1 Introduction

In this brochure information is provided about the application procedure for the “NWO Stevin Prize”. This brochure falls under the responsibility of the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

In this brochure you will find information about the aim of this prize (Chapter 2), the conditions for the nomination (Chapter 3) and how your nomination will be assessed (Chapter 4). This is the information you need to submit a nomination. Chapter 5 contains the contact details and Chapter 6 the annex.

1.1 Background

The NWO Stevin Prize is a funding scheme directed at individuals at the high-end of applied academic research in the Netherlands. NWO invites a select group of individuals to nominate candidates for an NWO Stevin Prize.

1.2 Available budget

The available budget for the Stevin Prize is three million euro. Within this budget it is expected that a maximum of two prizes will be awarded.

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

The deadline for submitting full proposals is November 1, 2022, at 14:00:00 hours CET.

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.
2 Aim

The NWO Stevin Prize aims to stimulate and value knowledge utilisation. The prize is an honour and a one-off and unique award. The prize will be awarded to a candidate who has achieved an exceptional success in the area of knowledge exchange and impact for society. NWO understands knowledge utilisation as the utilisation 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 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. For more information about the NWO knowledge utilisation policy, please see the website: https://www.nwo.nl/en/knowledge-utilisation.
3 Conditions for nominations

This chapter contains the conditions that are applicable to your nominations. Firstly it describes who can nominate candidates (section 3.1), who may be nominated (section 3.2), and what the candidates can be nominated for (section 3.3). Subsequently, you will find the conditions for preparing and submitting the nominations (section 3.4) and the specific funding conditions (section 3.5).

3.1 Who can apply

Candidates for the NWO Stevin Prize can only be nominated by individuals who NWO has invited to submit nominations; researchers may not nominate themselves. NWO invites each of the following individuals to nominate candidates:

- the principles of the universities located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- the president of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) (per domain and on behalf of de Jonge Akademie);
- the chair of the Netherlands Academy of Technology and Innovation;
- the chair of the Dutch Network of Women Professors;
- the chair of the Netherlands Federation of University Medical Centres (NFU);
- the chair of the Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities (KHMW);
- the chair of the TO2 federation (the institutes for applied research);
- the president of the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW).

These persons may nominate a total of three candidates for the Spinoza and the Stevin Prize with a maximum of two candidates per Prize.

3.2 Who can be nominated

Candidates for the NWO Stevin Prize:

- should have a permanent position at one of the research institutes listed in article 1.1 paragraph 1 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017;
- should be able to spend the Stevin Prize fully before their retirement age. A candidate is not eligible for a Stevin Prize when the candidate's official retirement based on the birth date starts within five years after 1 October 2023 (AOW-leeftijd);
- may not have already received a Stevin Prize or a Spinoza Prize. If a candidate is nominated independently by different nominators for both Prizes, the candidate will only be considered for either a Stevin Prize or a Spinoza Prize.

The nomination should state and substantiate within which of the following academic clusters, the focus of the research (and application of the results) by the candidate has been during the preceding five years: humanities and social sciences or natural sciences (beta) / life sciences (including Medical and Technical Sciences). If a candidate is doing multidisciplinary research both clusters may be listed including in which cluster the focus of the research (and application of the results) lies. In that case the choice for clusters should also be substantiated.

The application of creative and ground-breaking world-class research requires a diverse academic staff so that subjects can be approached from different perspectives. NWO is committed to improving diversity in Dutch academia so as to ensure all available talent is fully exploited. Therefore NWO wholeheartedly encourages nominating female researchers and researchers with a migration background.
3.3 What can candidates be nominated for

NWO reserves a budget of 3 million euros annually for the Stevin Prize. Each NWO Stevin Prize amounts to 1.5 million euros for academic research and/or the application thereof in the Netherlands. This amount may be spent (up to a certain point) at the discretion of the recipient, e.g. on costs of staff, materials, investments, travel expenses and accommodation costs, visits by foreign researchers, etc. However, after the Stevin Prize has been awarded, a concise spending plan, in accordance with the NWO Stevin Prize Administration and Accountability Regulations, must be submitted to the NWO Executive Board for approval. The prize should, in principle, be spent within a 5-year period.

3.4 Preparing a nomination

To facilitate a comparative and smooth assessment of the nominated candidates, the nominations should be filled in, in the digital nomination form and submitted by e-mail to stevinpremie@nwo.nl. In case of multiple nominations for the same candidates, each nominator must provide an independent nomination.

- The nomination form will be distributed through a personal invitation to nominate candidates only.
- Complete the form, save it as a pdf file and send it by e-mail to stevinpremie@nwo.nl.
- Instructions on how to draw up a nomination for the NWO Stevin Prize are included in the Annex to this brochure.

3.5 Conditions for submission

NWO will assess your nomination against the conditions listed below. Your nomination will only be admitted to the assessment procedure if it meets these conditions. After submitting your nomination, NWO requests you to be available to implement any possible administrative corrections so that you can (still) meet the conditions for submission.

These conditions are:

- the candidate meets the conditions stated in Section 3.2;
- the nomination form is, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled out according to the instructions;
- the nomination is received before or on the set deadline;
- the nomination is written in English.

