General information
Before filling out the application form you are requested to read this explanation to the application form and the NGF AiNed Fellowship Grants Call for proposals. The Call document is accessible via the funding page on the NWO website or via the tab page ‘documents’ in ISAAC.

The application form should be submitted via the online application system ISAAC (www.isaac.nwo.nl). After you have completed the application form, save it as a PDF file and upload the document – and the separate Excel budget and signed letter of submission from the highest administrative body of the institution acting as the official secretary – in ISAAC. Please note that you have to enter additional details in ISAAC in the different tab pages before you can submit the application. This requires some additional time which you should take into account when submitting the application. In order to process the application correctly the PDF document should not be protected by a password or secured otherwise.

The application should be written in English. You are requested to not change the structure of the form and use the following font: Calibri 10. Furthermore you are requested not to change, add or remove headers either in the application form, the letter of submission or in the Excel budget form.

If you have any technical questions about ISAAC you can contact the ISAAC helpdesk. Please read the ISAAC manual (www.isaac.nwo.nl/en/help) before consulting the helpdesk. The ISAAC helpdesk is available Monday to Friday from 10:00 to 17:00 on +31 (0)70 344 0600. You can also send your queries by email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will receive a response within two working days.
For any other questions please contact the programme manager Eva Blokker MSc, tel. +31 (0)70 344 0710, (NGF-AiNedFellowship@nwo.nl).

General information
Please note that this section should not exceed one page. Please check that you enter the same information in ISAAC when requested.

1. Institution
Please provide the institution acting as the official secretary. Please note that for University Medical Centres this is the institution of the Executive Board from which they receive the direct government funding.

2. Main applicant
Please provide the name of the main applicant. Please note that the application must be submitted via the ISAAC account of the main applicant.

3. AI talent
Please provide the name of the AI talent.

4. Project title
Please fill in the project title of the proposed research. This title should be the same as the title you enter in the ISAAC system.

5. Summary of the proposal
Please provide a summary of the research plan, the activities plan (for embedding in the AiNed-NL AIC ecosystem) and the plan for the commitment (to realise temporary research positions externally funded). What is the envisaged aim of the proposed research project is and how this in line with the assessment criteria?

6. Keywords
Specify up to five keywords.
Please note that this section should not exceed the maximum of 6 pages. This page limitation does not include references, but does include footnotes, figure captions and tables.

It is important that you address the following criteria, as these are part of the assessment criteria of the application: appropriateness and quality of the research plan to carry out research on an AI aspect from the AIREA-NL agenda (sections 7 and 8 of the application form), incl. track record of the AI talent in this research (section 9).

7. Description of the research plan
You are requested to give a description of the research plan to carry out research on an AI aspect from the AIREA-NL agenda.

Include the overall aim, objectives and background. Discuss the scientific originality and/or the innovative approach of the proposed research, including its cutting edge aspects and/or ground-breaking character.

Describe which methods and techniques will be used in the proposed research and discuss their applicability and accessibility.

Discuss the feasibility of the research proposal and indicate the possible risks involved with the proposed research, including risks from the methods, techniques, available infrastructure, etc. Indicate how these risks can be mitigated and whether an alternative approach (plan B) exists.

8. Appropriateness of research plan with AIREA-NL agenda
Describe the appropriateness of the research plan to carry out research around an AI aspect from the AIREA-NL agenda.

9. Track record of AI talent in this research
A. Academic profile:
The relevant expertise of the AI talent should be described in a narrative of the academic achievements, research focus, research agenda, position in the (inter)national academic field, motivation, and the academic and societal potential of the work, but remember to comply with DORA. Do not include ‘CV information’ such as prizes, (prestigious) grants, et cetera. Do not include hyperlinks to personal websites or group websites.

B. Key output:
Provide references to your key output (max. 10) and add a motivation for the selection of each of these items. Please also number the items. You are allowed to use a hyperlink that refers to the article directly. You are not allowed to mention H-indexes, journal impact factors, or any type of metric that refers to the journal, publisher, or publication platform, rather than to the individual output item.

Output may include, but is not limited to refereed articles, non-refereed articles, letters (to editors), books, book chapters, pre-prints, patents, working papers, proceedings, conference reports, software, code and open access databases. You may mention all types of output that occur in your field (with a maximum of 10 items in total). The status of your output must be clearly indicated.

If you mention a URL it may only refer to the individual output item. The URL should preferably be in the form of a persistent identifier (e.g. DOI).

10. Planning of the proposed research

Please indicate the envisaged start and end date of the research. The lead time of the project must fit the (longest) duration of the positions applied for and cannot exceed a period of 5 years.

Awarded projects must start within 6 months after the date of the award letter. NWO aims to decide on eligible applications within 2 months.

Please note that it is compulsory to fill the same information also in the ISAAC system on the tab “General Information” (Algemeen) before submitting the application.

11. Literature references
List relevant literature here and include full bibliographical details. This section does not count toward the limitation of 6 pages.

Activities plan – embedding in AiNed-NL AIC ecosystem

12. Description and appropriateness of the activities plan for embedding in the AiNed-NL AIC ecosystem
It is important that you address the following criteria, as these are part of the assessment criteria of the application: appropriateness and quality of the activities plan for embedding in the AiNed-NL AIC ecosystem. See section 7.2 of the Call for proposals (AiNed-NL AIC ecosystem) for more information about the ecosystem.

Indicate what the activities plan for embedding in the AiNed-NL AIC ecosystem is, including:
- to which parts of the AiNed-NL AIC ecosystem the AI talent will contribute;
- appropriateness of the activities plan for embedding in AiNed-NL AIC ecosystem;
- how and what the AI talent aims to contribute;
- the plan for ensuring that this/these part(s) of the ecosystem benefit from the knowledge of the AI talent and the outcomes of the project.

