main disciplines and associated (sub)disciplines are listed in Annexe 7.2.

3.4.2 Career-dependent submission period and extension scheme

This round is open for researchers who obtained their PhD at most 10 years ago on 19 March 2024 (round 1), 27 August 2024 (round 2) or 15 October 2024 (round 3).

The stated maximum career-dependent submission period can be extended by NWO if there was a long period of leave due to illness, parenting, pregnancy or care. The maximum extension to the submission period allocated by NWO is 5 years.

An extension is also possible for parents who take care of one or more children. An extension is also possible in the case of a part-time appointment combined with care duties or in the case of training for a number of clinical specialisations. In the case of care leave combined with a training to be a clinical specialist, the extension allocated is also a maximum of 5 years.

For more information, see https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/open-competition-ssh/faq-xs. If you would like to make use of the extension scheme, then you should always contact NWO (see Section 6.1) before you submit your proposal.
3.5 Conditions on granting

The Agreement on the Payment of Costs for Scientific Research applies to all applications.

3.5.1 Compliance with the National Knowledge Security Guidelines

Science can benefit from international cooperation. The National Knowledge Security Guidelines (hereafter: the Guidelines) helps knowledge institutions to ensure that international cooperation can take place securely. Knowledge security concerns the undesirable transfer of sensitive knowledge and technology that compromises national security; the covert influence of state actors on education and research, which jeopardises academic freedom and social safety; and ethical issues that may arise in cooperation with countries that do not respect fundamental rights.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their project complies with, and will continue to comply with, the Guidelines. By submitting an application, the applicant commits to the recommendations stipulated in these Guidelines. In the event of a suspected breach of the Guidelines in an application submitted to NWO for project funding, or in a project funded by NWO, NWO may ask the applicant to provide a risk assessment demonstrating that the recommendations in the Guidelines have been taken into consideration. If the applicant fails to comply with the NWO request, or if the risk assessment is in apparent breach of the Guidelines, this may affect the NWO grant award or decision-making process. NWO may also include further conditions in the award letter if appropriate.

The National Knowledge Security Guidelines can be found on the central government website at: Home | National Contact Point for Knowledge Security.

3.5.2 Data management

The results of scientific research must be replicable, verifiable and falsifiable. In the digital age, this means that, in addition to publications, research data must also be publicly accessible insofar as this is possible. NWO expects that research data resulting from NWO-funded projects will, as much as possible, be made publicly available for reuse by other researchers. “As open as possible, protected if necessary” is the applicable principle in this respect. At very least, researchers are expected to make the data and/or non-numerical results that underlie the conclusions of the published work resulting from the project publicly available at the same time as the publication of their work. Any costs incurred for this can be included in the project budget. Researchers should explain how data emerging from the project will be dealt with based on the data management plan that is drawn up after funding has been awarded (see Section 5.1.1).

3.5.3 Scientific integrity

In accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017, the project that NWO funds must be carried out in accordance with the nationally and internationally accepted standards for scientific conduct as stated in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2018). By submitting the application, the applicant commits to this code. In the case of a (possible) violation of these standards during a project funded by NWO, the applicant should immediately inform NWO of this and should submit all relevant documents to NWO. More information about the code of conduct and the policy regarding research integrity can be found on the website: Scientific integrity | NWO.
3.5.4 Ethical statement or licence

The applicant is responsible for determining whether an ethical statement or licence is needed for the realisation of the proposed project. The applicant should ensure that this is obtained in time from the relevant institution or ethics committee. The absence or presence of an ethical statement or licence at the time of the application process does not influence the assessment of the application. If the project is awarded funding, then the grant is issued under the condition that the necessary ethical statement or licence is obtained before the latest start date for the project. The project cannot start until NWO has received a copy of the ethical statement or licence.

3.5.5 Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol ensures an honest and reasonable distribution of benefits emerging from the use of genetic resources (Access and Benefit Sharing; ABS). Researchers who make use for their research of genetic sources from the Netherlands or abroad should familiarise themselves with the Nagoya Protocol (ABS Focal Point). NWO expects researchers to take all necessary actions with respect to the Nagoya Protocol.