3.6 Conditions on granting

NWO expects strict confidentiality during the nomination procedures, also towards the nominated candidates. If NWO detects that confidentiality has not been guaranteed, NWO reserves the right to refuse the nomination.

Each year a maximum of two NWO Stevin Prizes are awarded of which one for each of the academic clusters - humanities / social sciences and natural sciences (beta) / life sciences (including Medical and Technical Sciences). When both clusters are listed in the nomination, the cluster where the primary focus of the research (and application of the results) lies is defining for this condition.

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


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. http://www.nwo.nl/diversiteit-en-inclusie

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. NWO therefore requests committee members and referees not to rely on indicators such as the Journal Impact Factor or the h-index when assessing nominations.

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

4.2 Procedure

The first step in the assessment procedure is to check whether a nomination is admissible. In case a nomination does not follow the instructions and conditions as stated in this brochure, if the information is insufficient or if the choice for the academic cluster is insufficiently substantiated, NWO will request a revised nomination to be submitted within five weekdays. If the request is not met within the given time-limit or if the requested revision is still insufficient, NWO will not accept the nomination.

An international selection committee selects, on behalf of NWO, the best candidates on the basis of the assessment criteria below taking into account the advice of experts and gives advice to the Executive Board of NWO. The Executive Board then decides who will receive a Spinoza Prize based on the advice from the selection committee. NWO will announce the names of the laureates of the Stevin Prize 2023 in June 2023.

The selection committee consists of leading academic researchers from outside the Netherlands, several societal members, and is chaired by a non-voting chair.

It is possible to indicate (maximum of) three non-referees for the candidate. Nominators can list these names in the accompanying e-mail when submitting the nomination. NWO will not approach these persons as possible reviewers for the nomination.
4.3 Criteria

The quality of the 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 candidates takes place on the basis of past performance taking into account the following quality criteria. Please note: for the Stevin Prize, the 3rd criterion Knowledge exchange and impact (including outreach activities) weighs the most.

1. Internationally acknowledged scientific quality and impact (weighted at 30%)
   This should be evident from the scientific and scholarly achievements of the candidates and their influence on the development of the relevant field of research within the listed (primary) academic cluster, for example by realizing paradigm shifts in fields of inquiry or significant changes in scholarly practice. Scientifically innovative breakthroughs and the breadth of the oeuvre of the candidates are of great importance in the assessment of the candidates.

2. Leadership and the power to attract to early stage researchers (weighted at 20%)
   This criterion concerns the mentorship and coaching of early stage researchers. The committee takes into account to what extent the candidate is 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. Knowledge exchange and impact (including outreach activities) (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 for 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 candidate 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.
   - 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 document, 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: 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, please see: https://www.nwo.nl/en/knowledge-utilisation.
5 Contact

For specific questions about NWO Stevin Prize please contact:
- H.R. (Helga) Varwijk MA / Dr. V.P. (Vincent) van Hensbergen
- e-mail: stevinpremie@nwo.nl
- phone: +31 (0)70 344 05 29 / +31 (0)30 600 12 51
Annexe: Guidelines for writing nominations for the Stevin Prize 2023

The nominations should be written in English. The nomination 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 the candidate’s research group.

To facilitate a comparative and smooth assessment of the nominated candidates, the nominations should be filled in in the digital nomination form and submitted by e-mail to stevinpremie@nwo.nl. In case of multiple nominations for the same candidate, each nominator must provide an independent nomination.

- The nomination form will be distributed through a personal invitation to nominate candidates.
- Complete the form, save it as a pdf file and send it by e-mail to stevinpremie@nwo.nl.

The maximum length of the nomination is 4 A4 pages for the questions 1.1 up to 3.9 and 1 A4 page for the questions 3.10 and 3.11, excluding annexes and the general details of the candidate and nominator. The nominations may not include recommendation letters. If necessary NWO will request to remove these documents from the nomination.

While writing the nominations it should be taken into account that the selection committee has a broad range of expertise and a part of the committee will have only a ‘lay’ understanding of the relevant research topic. In the first phase of the assessment, the nominations are the primary source of information for the committee. Well-written nominations are therefore essential for a sustainable assessment.

As a result of NWO signing the DORA (San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment) any references to Journal Impact Factors or H-index are not allowed in the nominations. The nominations will receive a qualitative assessment, any quantitative indicators merely function to sustain the narrative text in the nomination. For more information on the NWO-policy with regard to DORA, please see: https://www.nwo.nl/en/dora.

Each nomination should include the following annexes as set out in the nomination form:

1a. An overview of the 10 most important research products in relation to the field of research (see the nomination form for examples). The qualitative academic and societal impact of each product should be briefly described as well as the individual contribution of the candidates to these products. When assessing the scientific track record of candidates, NWO makes use of a broad definition of scientific output, i.e. not only publications but also other research products such as datasets, patents, software and codes, etc.

1b. An overview of the 10 most prestigious achievements and research products that fall under assessment criterion 3 (knowledge exchange and impact). 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). The contribution of the candidate must be specified.

2. A recent curriculum vitae (see the questions in the nomination form) in which it is explicitly stated whether there have been periods of relatively low working activity during the candidate’s career and consequently low academic output due to, for example, caring responsibilities or other reasons (with a maximum of 4 pages).
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Cover image: sport ankle prosthesis

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