Please note that this section should not exceed the maximum of 2 pages.

Commitment plan

13. Description of the commitment plan
It is important that you address the following criterion, as this is part of the assessment criteria of the application: the quality of the plan for the commitment to realise temporary research positions externally funded from companies and public organisations. See section 3.5.1 of the Call for proposals for the general requirements of the commitment.

Indicate what the commitment plan is, including:
- how the funding would be obtained;
- from whom the funding would be obtained (not from NWO or NL/EU government);
- (if known) if a PhD or a postdoc position (3 years, 1 FTE; or equivalent) would be appointed;
- how the proposed research from the obtained funding would fit within the framework of the project.

Please note that this section should not exceed the maximum of 1 page.

Additional information
14. **Main applicant**
Please provide the requested information. Note that the main applicant is *not* the AI talent itself but submits the application on behalf of the applying institution. During the assessment procedure the main applicant will be the contact person of the application. See section 3.1 of the Call for proposals for the general requirements for applicants.

15. **AI talent**
Please provide the requested information. See section 3.1 of the Call for proposals for the general requirements of the AI talent.

16. **AI talent – work experience since completing your PhD**
Please provide the requested details. Please add rows to the table if necessary.

17. **Public summary (maximum 50 words each)**
Please provide both an English and Dutch public summary of the research project. If the grant application is successful, the public summary will be used in NWO publicity surrounding the announcement of the grant award decisions.

18. **Data management**
Responsible data management is part of good research. For the collection/generation of data and the analysis of this data, timely measures need to be taken to ensure the storage and later reuse of the data. This means that prior to the start of the research project, researchers must ascertain a) which data could be relevant and b) how these data could be stored so that they are accessible for reuse. After a proposal has been awarded funding, the researcher will draw up a detailed data management plan in which the researcher explains how all relevant research data will be made findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR). Please answer the questions in section 18 of the application form.

NWO would like to contribute to the development of good data management by asking researchers to make all relevant research data findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR). Therefore in the data management section, researchers will be asked - prior to the start of their research - to think about how the data collected should be ordered and categorised such that it can be made freely available. Researchers will often need to take measures to this effect during the production and analysis of the data.

NWO understands ‘data’ to include collected, unprocessed data as well as analysed, generated data. This includes all conceivable forms of digital and non-digital data (such as samples, completed questionnaires, sound recordings, etc.).

NWO only requires the storage of data that are relevant for reuse. NWO assumes that within disciplines there are widely held opinions about which data are relevant for storage and reuse. Research Data Netherlands offers a guideline for the selection of data that can be eligible for archiving.

Research results should be stored in such a way that they can be retrieved and reused in the long term, also by researchers in disciplines and organisations other than those in which the research took place. The operating principle is that all stored data are, in principle, freely accessible and that access is only limited if required for reasons such as privacy, public security, ethical limitations, property rights or commercial interests.

The costs of data management are eligible for funding and should be included in the project budget. Important factors that determine the costs are:
- the type of data;
- the capacity needed for storage and backup;
- the amount of manual work needed to allocate metadata and the compilation of other documentation such as codebooks and the queries used in the statistical package;
- the extent to which the data needs to be protected;
the hiring in of external data management expertise or other expertise.

With the data management section NWO mainly would like to raise awareness about the importance of responsible data management. The section is therefore not included in a committee’s decision about whether or not a proposal should be awarded funding. NWO does, however, submit this section to the committee and referees for advice. After a proposal has been awarded funding, the researcher should elaborate the section into a data management plan.

### Financial details

**19. Project budget**

Please follow the instructions in the Excel form carefully. Please upload the project budget as a separate Excel file in ISAAC. If you have any doubt as to whether your budget table is in line with the Call, please contact NWO (see section 6.1 of the Call for proposals for contact information).

**20. Justification of the budget (maximum 500 words on maximum 1 page)**

Discuss the choice for the type (PhD/post-doc) and number of personnel. In case a small investment is foreseen, indicate whether this investment will be developed exclusively for the proposed research, why there is no nearby equipment available that warrants this investment and how the investment relates to the number of researchers using it. Discuss and motivate your choices for material costs. Also justify the required and optional own investments made by the official secretary. The required investments consist of the in-kind contribution by the appointment of the AI talent and a budget for temporary scientific personnel at the minimum height of 2 PhD positions. See section 3.5.1 of the Call for proposals for the general requirements of the own investment.

**21. Other grant applications for this project or idea**

Please indicate whether the main applicant or the AI talent has submitted – or intends to submit – a similar proposal or idea to another funding source (e.g. either from NWO or from another (inter)national funding agency). If yes, please tick the corresponding box and provide the requested information in the table below.

### Statements and signature

**22. Ethical aspects**

Please check the relevant fields by adding an X.

**23. By submitting this form I declare that:**

The application should be drawn up together with the AI talent and must include a signed letter of submission from the highest administrative body of the institution acting as the official secretary, guaranteeing to commit to the own investment and the conditions stated in section 3.5.1 of the Call for proposals.

It is mandatory to tick at all five boxes.

The main applicant should sign the application, and submit the application (pdf format is required), the separate Excel budget form (Excel format is required) and the signed letter of submission from the highest administrative body of the institution acting as the official secretary electronically via the online application system ISAAC ([www.isaac.nwo.nl](http://www.isaac.nwo.nl)).

Please note that applications cannot be submitted after December 15, 2023, 14.00 hours CET.
24. **Work plan of the proposed research (optional) (max. 500 words on max. 1 page)**

Please provide a work plan of the proposed research. Please note that the work plan should not exceed the maximum of 500 words on maximum 1 page.