3.5.6 Co-funding

Co-financing is a contribution from a private or public party - in kind or in money (in kind or in cash) - to a project or program financed by NWO. Co-financing is permitted for SSH-XS projects. NWO uses the co-financing statement for all funding applications with co-financing.

3.5.7 Start and implementation of the project

An XS project has a minimum duration of 6 months and a maximum duration of 12 months. The research must start within 6 months of the date of the grant award decision. If the project has not started within 6 months of the decision date, the decision-making body may decide to withdraw the grant. Extension of the duration of the project is only allowed in exceptional cases.

3.5.8 Share results

NWO considers it important that the results of all XS projects are shared, including the results of projects that did not deliver the expected results. NWO publishes a public summary of each XS project on the website. At the end of an XS project, the project leader updates the public summary in ISAAC, including the final results, and submits a short substantive final report to NWO. Final financial accountability does not apply.
4 Assessment procedure

This chapter first describes the assessment according to the DORA principles (Section 4.1) and the course of the assessment procedure (Section 4.2). Next, this chapter lists the criteria that the assessment committee will use to assess your application (Section 4.3).

The NWO Code for Dealing with Personal Interests applies to all persons and NWO employees involved in the assessment and/or decision-making process (Code for Dealing with Personal Interests | NWO).

NWO strives to achieve an inclusive culture where there is no place for conscious or unconscious barriers due to cultural, ethnic or religious background, gender, sexual orientation, health or age (Diversity and inclusion | NWO). NWO encourages the assessors to make themselves actively aware of implicit associations and to try to minimise these. NWO will provide them with information about concrete ways to improve the assessment of an application.

4.1 The San Francisco Declaration (DORA)

NWO is a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). DORA is a worldwide initiative that aims to improve the way research and researchers are assessed. DORA contains recommendations for research funders, research institutions, scientific journals and other parties.

DORA aims to reduce the uncritical use of bibliometric indicators and obviate unconscious bias in the assessment of research and researchers. DORA’s overarching philosophy is that research should be evaluated on its own merits rather than on the basis of derived indicators, such as the journal in which the research is published.

For more information on what NWO does to implement the principles of DORA, see DORA | NWO.

4.2 Procedure

The application procedure consists of the following steps:
- submission of the application;
- admissibility of the application;
- suitability;
- separation of applications into panels and groups;
- assessment by the applicants themselves;
- tied ranking;
- decision-taking.

4.2.1 Submission of the application

For the submission of the application, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO website. When you write your application, you must adhere to the questions stated on this form and to the approach described in the explanatory notes. You must also adhere to the conditions for the maximum number of words and pages.

Your fully completed application form must have been received before the deadline via ISAAC (see Section 1.3). After this deadline, you can no longer submit an application. The main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt after submitting the application.
4.2.2 Admissibility of the application

As soon as possible after you have submitted your application, NWO will let you know whether or not your proposal will be taken into consideration. NWO will determine this based on several administrative-technical criteria (see the formal conditions for submission, Section 3.4). NWO can only take your application into consideration if it meets these conditions.

Please bear in mind that within 2 weeks after the submission deadline, NWO may approach you with any possible administrative corrections that need to be made so that your application can (still) meet the conditions for submission. You will be given one opportunity to make the corrections, and you will be given 5 working days to do this.

4.2.3 Suitability

NWO will assess whether the applications under consideration are in keeping with one of the SSH main disciplines, as specified on the information form. If NWO sees fit, external experts can be asked to assess the suitability of an application in this regard. Applications are deemed suitable if the focus of the research proposal encompasses one or more of the SSH (sub)disciplines. The SSH main disciplines and associated (sub)disciplines are listed in Annexe 7.2.

Any proposals that, in NWO’s view (whether or not external experts were consulted), are not deemed to be in keeping with one or more of the NWO SSH (sub)disciplines will be rejected. Accordingly, they will not proceed to the next phase of the assessment process.

