NWO-Talentprogramme
Vidi 2022

Call for proposals

Applied and Engineering Sciences
Science
Social Sciences And Humanities
ZonMw

2022
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1 Introduction

In this Call for proposals information is provided about the application procedure for the "NWO Talent Programme Vidi 2022" funding round. This Call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

In this Call for proposals you will find information about the aim of this programme (Chapter 2), the conditions for the grant application (Chapter 3) and how your proposal will be assessed (Chapter 4). This is the information you need to submit a grant application. Chapter 5 states the obligations for grant recipients in the event you are awarded funding, Chapter 6 contains the contact details and Chapter 7 the annexes.

1.1 Background

In 2020 NWO has converted the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme to the NWO Talent Programme. The programme covers three grant categories (Veni, Vidi and Vici).

Each category has one submission round per year. Assessment procedures may change, depending in part on the results of interim evaluations and/or on unforeseen and disruptive circumstances like the COVID-19 crisis.

Each grant category has a separate call for proposals.

NWO is structured into four domains:

- Science;
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH);
- Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES); and
- Health Research and Development (ZonMW).

The 2022 Vidi round has nine submission windows corresponding to the NWO domains. The domains AES, Science and ZonMW domains each have one submission window. The SSH domain is divided into six submission windows, one per disciplinary panel. You apply for funding at the submission window that best suits your application. See chapter 3.3.1 for more information.

Please note: if applicants are unsure about which domain is best suited to their application, they should contact NWO in good time before submitting the proposal (see also 3.3.3).

1.2 Available budget

The available budget for this Call for proposals is M€ 77,6. Within this Call for proposals it is expected that a maximum of 97 proposals will be awarded funding: SSH domain 32, Science domain 39, AES domain 10, and ZonMW 16.

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

The deadline for submitting full proposals is October 4, 2022, at 14:00:00 hours CEST.

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

This chapter describes the aim of the programme and the societal impact.

2.1 Aim of the programme

The aim of the NWO Talent Programme is to provide individual encouragement for talented postdoctoral researchers at various stages of their careers. Providing creative opportunities for adventurous, talented, pioneering researchers to do research of their own choice and to encourage them to make a permanent career of academic research are therefore key aims of the NWO Talent Programme. With a personal grant, researchers have the opportunity to develop their own innovative line of research which could be structurally embedded in a research institution.

Promoting female researchers

NWO explicitly invites female researchers to apply. The representation and advancement of women in academia are unfortunately far less than those of men. NWO and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) are working together with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (UNL) and Dutch universities to rectify this situation; the aim is that the percentage of female applicants will ultimately be at least equal to the percentage of female researchers in the target group.

NWO strives to ensure that the success rates for female applicants will be at least equal to those for male researchers on average and in the medium term. In the event that two or more applications are rated equally, preference will be given to the proposal submitted by a female applicant.

Aspasia

The Aspasia premium scheme is linked to the Vidi round of the NWO Talent Programme. Through this scheme premiums are made available to university executive boards who promote female Vidi laureates to an associate professor within one year of the grant decision. Aspasia is also open to female applicants who were qualified as very good or excellent in the interview phase, but who ultimately did not receive a grant. The specific conditions for the awarding of the premium can be found on the Aspasia website (www.nwo.nl/aspasia). Female laureates and candidates who are eligible for the premium will be informed of this by NWO after the funding allocation. After the Vidi grant decision, NWO will contact those candidates who may be eligible for an Aspasia grant. If the candidate agrees, NWO will recommend promotion to her University Executive Board. Candidates who are already associate professor will not be approached.

2.2 Societal impact

New knowledge and insights from scientific research can make an important contribution to solutions for current and future societal issues. Examples are the energy transition, health and care, or climate change. Knowledge utilisation increases the chances of research having a societal impact and is therefore an important aspect of the NWO strategy for 2019-2022.

