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1 Introduction

In this Call for proposals information is provided about the application procedure for the NWO Talent Programme Vici 2022 funding round. This Call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

In this Call for proposals you 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. Chapter 5 states the obligations for grant recipients in the event you are awarded funding and Chapter 6 contains the contact details.

1.1 Background

From 2020, NWO will convert the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme to the NWO Talent Programme. The programme covers three grant categories (Veni, Vidi and Vici).

Each grant category has one submission round per year and a separate call for proposals. Procedures may change from year to year, depending in part on the results of interim evaluations and/or on unforeseen and disruptive circumstances like the COVID-19 crisis.

NWO is structured into four domains:

- Science;
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH);
- Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES); and
- Health Research and Development (ZonMw).

The 2022 Vici round will therefore be conducted in four procedures corresponding to the NWO domains.

1.2 Available budget

The budget for this Vici call in 2022 is 46.5 million euro's. Within this Call for proposals it is expected that a maximum of 31 proposals will be awarded funding: Science 12, Social Sciences and Humanities 9, Applied and Engineering Sciences 4 and Health Research and Development (ZonMw) 6.

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is April 12, 2022, at 14:00:00 hours CEST.
The deadline for submitting full proposals is September 20, 2022, at 14:00:00 hours CEST.

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.
Hoofdstuk 2: Aim / NWO Talent Programme

2 Aim

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

2.1 Aim of the programme

The aim of the NWO Talent Programme is to provide individual encouragement for talented postdoctoral researchers at various stages of their careers. Providing creative opportunities for adventurous, talented, pioneering researchers to do research of their own choice and to encourage them to make a permanent career of academic research are therefore key aims of the NWO Talent Programme. With a personal grant, researchers have the opportunity to develop their own innovative line of research which could be structurally embedded in a research institution.

The Vici target group consists of excellent researchers with a striking and original talent as well as a considerable fascination for doing challenging and pioneering, research. The focus in this respect is on innovative and curiosity-driven research, which is an incentive for their career. In view of the purpose of the Vici programme, it is obviously essential that researchers should have the ability to formulate and conduct a line of scientific research independently. This implies that they will already have proved their abilities in their field of research.

The Vici scheme is aimed at the excellent senior researcher who has successfully demonstrated the ability to develop his/her own innovative line of research and the ability to act as a coach for young researchers.

The Vici funding focuses on researchers who will be among the best of their peer group, irrespective of their nationality or research topic. It is expected that they can also convince others of the originality and potential of their ideas.

Researchers working at a foreign institution are also eligible to submit an application. If awarded, the project must be carried out at a Dutch institution recognised by NWO (see paragraph 3.1 for more information).

Promoting female researchers

We explicitly invite female researchers to apply. The representation and advancement of women in academia are unfortunately far less than those of men. NWO and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) are working together with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) and Dutch universities to rectify this situation; the aim is that the percentage of female applicants will ultimately be at least equal to the percentage of female researchers in the target group.

NWO strives to ensure that the success rates for female applicants will be at least equal to those for male researchers on average and in the medium term. In the event that two or more applications are rated equally, preference will be given to the proposal submitted by a female applicant.

2.2 Societal impact

New knowledge and insights from scientific research can make an important contribution to solutions for current and future societal issues. Examples are the energy transition, health and care, or climate change. Knowledge utilisation increases the chances of research having a societal impact and is therefore an important aspect of the NWO strategy for 2019-2022.

2.2.1.1 Knowledge utilisation

NWO defines knowledge utilisation as an iterative process aimed at achieving societal impact. Through interaction and alignment between researchers and possible users of knowledge, the chances of knowledge utilisation and, accordingly, societal impact increase. Via its knowledge utilisation policy, NWO facilitates the possible contribution of research to societal issues by encouraging productive interactions with societal stakeholders during the development and realisation of the research. NWO does this in a manner appropriate to the aim of the funding instrument.
2.2.1.2 Customisation in approach knowledge utilisation

Depending on the aim of the funding instrument, NWO will select the approach that has the greatest chance of achieving societal impact. The primary aim of the funding instrument determines the method NWO deploys to facilitate knowledge utilisation in various phases of the project (proposal, realisation, project completion) and the effort required from the applicant(s) and partner(s).