4.2.4 Separation of applications into panels and groups

For 2024, 3 submission deadlines are specified (see Section 1.3). All proposals submitted before a given deadline with a specific SSH main discipline (see Section 3.4.1 and Annexe 7.2) are assembled and designated as one panel. The applicant determines by which panel the application will be processed by means of the SSH main discipline specified in the information form (see Section 4.2.3).

Applications processed per panel are divided into 2 groups, so that each panel consists of Group A and Group B. In principle, the classification takes place at the time of submission to NWO, taking into account the personal interests declared by the applicants. Before the applications are distributed for assessment, the assessors indicate their possible personal interests on the basis of a list of applicants (initials, last name and affiliation). If a personal interest is established, the assessor will not receive the concerned proposal for assessment. Applications can be switched between groups if this is necessary to comply with the NWO Code for Dealing with Personal Interests.

The budget for the concerning round will be divided among the 3 panels in proportion to the number of applications processed, to the nearest € 100,000, and then divided equally within the panels between 2 groups, Group A and Group B.

If less than 30 applications are submitted for a specific panel within a given submission deadline, then these applications will be combined with another panel in the same round. The budgets for these panels are then combined. When panel I or panel II need to be combined with another panel, these social sciences panels are combined. If the humanities panel (panel III) needs to be combined with another panel, NWO will decide how the panels are combined. After notification, applicants for the combined panels will then have 5 working days to adapt their application to the new panel classification.

If fewer than 30 applications are submitted within 2 different panels before a given submission deadline, then the applications from all 3 panels will be combined in the same round and the budget for that round will be combined. After notification, applicants for the combined panels will then have 5 working days to adapt their application to the new panel classification.
If less than 75 applications in total are submitted before a given submission deadline, the applications from this round will be moved on to the next application round, the assessment will be postponed and the available budgets for both submission deadlines will be combined and then divided in proportion to the number of applications across the 3 panels.

4.2.5 Assessment by the applicants themselves

The applicants themselves carry out the assessment via an anonymous peer review. The applications in Group A are assessed by the applicants in Group B, and the applications in Group B are assessed by the applicants in Group A. To this end, the applications in Group A are randomly assigned to the applicants in Group B, and the applications in Group B are randomly assigned to the applicants in Group A. This means that every applicant who carries out assessments (hereinafter ‘assessor’) will receive a number of applications to assess from that part of the set that does not include their own proposal. Within each panel, the applications are allocated to assessors at random and (within the submitted panel) the applicants’ or assessors’ own discipline group is partly taken into account. In principle, each assessor will assess 10 applications, and each application is assessed by a comparable number of assessors.

The mutual assessment by the applicants is based purely on the research idea; therefore the applicants write the research idea anonymously in the application form. Applications should be written with a broad audience in mind so that the research plan and the assessment criteria below can be assessed by all assessors from all (sub)disciplines in the panel. An application that has not been written in an accessible form for other disciplines can be ranked lower by an assessor.

Each assessor will rank the applications they have received for assessment on the basis of the assessment criteria (see Section 4.3). In this ranking, the applications must all be allocated a different rank. The assessor writes a report for each application, giving the rank (with regard to the application assessed by that particular assessor) and a short written explanation, which justifies the ranking based on the assessment criteria.

The assessors must submit their reports within 10 working days. If an assessor fails to meet the set deadline, then their own application will be withdrawn from the procedure and will not be taken into consideration.

The assessors and applicants associated with a particular package of applications do not meet. NWO will decide the final rankings of the applications, based on the rankings submitted by the assessors. Per round, 6 final rankings will be established – per panel one for Group A and one for Group B. There will be no opportunity to dispute the rankings.

The final ranking of the applications is determined by taking the average of all the rankings each application has received, whereby two of these rankings (one corresponding to the highest ranking, and one to the lowest ranking) will not count towards that average.

4.2.6 Tied ranking

NWO understands a tied ranking to be a situation in which two or more proposals based on their average score cannot be distinguished from each other. In the event of a tied final ranking of two or more applications (rounded to one decimal place), the following principles will apply in this order:

- applications from female applicants will have preference;
- applications with the highest rankings overall will have preference; for this, the only rankings considered will be those that were used to determine the average for the final ranking.