2.2.1 Knowledge utilisation

NWO defines knowledge utilisation as an iterative process aimed at achieving societal impact. Through interaction and alignment between researchers and possible users of knowledge, the chances of knowledge utilisation and, accordingly, societal impact increase. Via its knowledge utilisation policy, NWO facilitates the possible contribution of research to societal issues by encouraging productive interactions with societal stakeholders during the development and realisation of the research. NWO does this in a manner appropriate to the aim of the funding instrument.
2.2.2 Customisation in approach knowledge utilisation

Depending on the aim of the funding instrument, NWO will select the approach that has the greatest chance of achieving societal impact. The primary aim of the funding instrument determines the method NWO deploys to facilitate knowledge utilisation in various phases of the project (proposal, realisation, project completion) and the effort required from the applicant(s) and partner(s).

In this programme, the Impact Outlook approach is used. With this approach, NWO encourages applicants to pay more attention to discovering and exploring opportunities for societal impact. NWO offers an e-learning module to help those interested on their way using the Impact Outlook approach. Please visit the NWO website impact.nwo.nl/en for more information.

NWO offers an e-learning module to help those interested on their way using the Impact Focus approach. Please visit the NWO website impact.nwo.nl/en for more information.

For more information about the NWO knowledge utilisation policy, see the website: www.nwo.nl/en/knowledge-utilisation.
Chapter 3: Conditions for applicants

This chapter contains the conditions that are applicable to your grant application. Firstly it describes who can apply for funding (section 3.1) and what you can request funding for (section 3.2). Subsequently, you will find the conditions for preparing and submitting the application (sections 3.3 and 3.4) and the specific funding conditions (section 3.5).

3.1 Who can apply

Applications can be submitted by candidates who have obtained their PhD, irrespective of whether they hold tenured positions and whether they come from the Netherlands or abroad. The appointment will be at one of the host research institutions. NWO will ask candidates for an 'embedding guarantee'.
- universities located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- university medical centres;
- institutes affiliated to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) or NWO; Netherlands Cancer Institute;
- the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen;
- Naturalis Biodiversity Center;
- Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL);
- Princess Máxima Center.

Additional conditions

The following additional conditions apply to the assessment of applications:

a. Applications must be submitted by individual researchers (not by pairs or groups of researchers or by research teams).

b. A candidate may:
   • submit a maximum of one application in the Vidi 2022 round;
   • enter the application process for the NWO Talent Programme for no more than one type of grant at a time;
   • submit a Veni application no more than twice. If an application that has been admitted to the selection process is withdrawn by the applicant, this submission still counts towards the maximum number of submissions per applicant;

c. Researchers who have previously received a particular type of grant under the Talent Programme may not apply again for the same kind of grant.

d. A researcher in receipt of a current grant under the NWO Talent Programme may submit an application for a following type of grant no more than 24 months before the planned end date of the current grant.

3.2 What can be applied for

For an application in this Call for proposals, a maximum of €800,000 can be applied for. The maximum duration of the proposed project is 5 years.

The budget estimate submitted with the application must be based on eligible direct staff costs and direct non-staff costs. The calculation of the staff costs must be based on actual gross salaries and associated costs as specified in the current Agreement for Funding Scientific Research (https://www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables), with the exception of indexation and end-of-project payments. The amount of these payments for the Vidi 2022 round will be based on the standard rates in the Agreement.
Chapter 3: Conditions for applicants / NWO-Talentprogramme

Applicants who will devote no more than 25 percent of their contracted working hours to non-research activities (e.g. teaching, administration, management) and the other 75 percent to research for their Vidi project may charge their entire salary to the project budget. If the applicant is to devote more than 25 percent of his/her contracted working time to other activities, only that proportion of working time devoted to the Veni project may be charged to the project budget.

The term “direct non-staff costs” means general non-staff costs plus the costs of knowledge transfer, knowledge utilisation, open access publication costs, data management costs, and internationalisation. Infrastructure costs (accommodation and office automation) and other overheads are not eligible for funding.