In this programme, the Impact Outlook approach is used. With this approach, NWO encourages applicants to pay more attention to discovering and exploring opportunities for societal impact. The assessment criterion of the impact outlook approach is the possible scientific and/or societal impact of the research. This criterion will be explained in more detail in paragraph 4.2 (Criteria).

For more information about the NWO knowledge utilisation policy, see the website: www.nwo.nl/en/knowledge-utilisation. http://www.nwo.nl/kennisbenutting
3 Conditions for applicants

This chapter contains the conditions that are applicable to your grant application. Firstly 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

Applications can be submitted by candidates who have obtained their PhD, irrespective of whether they hold tenured positions and of whether they come from the Netherlands or abroad. The appointment will be at one of the host research institutions:
- 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.

3.1.1 Career-dependent submission period and extension scheme

Vici applicants must have obtained their doctorate within the last fifteen years. The 2022 Vici round is open to researchers who meet this criterion on 1 March 2022.

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 five 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 five years.

For more information, see [www.nwo.nl/en/extension-clause](http://www.nwo.nl/en/extension-clause). 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. 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 five years.

3.1.2 Parental leave

For instruments in which no co-applicants can be entered, NWO offers applicants who take parental leave during the assessment period due to the arrival of a child, the possibility to make use of the 'Compensation scheme for parental leave'. This scheme applies to this Call for proposals. For more information, please see [NWO Compensation scheme Parental leave](http://www.nwo.nl/en/extension-clause). If you would like to make use of the scheme, please submit an e-mail request to the relevant programme secretary for your round and/or panel within the Domain you are applying for.
It could be the case that the applicant’s tenure track agreement ends before the intended completion date of the project for which funding is applied for, or that before that date, the applicant’s tenured contract ends due to the applicant reaching retirement age. In that case, the applicant needs to include a statement from their employer in which the organisation concerned guarantees that the project and all project members for whom funding has been requested will receive adequate supervision for the full duration of the project.

Additional conditions

The following additional conditions apply to the submitting of applications:

a. Applications must be submitted by individual researchers (not by pairs or groups of researchers or by research teams).

b. A applicant may:
   - submit a maximum of one application in the Vici 2022 round;
   - submit a Vici application no more than three times;
   - enter the application process for the NWO Talent Programme for no more than one type of grant at a time;
   - If an application that has been admitted to the selection process is withdrawn by the applicant, this submission still counts towards the maximum number of submissions per applicant.

c. Researchers who have previously been awarded grants under the Talent Programme (or Innovational Research Incentives Scheme) may apply again for a grant of the same kind;

d. Researchers in receipt of a current award under the NWO Talent Programme (previously: Innovational Research Incentives Scheme) may apply for another form of grant under the scheme earlier than 24 months before the planned expiry date of the current grant.

Persons with a zero-hour employment agreement or with a contract for a limited period of time (other than a tenure track appointment) may not submit a proposal.

It could be the case that the applicant’s tenure track agreement ends before the intended completion date of the project for which funding is applied for, or that before that date, the applicant’s tenured contract ends due to the applicant reaching retirement age. In that case, the applicant needs to include a statement from their employer in which the organisation concerned guarantees that the project and all project members for whom funding has been requested will receive adequate supervision for the full duration of the project.

Applicants with a part-time contract should guarantee adequate supervision of the project and all project members for whom funding is requested.

3.2 What can be applied for

The maximum amount for a Vici project offered by NWO is 1.5 million euros for a period of five years. If the proposed research is of shorter duration, the maximum amount will be reduced accordingly.

The budget estimate submitted with the application must be based on eligible direct staff costs and direct non-staff costs. The calculation of the staff costs must be based on actual gross salaries and associated costs as specified in the current Dutch agreement on the funding of academic research (Akkoord bekostiging wetenschappelijk onderzoek; www.nwo.nl/salary-tables), with the exception of indexation and end-of-project payments. The amount of these payments for the 2022 will be based on the standard percentages in the agreement.