4.2.7 Decision-taking

The SSH Domain Board will base its decision about awarding or rejecting the applications on the results of the 6 final rankings, the assessment reports and the available funding.
Applicants will be informed of the results once the SSH Domain Board has completed the decision-making process. In addition to the final ranking, the applicants will receive an assessment report concerning their application, including the rank provided by each assessor and details of each assessor’s rationale. The applicant will receive full details of the rankings and the assessors’ rationale, including those that were not included in determining the average for the final ranking.

4.2.8 Timetable

Below, you will find the timetable for this Call for proposals. NWO might find it necessary to make further changes to the timetable for this Call for proposals during the ongoing procedure. You will be informed about this in time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeline SSH-XS 2024, round 1</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 March 2024, 14:00:00 CET</td>
<td>Deadline submission applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 March - 5 April 2024</td>
<td>Admissibility of the application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 - 29 March 2024</td>
<td>Disclosure of personal interests</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 April 2024</td>
<td>Applications sent to assessors for assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 April 2024, 14:00:00 CEST</td>
<td>Deadline submission assessment reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2024</td>
<td>Decision by the SSH Domain Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2024</td>
<td>Applicants informed of the award decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start date project</td>
<td>No later than 6 months after the date of formal approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End date project</td>
<td>No later than 12 months after the starting date</td>
</tr>
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<td>27 August 2024, 14:00:00 CEST</td>
<td>Deadline submission applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 August - 13 September 2024</td>
<td>Admissibility of the application</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 - 6 September 2024</td>
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<td>19 September 2024</td>
<td>Applications sent to assessors for assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 October 2024, 14:00:00 CEST</td>
<td>Deadline submission assessment reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2024</td>
<td>Decision by the SSH Domain Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2024</td>
<td>Applicants informed of the award decision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start date project</td>
<td>No later than 6 months after the date of formal approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End date project</td>
<td>No later than 12 months after the starting date</td>
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<td>Deadline submission applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 October - 1 November 2024</td>
<td>Admissibility of the application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 - 25 October 2024</td>
<td>Disclosure of personal interests</td>
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Chapter 4: Assessment procedure | SSH Open Competition XS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 November 2024</td>
<td>Applications sent to assessors for assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 November 2024, 14:00:00 CET</td>
<td><strong>Deadline submission assessment reports</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2024</td>
<td>Decision by the SSH Domain Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2025</td>
<td>Applicants informed of the award decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start date project</td>
<td>No later than 6 months after the date of formal approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End date project</td>
<td>No later than 12 months after the starting date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4.3 Assessment criteria

The results of fundamentally innovative and groundbreaking research cannot be predicted in advance and it is therefore uncertain whether the intended objective will be achieved. These types of initiatives do not always fit into existing funding instruments. Within SSH-XS, NWO is looking for exactly this: XS research projects are groundbreaking, promising and pioneering. The assessment by applicants is done purely on the basis of the research idea; therefore, applicants anonymously draw up the research idea in the application form.

Applications must be drawn up with a wide audience in mind so that assessors from the relevant panel will be able to properly evaluate the research plan and the assessment criteria described below. The SSH disciplines and associated (sub)disciplines are listed in Annexe 7.2. The assessors may award a lower ranking to any application that are drawn up in a way that is not accessible to those in other disciplines.

The assessors who rank the application will focus on the following criteria. These criteria are not weighted. At the discretion of an assessor, both of these aspects may be used for the purposes of ranking. However, that ranking must be accompanied by a short written explanation to substantiate the given rank based on the assessment criteria listed below.

**Innovative aspect**

Is the proposed research innovative and groundbreaking? Does the research proposal potentially have a scientific impact? Will the proposed research take the applicant down a new path?

**Feasibility of the research plan**

The objective and work plan must be clearly described. Does the methodology seem suitable to achieve the indicated project goal? Is the planning of the research plan appropriate and are the activities included in the planning with sufficient clarity?
5 Obligations for grant recipients

This chapter details the various obligations that - in addition to the conditions stated in Section 3.5 - apply after funds have been awarded.

