Open Access Books

Call for proposals
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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Dutch government aims for 100% of publicly funded research to be available in Open Access. To date, policy measures and interventions have mainly focused on making journal articles available in Open Access. Open Access for academic books has lagged behind. This can be explained by the fact that the transition to Open Access for books has been slower, both nationally and internationally. In addition, the landscape for Open Access books is more complex.

However, for certain disciplines, academic books represent an equally important if not more prominent means of scholarly communication. This is especially true for the humanities and social sciences.

NWO believes that publicly funded research should be available as freely and openly as possible. NWO therefore mandates that all publications resulting from NWO-funded research projects must be available in Open Access. This also applies to books resulting from NWO funding. The term “academic books” in this call for proposals includes both monographs and edited collections.

The writing and subsequent publication of academic books is a lengthy process that usually exceeds the formal duration of the NWO project. It is therefore often impossible to include publication costs for books in the budget of the application. The aim of this programme is to support researchers in the Open Access publication of their academic books by providing funds for the payment of Book Processing Charges (BPC).

1.2 Available budget

An annual budget of M€ 0.5 has been made available for this programme until 2022.

1.3 Validity of the call for proposals

Applications can be submitted throughout the year.
Chapter 2: Aim

2. Aim

The aim of this funding instrument is to stimulate the Open Access publication of academic books that result from NWO funding by providing funds for the payment of Book Processing Charges.

The Dutch government aims for 100% of publicly funded research to be available in Open Access. To that end, the National Open Science Plan was launched in 2017 and was endorsed by a broad coalition of research organisations (including VSNU, NWO, KNAW, ZonMw, NFU, PNN, UKB).

To date, efforts have mainly focused on making (internationally) peer-reviewed journal articles available in Open Access. For certain disciplines, the academic book is an equally important if not more prominent means of scholarly communication. This is especially true for the humanities and social sciences, where more than half of the scientific output is published in books: monographs, book chapters or edited volumes (Bosman & Kramer, 2019). Results of NWO-funded research projects are also often published in book form.

NWO’s policy states that all publications arising from NWO funding be made available in Open Access. This applies not only to journal articles, but also to books, book chapters and edited volumes. The costs for Open Access publication of scholarly articles must be budgeted as part of the grant application. This is not feasible for books because the writing and subsequent publication of books is a lengthy process that usually exceeds the formal duration of the NWO project. This instrument aims to provide a solution to this problem by providing post-project funding for Open Access book publication.

Through this instrument, NWO aims to follow up on the note “Towards an Open Access policy for academic books in the Netherlands” that was adopted by the Steering Committee of the National Plan on Open Science in 2019.
3 Guidelines for applicants

3.1 Who can apply

Applications for the Open Access book publication fund can only be submitted by project leaders or co-applicants of awarded NWO research projects.

3.2 What can be applied for

Per research project, a maximum of €10,000 is available for the Open Access publication of a peer-reviewed academic book that is the result of a research project funded by NWO and published by an academic publisher. Following Crossick (2015), NWO defines an academic book or monograph as: a long-form academic work or book on a single research topic, typically written by one or sometimes two authors. This includes (peer-reviewed) edited collections as well as critical editions. Excluded from this instrument are:
- Article Processing Charges for journal articles: these costs can be included in the grant application of the research project (note: NWO only reimburses APCs for full Open Access journals);
- Book chapters;
- Conference proceedings;
- Dissertations;
- Textbooks;
- Translations.

3.3 When can applications be submitted

Applications may be submitted at any time. There are no deadlines. Applications can be submitted as soon as there is a publishing contract between the author(s) and the publisher, the manuscript has passed the peer-review process and the manuscript is ready to be put into production by the publisher. Applications for books that have already been published will not be accepted.

3.4 Drawing up an application

- Download the application form from the electronic application system ISAAC or from the NWO website (at the foot of the grant page for this programme).
- Complete the application form (co-signed by the publisher).
- Add the mandatory attachments:
  - A copy of the signed publishing contract (specifying the publication fee).
  - The table of contents and summary of the book.

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1 Universities UK, Open access and monographs Evidence review (October 2019): ‘The term “monograph” encompasses a broad range of long-form publications, typically published by scholars working in the arts, humanities and the social sciences. The monograph may refer to inter alia, scholarly translations, editions, commentaries, catalogues and edited collections, as well as the conventional single-authored monograph (Crossick, 2015; BA 2018). It is, in its broadest sense, a book written about one (mono) topic. As a vehicle for the long-form argument.’
Chapter 3: Guidelines for applicants /

– Save the application form and the attachments as a single pdf file and upload it in ISAAC.

3.5 Funding conditions

The NWO Grant Rules 2017 (or potential successor to these regulations) apply to all applications.

3.6 Submitting an application

Applications may be submitted exclusively via the ISAAC online application system. Applications not submitted via ISAAC will not be considered.

Applicants are required to submit their applications via their personal ISAAC account. Applicants who do not have an ISAAC account should create an account at least one day before submitting the application. This is to ensure that any registration problems can be resolved in time. If the applicant already has an account with NWO, there is no need to create a new account in order to submit an application.

For questions of a technical nature, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk; see Section 5.1.2.
4  Assessment procedure

The NWO Code for Dealing with Personal Interests applies to all persons and NWO staff involved in the assessment and/or decision-making process. See also: www.nwo.nl/en/code

4.1 Procedure

Eligibility check

The first step in the assessment procedure is a check on the eligibility of the application. To this end, the application is checked against the conditions as set out in Section 3.

If correction of the application is possible (at the discretion of NWO), the applicant will be given the opportunity to correct their application within five working days. If the corrected application has not been received before the deadline or has not been amended correctly, NWO reserves the right not to process the application. Corrected applications that are received on time will still be processed after approval.

Assessment procedure

Applications are assessed by the NWO Office on the basis of the criteria set out below. Applications within this programme are not in competition with each other, and NWO intends to honour all applications that meet the conditions and criteria set out in Section 4.2 as long as the annual budget is sufficient.

Decision-making

The decision whether to award the grant is taken by the NWO Executive Board. Applicants will be informed of the decision in writing.

Timeframe (indicative)

The aim is to reach a decision within six (6) weeks of the first submission.

4.2 Criteria

Applications will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. The publication concerns an academic book, monograph or collected volume which is demonstrably the result of a research project funded by NWO that ended no longer than five years from the time of submission (to the Open Book Fund application)
2. The publication has been subjected to a full, independent, external peer-review process and the manuscript is unconditionally accepted by the publisher.
3. The publication mentions the support for research by NWO.
4. The publication will be published under a Creative Commons license.
5. The publication will be provided with a Digital Object Identifier (DOI).
6. The requested budget will not exceed €10,000 (including Dutch VAT, if applicable) per project.
5 Contact details and other information

5.1 Contact

5.1.1 Specific questions
For specific questions about the Open Access Book Publication Fund and this call for proposals, please contact:

NWO Open Access Secretariat
Hanneke Dekker
Tel.: +31 70 349 4011
E-mail: open-access@nwo.nl

5.1.2 Technical questions about the electronic 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 CE(S)T on +31 20 346 7179. However, you can also submit your question by e-mail to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will receive an answer within two working days.

5.2 Additional information

For more information about the NWO Open Access policy, visit: www.nwo.nl/openscience-en.
For more information about the National Open Science Programme (NPOS), visit: www.openscience.nl/en.

This programme draws on insights from the following studies and reports:

- Ferwerda, E., Pinter, F & Stern, N, (2017), A Landscape study on Open Access and monographs. Policies, funding and publishing in eight European countries. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.815932