Remunerations for PhD students/PhD scholarship students at a Dutch university are not eligible for funding from NWO.
Hoofdstuk 3: Conditions for applicants / NWO Talent Programme

The term ‘direct non-staff costs’ means general non-staff costs plus the costs of knowledge transfer, knowledge utilisation and internationalisation. Infrastructure costs (accommodation and office automation) and other overhead are not eligible for funding.

The proposed budget will be assessed by NWO. If it exceeds the maximum amount of the Vici grant, the application (preproposal and full proposal) must be accompanied by a letter from the prospective host institution or a third party (co-finance) guaranteeing to cover the excess costs. This guarantee must be signed by the dean/manager of the institution or by a person with authority to sign on behalf of the body issuing the guarantee.

For further information and explanation of grant-eligible costs, see the document “guidelines for design of expenditures financial accounting reports” at the different Vici-domain sites.

3.3 Preparing an (pre-)proposal

Vici grant application forms (pre- and full proposal) will be available on the programme website (https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/nwo-talent-programme) two months before the submission deadline.

The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is April 12, 2022, at 14:00:00 hours CEST.

The deadline for submitting full-proposals is September 20, 2022, at 14:00:00 hours CEST.

You are kindly requested to inform the programme officer by email of the domain before the 1st of August 2022 that you intend to submit a full-proposal.

It is important to start with your application in ISAAC on time. If you do not yet have an ISAAC account, then you should create this on time to prevent any possible registration problems. New organisations must also be added to ISAAC by NWO. You also need to submit other details online.

Does a main and/or co-applicant work at an organisation that is not included in the ISAAC database? You can report this via relatiebeheer@nwo.nl so that the organisation can be added. This will take several days. It is therefore important that you report this at least one week before the deadline.

The applicant must inform the organisation where she/he works about the submission of the application, and the organisation must accept the granting conditions of this Call for proposals.

- Download the application form from the electronic application system ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw or from NWO’s web page (on the grant page for this programme);
- complete the application form;
- save the application form as a pdf file and upload it in ISAAC or in Mijn ZonMw (https://www.zonmw.nl/) for applications to the Health Research and Development domain (ZonMw).

Pre- and full proposals must be written in English and must include:

- an outline of the research proposal (max. 1,200 words for a Vici preproposal and max. 8,000 words for a Vici detailed proposal, not including references);
- a section about the realisation of the scientific and/or societal impact (max. 500 words for a Vici preproposal and max. 1,000 words for a Vici detailed proposal);
- a narrative CV*, consisting of a description of the applicant’s academic profile (max. 1200 words) and a description of the key output (max. 10 items with an explanation in max. 700 words);
- a budget estimate;
- a datamanagement section (full proposals).

Does a main and/or co-applicant work at an organisation that is not included in the ISAAC database? You can report this via relatiebeheer@nwo.nl so that the organisation can be added. This will take several days. It is therefore important that you report this at least one week before the deadline.
The applicant must inform the organisation where she/he works about the submission of the application, and the organisation must accept the granting conditions of this Call for proposals.

* The narrative cv has two parts:

1. **Narrative academic profile**: a narrative description of the candidate’s academic profile. In this, the candidates are free to decide what they consider relevant to state in their CV.

   This part is a narrative in which applicants explain what type of researcher they are: what is the research focus, agenda, and vision of the researcher? What have they done to realise that vision? In principle, applicants can use this section to state all information they consider to be useful/important and which demonstrates their qualities, for example in relation to the discipline and to the specific proposal. In the case of a Vici proposal, for instance, stating previous experience with supervision, training, and leadership qualities would be more important than in a Veni proposal. Grants or prizes obtained may be stated, but a complete list of these should not be given. If such a statement is made, then candidates are requested to indicate what they did with the opportunities that the grant obtained afforded them. Important keynotes, academic “service”, contributions to teams, outreach, etc. can also be included in this document. For transdisciplinary research, the candidate could place extra emphasis on collaborations in other projects. However, the experience relevant for setting up an important database is entirely different. In brief, it is up to applicants to demonstrate what makes them good and suitable. In all cases, the context should be described. Finally, this part contains a motivation for the proposed research and room to explain the researcher’s suitability for the specific research.