5.1.1 Data management

After an application has been awarded funding, the researcher must draw up a data management plan. The applicant must describe in the plan whether existing data will be used, or whether new data will be collected or generated, and how this data will be made FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable. Before submission, the data management plan should be checked by a data steward or similar officer of the organisation where the project will be carried out. The plan should be submitted to NWO via ISAAC within 4 months after the application 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. The plan can be adjusted during the research.

More information about the NWO data management protocol can be found at: Research data management | NWO.

5.1.2 Intellectual property

With respect to intellectual property (IP), the NWO IP policy applies. This can be found in Chapter 4 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017.

Applicants must carry out a NWO-funded project during the time that they work for the knowledge institution. If an applicant or a researcher funded by NWO is appointed by more than one employer, then the other employer should relinquish any possible IP rights that emerge from the project.

5.1.3 Socially responsible licensing

The project can produce knowledge that is suitable for application in society. When agreements about licensing and/or the transfer of research results developed under this Call for proposals are made, due consideration should be given to the ten principles for socially responsible licensing, as stated in the NFU factsheet “Ten_principles_for_Socially_Responsible_Licensing”.

5.1.4 Open Access

As a signatory to the Berlin Declaration (2003) and a member of cOAlition S (2018), NWO is committed to making the results of the research it funds openly accessible via the internet (Open Access). By doing this, NWO gives substance to the ambitions of the Dutch government to make all publicly funded research available in Open Access form. Scientific publications arising from projects awarded on the basis of this Call for proposals must therefore be made available in Open Access form in accordance with the Open Access Policy.

Scientific articles
Scientific articles must be made available in Open Access form immediately upon publication (without embargo) via one of the following routes:

− publication in a fully Open Access journal or platform registered in the DOAJ;
− publication in a subscription journal and the immediate deposition of at least the author accepted manuscript of the article in an Open Access repository registered in OpenDOAR;
− publication in a journal for which a transformative Open Access agreement exists between UNL and a publisher. For further information, see Open Access.
Books
Different requirements apply to scholarly books, book chapters and edited collections. See the Open Access Policy Framework at Open Science | NWO.

CC BY licence
To ensure the widest possible dissemination of publications, at least a Creative Commons (CC BY) licence must be applied. Alternatively – in case of compelling interests – the author may request to publish under a CC BY-ND licence. For books, book chapters and collected volumes, all CC BY licence options are allowed.

Costs
Any costs for publication in fully Open Access journals can be budgeted in the application using the budget module for “material costs”. Costs for publications in hybrid journals are not eligible for reimbursement by NWO. For Open Access books, a separate NWO Open Access Books Fund can be appealed to.

For more detailed information about the NWO Open Access policy, see Open Science | NWO.
6 Contact and other information

6.1 Contact

6.1.1 Specific questions

For specific questions about this Call for proposals, please contact:

Britt Veldman
Tel. +31 70 344 0931

Ninja Rijnks-Kleikamp
Tel. +31 70 349 4346

Email sgw-ocxs@nwo.nl

6.1.2 Technical questions about the web 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. The ISAAC helpdesk can be contacted from Monday to Friday between 10:00 and 17:00 hours on +31 70 34 40 600. However, you can also submit your question by email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will then receive an answer within 2 working days.

6.2 Other information

The whole text of this Call for proposals has been published in both Dutch and English. The Dutch version is deemed authentic. For legal interpretation the text of the Dutch version will be decisive.

NWO processes data from applicants received in the context of this Call in accordance with the NWO Privacy Statement, Privacy Statement | NWO.

NWO might approach applicants for an evaluation of the procedure and/or research programme.
Chapter 7 Annexes | SSH Open Competition XS

7 Annexes

7.1 Explanation of budget modules

It is possible to apply for funding for the salary costs of personnel who substantially contribute to the research. Funding of these salary costs depends on the type of appointment and the organisation where the personnel are/ will be appointed.

- For university appointments, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the UNL salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded (Salary tables | NWO).
- For university medical centres, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the NFU salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded (Salary tables | NWO).
- For the Caribbean Netherlands, the Dutch government employs civil servants on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba under different conditions than in the European part of the Netherlands Employment terms and conditions | Working at the Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland.

