1. **What are the SSH research disciplines and how are they divided over the six panels in which I can submit?**
   The research disciplines of the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) are available on the NWO website: https://www.nwo.nl/en/social-sciences-and-humanities-ssh. For the SGW Open Competition L, the research disciplines are divided into six panels: Psychology, Pedagogy and Educational Sciences (PPO), Economics and Business Administration (EB), Law and Public Administration (RB), Social Sciences (SW), Cultural Sciences and Linguistics (CTW) and Philosophy, Historical Sciences and Religion (FHR). The panel distribution can be found on the SGW Open Competition L funding page (https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ssh-open-competition-l), under the ‘Prepare’ tab.

2. **From how many years after my PhD date can I submit an application?**
   Researchers may apply to the SSH Open Competition L from fifteen years after their PhD date. This means that their PhD date should be at least fifteen years in the past on the date of the pre-proposal deadline for the SSH Open Competition L. There is no upper limit on the number of years after the PhD date.

3. **Who can submit?**
   Only professors, associate or assistant professors and other researchers with a comparable appointment at a Dutch knowledge institution can submit an application.* This has to be either a permanent or a tenure track appointment. In both cases, the appointment must have a duration that covers both the application process and the entire duration of the research. If the tenure track appointment ends before the intended end date of the proposed project, a guarantee statement from the employer must be submitted. The same applies if the permanent appointment ends during the duration of the project due to reaching the retirement age. For further conditions and the list of knowledge institutions to which applicants must be appointed, please see the call for proposals (section 3.1).

   * It is possible for a co-applicant from a foreign knowledge institution to submit an application via the Money follows Cooperation budget module. See the call for proposals (Section 7.1) for a further explanation of this budget module and the requirements for applying for a subsidy within this module. The organisation of the main applicant remains responsible for making the necessary agreements and the final financial accountability, even when applying for a subsidy within this module.

4. **What is considered a tenure track appointment?**
   The SSH Open Competition L adheres to the definition laid down in the NWO Grant Rules. A tenure track appointment is therefore an appointment of an experienced scientific researcher with the prospect of fixed employment and, in due course, a professorship. The tenure track appointment must be documented in writing and funded from the research institute’s structural resources. NWO may request a written statement from your institution confirming your tenure track appointment.

5. **Does the extension clause apply?**
   No. The extension clause does not apply to the SSH Open Competition L. Researchers may apply to this instrument from fifteen years after their PhD date. Applicants are therefore not bound by a maximum number of years after their PhD date, as is the case with the NWO Talent Programme, for example.

6. **Can I submit as a professor by special appointment?**
This depends on your specific appointment at the relevant knowledge institution. Professors must have a paid and fixed appointment at one of the organisations mentioned in section 3.1 of the call for proposals. This may not be a zero-hours appointment or hospitality agreement, but can be a part-time appointment. In this case, too, the appointment must cover at least the entire duration of the project. Furthermore, if your position is not paid for by the institution itself, but by a third party, NWO does not consider this to be a paid position at the institution. Therefore, such a position does not meet the requirements for applicants.

7. Can I submit if I am still eligible for the NWO Talent Programme?
   Yes. Researchers who are still eligible for the Talent Programme (Veni/Vidi/Vici) may act as applicants in the SSH Open Competition L if they meet the other conditions laid down in the call for proposals. However, since applicants within the SSH Open Competition L are subject to the condition that they obtained their PhD at least 15 years ago, in practice such an overlap with the target group of the Talent Programme will only occur to a limited extent.

8. Can I submit to the SSH Open Competition L and the NWO Talent Programme in the same year?
   Yes. For example, a SSH Open Competition L and a Vici application may be submitted in the same year. However, NWO will never fund the same research twice, and if both applications (partially) overlap in content, you must choose one of the two projects, if, after having gone through the assessment procedure, it turns out both applications are eligible for a grant.

9. Can I submit if I received an NWO Aspasia, Stevin or Spinoza grant that is ongoing?
   Yes. These NWO grants are not seen as ‘ongoing NWO projects’ and therefore do not prohibit submission to the SSH Open Competition L.

10. Can I submit if I am a co-applicant or consortium member of an ongoing NWO project?
    Yes. The restriction with regard to current NWO projects only applies to main applicants / project leaders of current NWO projects.

11. Can researchers who hold two PhDs submit an application?
    Yes. For researchers who have completed a PhD trajectory twice, the date of the doctorate of the SSH discipline central to the application is leading. This may be the researcher’s first or second PhD.