2. **Key Output**: a list of at most 10 key outputs with an explanation as to why the applicant considers these to be the most important output. This part, in which applicants demonstrate their research output, also has a narrative character. Candidates are no longer required to provide a full list of publications but can instead selectively choose the output they showcase. The term output is broadly defined: peer-reviewed articles, preprints, Open Access data, software, presentations, contributions to popular media, etc. All types of output that are relevant for the candidate’s profile, the discipline, society, or the proposal can be stated. By limiting the number of outputs, the focus shifts from quantity to quality and the impact of the contributions. A maximum of 10 outputs may be stated; candidates may also choose to state fewer than ten outputs. They can demonstrate what they consider to be important and by doing that make a link with part 1, the academic profile. For each output, the candidate is requested to state the role/contribution they played (in the team), the output’s impact, its relationship with the proposal and/or why it uniquely shows the quality of the candidate.

**Guidelines for the use of quality indicators**

In the motivation for the choice of output, reference can be made to certain quality indicators, but not to additional output. The guideline for these indicators is as follows: **all types of quality indicators may be stated, as long as they only relate to a single output item.**

Both quantitative and qualitative indicators that satisfy this guideline are permitted. For instance, the number of times a dataset is downloaded may be stated, or the impact of a certain article on policy. NWO encourages stating several quality indicators per output, so for example the use of the results presented in professional practice as well as a sentiment analysis of the citations or the number of citations for that one output. It is therefore possible to state the article was cited exceptionally often or has led to changes in textbooks, but also, for example, that this collaboration resulted in a successful H2020 application. Applicants are requested to explain why the chosen indicators are relevant; how do the indicators chosen in this specific case provide insight into the quality of the work and/or the applicant?
All indicators that do not satisfy the guidelines above are excluded. For instance, this means that journal impact factors (JIF) or any other indicator that refers to a journal, publisher or publication platform may not be stated. This rule applies not only to quantitative indicators but also to qualitative descriptions of reputation. Therefore, terms such as “top journal” and “high-quality university press” may not be used either. H-indexes and sums and averages of citations may also not be stated as these indicators do not just refer to the specific output concerned.

3.3.1 Advice about field choice/substantive suitability

For this Vici Call, you have to choose which field you will submit your application to. You can choose from:
- Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES),
- Science (ENW),
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH),
- ZonMw (Health Research and Medical Sciences).

Please decide well in advance to which field it would be best to submit your application. If you have doubts about which field would be most appropriate, for example, because your application has a (partly) field-overarching character, then you should get in touch with one of the contact persons from the programme well before the deadline. They can advise you about which field can best deal with your application. Please note that the final choice is yours.

For advice, please contact the different domains (contact details see 6.1.1).

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, we request you to be available to implement any possible administrative corrections so that you can (still) meet the conditions for submission.

These conditions are:
- the main applicant meets the conditions stated in Section 3;
- the application from is, after a possible request to make additions or changes, is correct, complete and filled out according to the instructions;
- the application is submitted via the main applicant’s ISAAC or MijnZonMw account;
- the application is received at or before the deadline set;
- the application is written in English;
- the application budget is drawn up in accordance with the conditions for this Call for proposals;
- all of the required annexes have been submitted;
- Vici-applicants submit the pre- and the full proposal in one of the four domains. The full proposal must be submitted in the same domain as the pre-proposal.

3.5 Conditions on granting

The NWO Grant Rules 2017 and the Agreement on the Payment of Costs for Scientific Research are applicable to all applications.
**3.5.1 Datamanagement**

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 be made publicly available, as much as possible, for reuse by other researchers. “As open as possible, as closed as necessary” is the applicable principle in this respect. Researchers are at least expected to make the data and/or non-numerical results that underlie the conclusions of work published within the project publicly available at the same time as the work’s publication. 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 section in the proposal and the data management plan that is drawn up after funding is awarded.

**Data management section**

The data management section is part of the proposal. Researchers are asked before the start of the research to consider how the data collected will be ordered and categorised so that this can be made publicly available. Measures will often already need to be taken, during the creation of data and analysis of the data, to make its later storage and dissemination possible. If it is not possible to make all data from the project publicly available, for example due to reasons of privacy, ethics or valorisation, then the applicant is obliged to list the reasons for this in the data management section.