Remunerations for PhD scholarship students (‘bursalen’) at a Dutch university are not eligible for funding from NWO.

The available budget modules are explained below.

Postdoc

There are no additional conditions attached to the appointment of a postdoc.

Non-scientific staff (NSS) at universities

These may include personnel such as student assistants, programmers, technical assistants or analysts. Depending on the level of the position, the appropriate salary table applies for NSS at MBO, HBO or university level. No additional conditions are attached to the appointment of non-academic staff.

Other Scientific personnel (OSS) at universities

Funding can also be requested for the appointment of other scientific staff (OSS) such as AIOS (doctor training to be a specialist), ANIOS (doctor not training to be a specialist), scientific programmers, people with a university master’s degree or the Dutch academic titles of ‘drs.’ or ‘ir.’. The appointment must be in accordance with the applicable Collective Labour Agreement (CAO) for the institution at which the research is to be carried out. No additional conditions are attached to the appointment of other scientific personnel.

Research leave for applicants

With this budget module, funding can be requested for the costs of the research leave of the applicant. The employer of the applicant can use this to cover the costs of relinquishing the researcher from educational, supervisory, administrative or management tasks (not research tasks). The time that is released through the research leave grant can only be used by the applicant for activities in the context of the project. The application must describe which activities in the context of the project the applicant will carry out in the time relinquished.

NWO funds the research leave in accordance with the salary tables for a senior scientific employee (scale 11) at the time the grant is awarded (Salary tables | NWO).
Explanation of budget module Material

The material budget that can be applied for is specified according to the three categories below:

**Project-related goods/services**
- consumables (e.g. glassware, chemicals, cryogenic fluids, etc.);
- measurement and calculation time (e.g. access to supercomputer, etc.);
- costs for acquiring or using data collections (e.g. from Statistics Netherlands [CBS]), for which the total amount may not exceed € 25,000 per application;
- access to large national and international facilities (e.g. cleanroom, synchrotron, etc.);
- work by third parties (e.g. laboratory analyses, data collection, citizen science, etc.).

**Travel and accommodation costs**
- travel and accommodation costs;
- conference attendance;
- fieldwork;
- work visit.

**Implementation costs**
- national symposium/conference/workshop organised by the project researchers;
- costs for Open Access publishing (solely in full gold Open Access journals, registered in the “Directory of Open Access Journals” [https://doaj.org/]);
- costs data management;
- costs involved in applying for licences (e.g. for animal experiments).

**Costs that cannot be applied for are:**
- basic facilities within the institution (e.g. laptops, office furniture, etc.);
- maintenance and insurance costs.
7.2 Overview SSH panels

**Panel I** is Behaviour and Education + Social Sciences

Main disciplines: Behaviour and Education

(Sub)disciplines:
- Biological and Medical Psychology
- Clinical Psychology
- Social and Organisational Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Pedagogics
- Psychonomics and Cognitive Psychology
- Psychometrics
- Educational Sciences

Main disciplines: Social Sciences

Disciplines:
- Cultural Anthropology
- Development Studies
- Sociology
- Demography
- Geography
- Communication Sciences
- Planning
- Environmental Science
- Industrial Design

**Panel II** is Law and Public Administration + Economics and Business Administration

Main disciplines: Law and Public Administration

(Sub)disciplines:
- Private Law
- Constitutional and Administrative Law
- International and European Law
- Criminal Law and Criminology
- Political Science
- Public Administration

Main disciplines: Economics and Business Administration

(Sub)disciplines:
- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics
- Econometrics
- Business Administration
Panel III is Humanities

Main disciplines: Cultural Sciences and Linguistics

(Sub)disciplines:
- Art and Architecture
- Gender Studies
- Literature
- Music, Theatre, Performing Arts and Media
- Computers and Humanities
- Logic
- Language and Speech

Main disciplines: Philosophy, Historical Sciences and Religious Studies

(Sub)disciplines:
- Archaeology
- History
- Area Studies
- Philosophy
- Religious Studies and Theology
- History of Science
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