NWO Stevin Prize 2022
1 Introduction and purpose

The NWO Stevin Prize is an individual research grant. The Prize is an honour and a one-off and unique award. Its aim is to encourage and recognise knowledge exchange and impact. The prize will be awarded to a candidate (or a combination of two or three candidates) who has (have) achieved an exceptional success in the area of knowledge exchange and impact for society. NWO understands knowledge utilization as the utilization of knowledge through productive interactions with targeted stakeholders to create societal value (including economic value).

The knowledge utilisation must have demonstrably led to innovative applications, ideas and networks in practice (such as products, instruments, tools, methods and processes, training and education, capacity building etc.) and the researcher(s) must have played a crucial role in this. The laureates are thus rewarded for an exceptional performance with respect to the utilisation of academic research and encouraged to continue the direction pursued. A select number of people can nominate candidates at the invitation of NWO. Each year, two Stevin Prizes worth 2.5 million euros each are awarded. The available total budget is 5 million euros.

Who can nominate

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

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

Who can be nominated

Candidates for the Stevin Prize:

- are employed by a knowledge institute mentioned in article 1.1 (1) of the NWO grant rules 2017
- should be able to spend the Prize fully before their retirement age: A candidate is not eligible for the Stevin Prize if he/she will reach the state pension age or AOW pension age within five years after 1 October 2022 (based on his/her date of birth)
- have not previously received a Spinoza or Stevin Prize. A researcher can only be awarded a Stevin or Spinoza Prize once. If a candidate is independently nominated by different rectores/chairs for both prizes then the candidate will only be eligible for either the Stevin Prize or the Spinoza Prize.

In case of a nomination for a combination of two or three candidates all candidates must meet the above mentioned conditions.
The nomination should clearly state and substantiate in which of the following scientific clusters the focus of the candidates’ research (and the application of it) during the last five years has lain: Social Sciences and Humanities or Life Sciences and Natural Sciences (including Medical and Technical Sciences). If a candidate carries out multidisciplinary research, the cluster that is best applicable should be chosen and motivated. Nominations in which both clusters are marked will not be taken into consideration.

The application of, creative and ground-breaking world-class research frequently requires a team with a diversity of researchers, in order for subjects to be approached from different points of view. NWO therefore strives to achieve more diversity, to ascertain that Dutch science is drawing upon all its available talent. The nominators are therefore warmly encouraged to nominate female researchers as well as researchers with a migration background as well as researchers with a migration background.

What can the candidates be nominated for

NWO reserves a budget of 5 million euro’s annually for the NWO Stevin Prize. Each NWO Stevin Prize is worth 2.5 million euros. The recipient(s) will enjoy a considerable degree of freedom as to how the grant may be used: for personnel (academic and non-academic), equipment, investments, travel and accommodation costs, costs for hosting foreign researchers, activities related to knowledge exchange and impact, etc. However, a concise spending plan must be submitted to the NWO executive board for approval. In principle, the prize should be spent within a period of five years.

When can nominations be submitted

Nominations should be submitted no later than 14:00:00 CET on 1 November 2021. Nominations should be sent as a PDF file by email to NWO (stevinpremie@nwo.nl).

Drawing up a nomination

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

Funding conditions

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

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

The NWO Grant Rules 2017, and the Approval of Funding for Scientific Research apply to all nominations, unless this brochure states otherwise. Additional terms and conditions that apply to awarded prizes can be found via the webpage of the Stevin Prize: nwo.nl/nwo-stevinpremie (Regeling administratie en verantwoording NWO-Stevinpremie – only available in Dutch).

Procedure

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

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

The selection committee consists of authoritative scholars/academics and experts from the Netherlands and abroad with affinity for and experience in the field of knowledge exchange and impact. The committee is headed by a technical chair. The NWO Personal Interest Code applies to all persons and NWO employees involved in the handling, assessment and/or decision-taking process. More information concerning the Personal Interest Code can be found on the NWO website: [www.nwo.nl/en/code-dealing-personal-interests](http://www.nwo.nl/en/code-dealing-personal-interests)

NWO processes personal data in accordance with the NWO privacy policy: [www.nwo.nl/en/privacyverklaring](http://www.nwo.nl/en/privacyverklaring)

Criteria

First the selection committee will evaluate whether the focus of the research (and the application of the results) of the (combination of) candidates during the last five years matches the marked scientific cluster in the nomination form. In case the selection committee is of the opinion that the marked scientific cluster does not match the focus of the research, the nomination will not be taken into consideration. As a consequence the nomination will not be assessed on the basis of the criteria mentioned below.

Subsequently the quality of the (combinations of) candidates is assessed in relation to broadly held standards of high quality scholarship and science within the relevant disciplines. The assessment and selection of the (combination of) candidates takes place on the basis of past performance taking into account the following criteria:

1. **Internationally recognised quality as scientific researcher** (weighted at 30%). This must be apparent from the scientific or scholarly track record of the candidates, and the influence that they have exerted on the development of the discipline concerned. For example, theoretical or methodological contributions by the candidate(s) and/or innovative breakthroughs that the candidate achieved. The quality is furthermore reflected in national and international collaborations and networks (for example school building) and recognitions.

2. **Leadership and the ability to attract and inspire early career researchers** (weighted at 20%). This criterion concerns the mentorship and coaching of early stage researchers. The committee takes into account to what extent the candidates are successful in attracting and providing inspiring leadership for Master students, PhD students and postdocs from the Netherlands or from abroad. Specific attention will be given to education activities and how the candidate has mentored and stimulated early career researchers in the context of applying research results. If a candidate has a substantial number of mentees who have succeeded in advancing their career in academic research, this indicates that the supervision has lasting effects of high quality.