The data management section in the proposal is not evaluated and will therefore not be weighed in the decision whether to award funding. However, both the referees and the committee can issue advice with respect to the data management section.

**3.5.2 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 proposal, 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: [www.nwo.nl/en/scientific-integrity](http://www.nwo.nl/en/scientific-integrity).

**3.5.3 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 from the relevant institution or ethics committee on time. 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.

**3.5.4 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 of genetic sources from the Netherlands or abroad for their research should familiarise themselves with the Nagoya Protocol ([www.absfocalpoint.nl](http://www.absfocalpoint.nl)). NWO assumes that researchers will take all necessary actions with respect to the Nagoya Protocol.

**3.5.5 Co-funding**

The requested annexes differ between the AES domain and the other domains.

**Domains Science, SSH and ZonMw**

If your host institution or a third party co-funds your project, your application must be accompanied by an authorized letter guaranteeing that this funding will be provided. The guarantee must explicitly state the amount of the co-funding. Letters of guarantee are unconditional and do not contain termination clauses.

Letters of guarantee should be sent to NWO via the ISAAC or Mijn ZonMw system as a separate PDF document. For applications to Science, SSH and ZonMw these annexes will not be sent to referees and assessment committees and will not be taken into consideration when assessing the applications.
Domain AES

AES makes a distinction between co-funding from the applicant’s institution to support salary costs and letters of support from third parties. Both forms can be found on the AES Vici page.

AES does send letters of guarantee to referees and committee members. For these letters of guarantee it is required to use the AES Domain specific format.

Please do not include any publications or letters of recommendation without in cash or in kind contributions when submitting your application.
4 Assessment procedure

This chapter first of all describes the course of the assessment procedure (Section 4.2). It then states 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-taking process (www.nwo.nl/en/code-dealing-personal-interests).

NWO strives to achieve an inclusive culture in which there is no place for conscious or unconscious barriers due to cultural, ethnic or religious background, gender, sexual orientation, health or age (www.nwo.nl/en/diversity-and-inclusion). NWO encourages referees and members of an assessment committee or jury to be actively aware of implicit associations and to try to minimise these. NWO will provide them with information about concrete ways of improving 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 surrogate measures, such as the journal in which the research is published.

When assessing the scientific track record of applicants, NWO makes use of a broad definition of scientific output.

NWO requests committee members and referees not to rely on indicators such as the Journal Impact Factor or the h-index when assessing applications. Applicants are not allowed to mention these in their applications. You are, however, allowed to list other scientific products besides publications, such as datasets, patents, software and code, etcetera.

For more information on how NWO is implementing the principles of DORA, see www.nwo.nl/en/dora.

4.2 Procedure

The application procedure consists of the following steps:

- Submission of the pre-proposal
- Consideration of the pre-proposal
- Assessment of the pre-proposal
- Submission of the statement of intent
- Submission of the full proposal
- Consideration of the full proposal
- Peer review by referees
- Rebuttal
- Initial advice assessment committee
- Interview
- Assessment committee meeting
- Decision-making
4.2.1 Submission of the pre-proposal

The submission of a pre-proposal is compulsory for this Call for proposals. Vici applications must be submitted first as preproposals, which are abridged versions of the detailed proposals. For the pre-proposal submission, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO website (https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwo-talent-programme). The pre-proposal form completed by you must have been received before the deadline via ISAAC (see paragraph 1.3). After submitting the pre-proposal, the main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt. Four assessment committees (Social Sciences and Humanities committee, Science committee, Applied Sciences and Engineering Sciences committee and Health Research and Development committee) assess the preproposals comparatively, using the criteria and subsequently prioritise these according to likelihood of funding, without making use of external referees.

4.2.2 Consideration of the pre-proposal

As soon as possible after you have submitted your pre-proposal, you will hear from NWO whether or not it 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 pre-proposal into consideration if it meets these conditions. Please bear in mind that within two weeks after the submission deadline, we may approach you with any possible administrative corrections that need to be made so that your pre-proposal can (still) meet the conditions for submission. You will be given one opportunity to make the corrections, and you will be given five working days to do this.