12. Are co-applicants allowed in the SSH Open Competition L?
    Yes. Within this instrument more than one co-applicant is allowed. All other persons and parties involved in the application and/or the envisaged research may form part of the wider research team listed and described in sections 2a and 2b of the application form. NB: co-applicants are not obligatory and must meet the same conditions as main applicants for this instrument.

13. Is it mandatory to already mention concrete names for requested personnel positions or of other members of the research team in the application?
    No, but it is allowed. If you wish, you can indicate in the application form in the table in section 2a who besides yourself is involved in the application and the intended project, if this information is already available. In section 2b you can also, if desired, describe the composition, background and suitability of yourself and the rest of the research team. Even if you have no candidates in mind for the requested personnel positions, you are free to describe the desired profile of these candidates in this section. In the description of your research team, you are asked to only name persons or parties who actually (will) have a concrete role in the project, and who have also explicitly confirmed their participation.

14. Who can be part of the research team? Can international partners also be included?
    Any person or party who has (had) a role in developing or conducting your research may be named in this section of the application form, even if they are located outside the Netherlands. In the description of your research team, you are asked to only name persons or parties who actually (will) have a concrete role in the project, and who have also explicitly confirmed their participation. Being a member of the research
team is not a formal role, but a concrete description of the members of your research team and their background may give the assessment committee a better idea of the suitability of the team for the proposed research.

15. Are NRO, NWA, KIC, WOTRO, Merian fund, Gravitation and ZonMw projects regarded as NWO projects?
NRO, NWA, KIC, WOTRO, Merian fund, and Gravitation projects are indeed seen as NWO projects, and if you are the main applicant or project leader of such an ongoing project, this may limit your submission opportunities to the SSH Open Competition L. ZonMw projects do not fall under NWO and therefore do not prohibit submission.

16. Is it possible to submit in the SSH Open Competition L and also in the SSH Open Competition M next year?
No, and not even if you do meet the other submission requirements of both instruments or if you are writing an application on a different subject. If you submit to the SSH Open Competition L in 2023, your next submission opportunity will be the SSH Open Competition L of 2025 or the SSH Open Competition M of 2026. Note: If you submit this year to SSH Open Competition L and your application is awarded, then your next submission opportunity will be later, namely in the last year of the granted SSH Open Competition L project.

17. How do the 'budget modules' work?
Budget modules are the building blocks with which applicants provide insight into how they will carry out the proposed project. Using the budget modules, the applicant can indicate which cost items are requested, such as personnel and material costs. The call for proposals contains all budget modules that the SSH domain board has selected for the SSH Open Competition L funding instrument. Applicants choose for themselves which combination of budget modules they need to be able to carry out the proposed research.

18. Can I apply for funding from the SSH Open Competition L for the appointment of staff outside my own organisation?
If your application is granted, NWO will provide the organisation where you work as a main applicant with the requested funding. Staff may be appointed at the organisation of the main applicant and/or the organisation of any co-applicants. It is also possible to apply for funding for appointments at foreign organisations via the Money follows Cooperation budget module. See the call for proposals (Section 7.1) for a further explanation of this budget module and the requirements for applying for a subsidy within this module. In all cases, the organisation of the main applicant remains responsible for making the necessary agreements and the final financial accountability.

19. Does NWO have a preference for certain (types of) projects or research results?
No. The SSH Open Competition L gives you the freedom to construct your application as you see fit, within the given frameworks. NWO has no a priori preference for a particular subject or type of project design.

20. Can the applicant's salary be budgeted?
No, applicants cannot claim salary for themselves. However, it is possible to apply for research leave for the applicant. A condition is, however, that the research leave is used for the benefit of the proposed research. A maximum of 10% of the budget requested from NWO can be requested for research leave. For further conditions that apply to this budget module, see the call for proposals (section 7.1).

21. Is it possible to submit an application for a project with a budget higher than €800,000?
Yes, but only in case of co-funding. The maximum contribution from NWO is fixed and is € 800,000.00. If your project budget exceeds this amount, there must be co-funding from your institution and/or a third party. In that case, you must enclose a co-funding statement from your institution/third party with your application. Please note the following: in case of co-funding, the funding requested from NWO must always amount to at least 50% of the total project budget.
22. Is it possible to apply for more than 2 PhD students or 2 postdocs?
   Yes, but only in case of co-funding. Only if you submit a project application for more than € 800,000 by means of co-funding, you may exceed these budget module limitations. Please note the following: in case of co-funding, the funding requested from NWO must always amount to at least 50% of the total project budget.