3. **Internationally recognised track record in realising applications of scientific research results** and achieved knowledge exchange and impact (weighted at 50%). This must be apparent from the relevance of the research results for third parties outside of the academic sector as well as the extent to which these results meet the needs of those parties. This does not concern the use of knowledge by fellow researchers within the researcher’s own scientific discipline. Additionally, it should be clear that the NWO-Stevin Prize will enable the candidates to make substantial advances in applying research results. Although the intrinsic motivation in particular is important, the following indicators can provide general guidance.

- Demonstrable knowledge exchange and impact or a clear perspective of knowledge exchange and impact that has a considerable societal and/or economic impact. This can be national and international regarded as distinctive with respect to knowledge exchange and impact within the scientific/academic discipline concerned.

---

1 If reference is made to “a candidate” in the text below, this also refers to a combination of candidates.
- Crucial active national and international involvement with commercial and/or societal activities that emerge from the research and/or public activities, for example in the form of setting up knowledge platforms, expertise centres, start-ups and/or spin-offs.
- Publications and/or research products aimed at knowledge exchange and impact with non-academic organisations. Examples are conference proceedings, guidelines, policy documents, professional publications, publications aimed at the general public, designs, manuals, software, constructions and/or patent documents.
- Any form of communication aimed at specific public or private parties and target groups.
- General outreach activities aimed at a wide public to reinforce the knowledge exchange and impact, for example interviews in the media, lectures for the general public, exhibitions, teaching material, documentary films or television series, websites and blogs.
- Capacity building of human capital in the area of knowledge exchange and impact: employees/PhDs/Postdocs who come from or leave for industry, government and/or public organisations.
- Private (third flow of) funding acquired in cash and in kind with due consideration to the diversity and impact of the partners concerned.

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

**Additional criterion for a nomination of two or three candidates**

When two or three candidates are nominated together, the added value of their collaboration should be demonstrably greater than the sum of the individual achievements of each researcher singularly, in particular with respect to the third criterion: knowledge exchange and societal impact. The candidates should complement each other, but do not need to be of the same calibre as long as there is evidence of a clear added value and synergy. Furthermore, there should be significant (applications of) research results that can only be attributed jointly to all the researchers in a combined nomination.

In a nomination for a combination of researchers, it should be clear that the collaboration between the candidates has enabled substantial advances at the frontiers of academic research. These advances may stem, for example, from the cross-fertilization of diverse academic fields or expertise relevant for the research topic, from new productive lines of enquiry, or new methods and techniques, including unconventional approaches and investigations at the interface between established disciplines. In other words, a combined nomination should describe how the collaboration between the nominated candidates has been essential for the breakthroughs established and in what way this has led to world-class research results and knowledge exchange. NWO would like to emphasize that the individual candidates within a combined nomination do not have to be generalists or to have expertise on all aspects of the research conducted.

When the candidates in a combined nomination are equal partners with each having their distinct role and a unique high-level of expertise resulting in a complementary and interdependent collaboration, such a nomination would ideally fit the policy NWO has implemented.

When a combined nomination does not fulfil the additional criterion as described above, that combination of candidates will not qualify for a Stevin Prize. This is subject to the assessment of the complete selection committee.

**Contact**

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

- Drs. B.D. (Bernice) de Jong Boers - van der Ham
- email: stevinpremie@nwo.nl
- telephone: +31 70 3440 926
- www.nwo.nl/stevinpremie
Annex: Instructions on writing nominations for 2022

The nominations should be written in English. The nominations should clearly state which achievements of the candidate have gained them a national and international reputation in the area of applying research results, what the expectations are for the future of the candidate, and how the Stevin Prize will strengthen the position and reputation of the candidate’s team. In case of multiple nominations for the same candidate(s), each nominator should give a specific motivation.

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

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

The maximum size of the nomination is four A4 pages for an individual candidate and six pages for a combined nomination for the questions 1.1 up to 3.9. One page is allowed for questions 3.10 and 3.11 excluding annexes and the general details about the candidate and nominator.

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

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

As a result of NWO signing the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) any references to Journal Impact Factors or H-index are not allowed in the nominations. The assessment of nominations will be qualitative. Quantitative data only underpin the descriptions in the nominations. Further information about NWO’s policy about DORA may be found at: https://www.nwo.nl/en/dora

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

1. An overview of the ten most important academic research products (for relevant categories please see the nomination format) and a description of how these have influenced the scientific field and/or society (in case of a combined nomination for two or three candidates a maximum of 20 research products).
2. A recent curriculum vitae (please see the questions in the nomination format) in which it is expressly stated whether there have been periods of relatively low working activity during the candidate’s career and consequently low academic output due, for example, to caring responsibilities or other reasons (with a maximum of 4 pages).
3. An overview of the ten most prestigious achievements and research products that fall under assessment criterion 3 (the application of research results outside of the academic sector)(with a maximum of 3 pages, including the publication list mentioned below). From this overview it should be clear that there is demonstrable knowledge exchange and impact or a visible perspective of knowledge utilisation and impact in everyday practice that has a large societal and/or economic impact (e.g. active involvement in commerce and/or societal activities that emerge from the research, (co-)publications with non-academic partners, targeted forms of communication, outreach activities, capacity building of human capital in the area of knowledge exchange and impact, and the acquisition of research funding from third parties with due consideration to the diversity and impact of the partners concerned). This annex may include a non-academic publication list (with a maximum of 2 pages) with non-academic publications targeted at the general public and/or policy officers (such as popular scientific articles, newspaper articles, white papers, blogs and reports). Please do not include a scientific/academic publication list!