4.2.3 Assessment of the pre-proposal

The most likely candidates receive an invitation on due time, to submit a detailed proposal before the second deadline. Other applicants will receive message that they are not invited to submit a detailed proposal. Since this is an advice and not a formal decision, these applicants can still submit a full proposal despite the negative advice.

4.2.4 Submission of a letter of intent (for the full proposal)

All applicants who wish to submit a full proposal must make this known to NWO by means of an email to the relevant domain. The statement of intent allows NWO to establish the expected number of applications. The applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt of the statement of intent. You may withdraw a statement of intent by sending an email to the domain of NWO.

4.2.5 Submission of the full proposal

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

Your complete application form must have been received before the deadline via ISAAC/MijnZonMw (see paragraph 1.3). After this deadline, you can no longer submit a proposal. After submitting the proposal, the main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt.

4.2.6 Consideration of the proposal

As soon as possible after you have submitted your proposal, you will hear from NWO 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 proposal into consideration if it meets these conditions. You are asked to be available during two weeks after submitting your proposal to enter any possible administrative corrections so that your proposal can (still) meet the conditions for submission. You will be given one opportunity to make the corrections, and you will be given five working days to do this.

4.2.7 Peer review by referees

Before the assessment committee considers your proposal, NWO will request input from at least three external referees. NWO aims at receiving five external reviews. These are independent advisers who are expert in the subject of the proposal. They will assess the proposal based on the assessment criteria stated in the Call for proposals (Section 4.3).
A maximum of three non-referees can be registered. Applicants can register these non-referees in ISAAC when submitting the pre-proposal. NWO will not approach these non-referees to assess the proposal as external referees.

4.2.8 Rebuttal

The main applicant subsequently receives the anonymised referees’ reports. You then have the opportunity to formulate a rebuttal. You will be given 5 working days to submit your rebuttal via ISAAC/MijnZonMw. If you decide to withdraw the proposal, then you should do this as quickly as possible by sending an email stating this to the office and withdrawing the proposal in ISAAC/MijnZonMw. If NWO receives your rebuttal after the deadline, then it will not be included in the rest of the procedure.

4.2.9 Pre-advice assessment committee

After this, your full proposal, the referees’ reports and your rebuttal will be submitted for comments to several members of the assessment committee (the pre-advisers). The pre-advisers will provide a written substantive and reasoned response to the proposal. They will formulate these comments based on the substantive assessment criteria (see Section 4.3.1) and will give the proposal a numerical score per assessment criterion. For this, the NWO score table will be used (on a scale of 1 to 9, where “1” is excellent and “9” unsatisfactory).

4.2.10 Interview

The full proposals, the referees’ reports and the rebuttal (and for AES the letter of guarantee) will be submitted to the assessment committee. The assessment committee will make its own assessment based on these. Subsequently, the applicants with the highest ranked proposals will be invited for an interview. During the interview, the assessment committee has the opportunity to pose questions, including new questions that the referees have not yet asked. During the interview, the applicant can respond to these in the discussion with the committee. In this manner, the principle of hearing and rebuttal is applied. The interview is an important part of the assessment and can lead to an adjustment of the assessment and the score of the proposal.

4.2.11 Meeting of the assessment committee

The pre-advice for each proposal is the starting point for the plenary discussion of the proposals by the assessment committee. Following the discussion, the committee draws up a written recommendation addressed to the relevant domain board about the quality and ranking of the proposals. This recommendation is based on the assessment criteria. The proposal must receive an overall qualification of at least “very good” to be eligible for the funding.

For more information about the qualifications, see https://www.nwo.nl/en/apply-funding-how-does-it-work. If, after the discussion of the proposals, it transpires that two or more of the proposals based on their weighted total score cannot be distinguished from each other, then there is an ex aequo situation (see the paragraph about ex aequo).