23. How should any co-funding be pledged?
   Co-funding is optional, but if your application includes co-funding, this must be included in the budget form of the full proposal. The co-funder must also complete and sign a co-funding statement. The contribution must be specified in this statement. The co-funding specified is the net contribution that can be used for the intended project (excluding any applicable VAT).
   For in-kind contributions, services and products must be specified as rate x number of hours and unit price x number of units, respectively. The signed statement of co-funding must be added as a PDF attachment when submitting your application in ISAAC. For more information about co-funding and how to apply for it within the SSH Open Competition L, also see the call for proposals (section 3.5.6).

24. Which positions fall under the budget module 'Other scientific personnel at universities' (OSS)
   Funding for a range of university personnel can be requested via this budget module, from master's students to professors. However, the budget module requires that the requested personnel are actually assigned to the institution for the requested project. Therefore this module cannot be used to compensate a university employee who already has a full-time appointment. It is possible, however, to supplement a part-time appointment that does not collectively exceed 1.0 FTE. In addition, the maximum reimbursement for OSS (irrespective of the actual salary scale) is based on the postdoc rates, based on the Agreement on funding for scientific research 2008. For OSS positions that are classified lower than a postdoc in terms of position, the corresponding rates apply. For other conditions that apply to this budget module, see the call for proposals (section 7.1).

25. How can costs for international cooperation be budgeted?
   Via the budget module “Internationalisation”. If the basic amount of € 25,000 for this module is not sufficient for your research, you can deviate from this maximum if you motivate this in the application form. This explanation is then assessed by the assessment committee. It is also possible to register a co-applicant from abroad and subsequently appoint staff abroad through the budget module Money follows Cooperation. Please note: to be able to apply for a subsidy within this budget module, various requirements must be met. You can read these requirements in the call for proposals (section 7.1).

26. How do I submit an application that does not fit within one NWO domain?
   There is no separate panel for cross-domain applications within the SSH Open Competition L instrument. You must indicate in the application form that the content of the application fits in the SSH domain. In addition, a second NWO domain can be specified if the application involves a substantial cross-domain component. Such applications will also be considered by NWO, provided they meet all the submission conditions from the call for proposals and contain a clear social sciences and/or humanities component.

27. Can I submit publications, letters of recommendation or other attachments?
   No. Separate publications or other output are not requested and will not be included in the procedure. Letters of recommendation submitted with the application will also not be forwarded to the assessment committee. Appendices other than the budget form and (if applicable) statements regarding your appointment or co-funding should not be submitted with your application.

28. Is submission via ISAAC mandatory?
   Yes. Submission via ISAAC is mandatory. To submit a new application, you can click through to ISAAC on the SSH Open Competition L funding page. When submitting your application, you must make a choice between one of the six disciplinary panels within which your application will be processed. A crucial step
for submitting an application via ISAAC is converting the completed application form into the mandatory PDF format.

29. Is the PDF format really necessary?
Yes. The ISAAC submission system only accepts documents in PDF format, because this is the only way to guarantee that the files received by NWO are identical to the files sent by the applicants. The PDF files must not contain any security or bookmarks. In case of technical problems with the conversion from Word to PDF, you can contact your own IT support or the ISAAC helpdesk. This helpdesk can be reached on working days from 10 am to 5 pm (Dutch local time) via Isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl and by telephone on +31 (0)70 3440600.

30. Is it possible to submit a full proposal without a positive decision on my pre-proposal?
Submitting a pre-proposal is in the context of this instrument required for becoming eligible for the full proposal phase. The Domain Board SSH will make its decision on the pre-proposals on the basis of the advice of the assessment committee. Because this concerns a formal decision of the domain board, applicants may only submit a full proposal by invitation of the domain board on the basis of a positive decision on their pre-proposal.

31. Is a detailed budget required for the pre-proposal?
The pre-proposal does not require you to submit a detailed budget. You are, however, requested to provide a global overview with cost items. In addition, you are asked to approximate the total amount of funding you plan to apply for. In your full proposal, a detailed budget on the basis of the chosen budget modules is required. The total amount of funding requested in the full proposal may slightly differ from the amount indicated in the pre-proposal.

32. Does the assessment of my pre-proposal play a role in the assessment of my potential full proposal?
No. In case you are selected for the full proposal phase, the assessment of your pre-proposal will not play any role in the assessment of your full proposal.

33. What is the latest start date for my project?
The latest start date for your project is always six months after you received a grant for your application (i.e. six months from the date of the award letter). The final results of the full proposal phase are expected in July 2024. The latest month in which you can start your project will therefore be January 2025.