4.2.12 Ex aequo

NWO understands ex aequo to be a situation in which two or more proposals based on their weighted score cannot be distinguished from each other. An ex aequo situation is relevant with respect to the boundary of the available budget or the selection boundary. The existence of an ex aequo situation is determined as follows. The starting point is the ranking drawn up by the assessment committee, with the final scores rounded down to two decimal points. The reference score is the score of the lowest-ranked proposal within the boundary of the available budget or the selection boundary. All proposals with a score that is within 0.05 or less of the reference score will be considered. Subsequently, the proposals that are equal within a score of 0.1 will be selected. If an ex aequo situation occurs at the boundary of available budget or the selection boundary, then the proposal from a female applicant will end as the highest. If the ex aequo situation is not resolved with this, then the assessment committee, with the help of an (anonymous) majority vote, will determine the ranking (in accordance with Article 2.2.7, third paragraph, sub a, part iv of the NWO Grant Rules 2017). If this vote provides no resolution either, or is not desirable to vote, the ex aequo situation will be send on to the decision-making body.
4.2.13 Decision-taking

Finally, relevant domain board will assess the procedure followed and the advice from the assessment committee. It will subsequently determine the final qualifications and take a decision about awarding or rejecting the proposals.

4.2.14 Timetable

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-proposals</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12 April 2022</td>
<td>Deadline pre-proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-June 2022</td>
<td>Committee assesses pre-proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2022</td>
<td>Applicants receive advice about whether or not to elaborate the pre-proposal into a proposal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statement of intent**

| Tuesday 2 August 2022              | Submitted declaration of intent |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Full) Proposals</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20 September 2022</td>
<td>Deadline full-proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October-November 2022</td>
<td>Referees consulted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medio November 2022</td>
<td>Applicants can submit a rebuttal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2023</td>
<td>Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2023</td>
<td>Assessment committee meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2023</td>
<td>Decision by the board</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3 Criteria

4.3.1 Substantive assessment criteria

The applications submitted within this Call for proposals will be substantially assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

Applications are assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Quality, innovative character and academic impact of the proposed research (40%);
2. Scientific and/or societal impact (20%).
3. Quality of the researcher (40%);

1. Quality, innovative character and academic impact of the proposed research
   - challenging content;
   - originality of the research question;
   - innovative scientific elements;
   - aimed at building up a new line of research;
   - effectiveness of proposed methodology;
   - international importance of the proposed research area.

2. Scientific and/or societal impact
Applicants can choose to focus in their research project on scientific impact only, societal impact only, or a spread across both forms of impact.

Scientific impact includes, among others:
- potential and relevance of research results for one’s own discipline and related discipline(s);
- potential and relevance of the research results for the wider scientific field.

Societal impact includes, among others:
- the added value of the project for societal impact;
- potential for societal impact in the short and long term;
- a vision of the way(s) in which the proposed research could lead to societal impact.

In addition to the above, the assessment committee, as part of this criterion, will also weigh:
- the motivation for the focus on scientific impact and/or societal impact;
- if the focus is primarily on scientific impact: how proportional attention is given during the course of the project to increasing (unforeseen) opportunities for social impact;
- if the focus is primarily on societal impact: how proportional attention is given during the course of the project to increasing (unforeseen) opportunities for scientific impact.

It is possible to achieve a good evaluation for this criterion if the focus of the proposal lies on scientific impact, societal impact, or a spread across both forms of impact. The score of this criterion is independent of the chosen focus; one form of impact is not better or worse than the other.

3. Quality of the researcher
- in terms of profile fit in the target group;
- among the best of his/her international peer group;
- academic excellence as demonstrated among other by the quality and the impact of the selected key outputs, but also by the quality and the impact of other academic achievements, such as contributions to Open Science, ‘academic citizenship’, education and the linking of these to science;
- inspiring enthusiasm for research and/or technology;
- persuasiveness;
- demonstrably capable of successfully developing own new innovative line of research;
- has both a national and international prominent position;
- demonstrable leadership and coaching skills.
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 Arrangements and reporting

Once the relevant domain board has announced its decisions, arrangements are made for each award. Successful candidates are awarded contracts of employment with the host institutions of their choice and arrangements are made for final reporting and for any necessary supervision by the domain concerned (see also Section 3.5.1). Vici projects must always start within six months of the grant being awarded. The projects awarded funding will be managed by one of the NWO domains. During the Vici project you are responsible for the progress and final reports and you bear final financial responsibility. With the subsidy decision you will be informed who your contact person will be during the term and which obligations you must meet.

5.1.2 Datamanagement

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the researcher should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. For this, applicants can make use of the advice from the referees and committee. The applicant describes in the plan whether use will be made of existing data, whether new data will be collected or generated, and how the data will be made FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, 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 realised. The plan should be submitted to NWO via ISAAC within 4 months after the proposal has been awarded funding. NWO will approve 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 data management protocol of NWO can be found at: www.nwo.nl/en/research-data-management.

5.1.3 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.

The following applies with respect to making agreements about intellectual property rights and publication (IP&P): for Vici projects awarded funding by NWO SSH, ZonMw and NWO Science, the project leader is responsible for the allocation of IP rights to the project results.

For a proposal that has been awarded funding by AES, the conclusion of a project agreement is one of the conditions for starting the project. In this agreement, arrangements are made about intellectual property and publication, knowledge transfer, confidentiality, co-financing payments, progress reports and final reports. Approval and a signature from NWO is required before the project can start. The agreement will be signed by NWO and all parties involved in the project. The parties have the option of adopting the standard text in the NWO model agreement, but they may also make their own arrangements regarding IP and a publication procedure or apply existing arrangements. The model project agreement provides for this.

Consortia preferring to make their own arrangements regarding IP and a publication procedure should indicate this choice in the letters of support when submitting the application. Such arrangements must be agreed within the consortium and submitted to NWO within three months of the grant being awarded, so that NWO can assess whether the agreement complies with the European rules on state aid and the conditions set out in this Call for proposals and the NWO Grant Rules 2017.

The responsibility for arranging the project agreement for a proposal that has been awarded funding by AES lies with the applicant.
5.1.4 Socially responsible licensing

The knowledge that emerges from the project could be suitable for use 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 “Socially Responsible Licensing Toolkit for knowledge institutions” (www.nfu.nl/sites/default/files/2020-09/200902-NFU%20Factsheet%20Toolkit%20SRL.pdf).

5.1.5 User committee for applications in the AES domain

After funding has been awarded, for projects for which project management is handled by the NWO domain AES, NWO will appoint a user committee (as described in Article 3.3.2a of the NWO Grant Rules 2017) in consultation with the project leader, to facilitate the actual and effective transfer of knowledge from the research to the users. The user committee’s main task is to advise the project leader about the direction the research should take to maximise the application of the research results. How the user committee works and its tasks are stated in the “Guidelines TTW/AES User Committee”. Membership of the user committee is at the invitation of NWO domain AES. By agreeing to participate, the members commit themselves to the rules stated in the “Guidelines TTW User Committee”. Costs related to participation in user committees cannot be part of the budget.

5.1.6 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 at the time of 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 Open DOAR;
- publication in a journal for which a transformative Open Access agreement exists between VSNU and a publisher. For further information, see [www.openaccess.nl/en.http://www.openaccess.nl/](http://www.openaccess.nl/)

**Books**


**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 substantial interest – 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**

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 is available.

6 Contact and other information

6.1 Contact

6.1.1 Specific questions
For specific questions about this Call for proposals, please contact: talent@nwo.nl

Domain addresses
NWO Talent Programme/Vici
Science
PO Box 93460
2509 AC The Hague, The Netherlands
E-mail: enw-vici@nwo.nl

NWO Talent Programme/Vici
Social Sciences and Humanities
PO Box 93461
2509 AC The Hague, The Netherlands
E-mail: sgw-vici@nwo.nl

NWO Talent Programme/Vici
Applied and Engineering Sciences
PO Box 3021
3502 GA Utrecht, The Netherlands
E-mail: ttw-vici@nwo.nl

NWO Talent Programme/Vici
Health Research and Development
PO Box 93245
2509 AE The Hague, The Netherlands
E-mail: vici@zonmw.nl

6.1.2 Technical questions about the web application 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 20 346 7179. However, you can also submit your question by email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will then receive an answer within two 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 might approach applicants for an evaluation of the procedure and/or research programme.