The proposed budget will be assessed by NWO. If it exceeds the maximum amount of the grant, the application must be accompanied by a letter from the prospective host institution or a third party (co-funder) guaranteeing to cover the excess costs requested from NWO. This guarantee must be signed by the dean/manager of the institution or by a person with authority to sign on behalf of the body issuing the guarantee.

For further information and explanation of grant-eligible costs, see the document “guidelines for design of expenditures financial accounting reports” on the Vidi webpage of the relevant domain.

3.3 Preparing an application

3.3.1 Full proposal

The steps involved in writing your application are:
- download the application form from the NWO web application ISAAC or for applications in health research and development MijnZonMW (mijn.zonmw.nl) or from the NWO web page (on the grant page of the funding instrument concerned);
- complete the application form;
- after a meeting with the research institution, fill in the compulsory embedding guarantee, ask the dean to sign it, and make a scan of the document. If you work for an institution without a dean, please ask someone else who has the authority to sign the document to sign. Save the form as a PDF file.
- complete your ISAAC or Mijn ZonMW account with current contact details (phone numbers and email address, including your mobile number)
- save the documents as PDF files and upload them separately in ISAAC (www.isaac.nwo.nl) or for applications in health research and development (ZonMW) in Mijn ZonMW (mijn.zonmw.nl)

Optional annexe(s) only: statement exceeding maximum funding and Letter of support must be uploaded in ISAAC separately from the application. Any annexes other than those above-mentioned are not permitted.

You must write your application in English.

An application can only be submitted via the web application ISAAC/MijnZonmw. Applications that are not submitted via ISAAC/MijnZonmw will not be taken into consideration.

As the main applicant, you are required to submit the application via your own personal ISAAC/MijnZonmw account.

It is important to start with your application in ISAAC on time:
- if you do not yet have an ISAAC/MijnZonMw account, then you should create this on time to prevent any possible registration problems;
- any new organisations must also be added to ISAAC by NWO;
- you also need to submit other details online.
Applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration by NWO. For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC/MijnZonmw helpdesk, see contact (Chapter 6).

The full proposal contains:

- Description of the research proposal and motivation for choice of institution (maximum 4000 words including in-text references);
- Section on scientific and/or societal impact (maximum 1000 words);
- Narrative curriculum vitae* of the candidate, consisting of the following two parts:
  - Description of the academic profile of the applicant (maximum 1000 words);
  - Description of the key output of the applicant (maximum 10 items, minimum 400-700 words);
- Completed paragraph on data management; and
- Budget.

*The narrative CV has two parts:

1. Narrative academic profile: a narrative description of the candidate’s academic profile. In this the candidates are free to decide what they consider relevant to state in their CV.

This part is a narrative in which applicants explain what type of researcher they are: what is the research focus, agenda and vision of the researcher? What have they done to realise that vision? In principle, applicants can use this section to state all information they consider to be useful/important and which demonstrates their qualities, for example in relation to the discipline and to the specific proposal. In the case of a vidi or Vici proposal, for instance, stating previous experience with supervision, training and leadership qualities would be more important than in a Veni proposal. Grants or prizes obtained may be stated, but a complete list of these should not be given. If such a statement is made, then candidates are requested to indicate what they did with the opportunities that the grant obtained afforded them. Important keynotes, academic “service”, contributions to teams, outreach, etc. can also be included in this document. Claims about publications, grants, conferences etc. are meant to emphasize the explanation why a certain research is so important and why it contributes to the quality of the researcher. For transdisciplinary research, the candidate could place extra emphasis on collaborations in other projects. However, the experience relevant for setting up an important database is entirely different. In brief, it is up to applicants to demonstrate what makes them good and suitable. In all cases, the context should be described. Finally, this part contains a motivation for the proposed research and room to explain the researcher’s suitability for the specific research.

2. Key Output: a list of at most ten key outputs with an explanation as to why the applicant considers these to be the most important output. This part, in which applicants demonstrate their research output, also has a narrative character. Candidates are no longer required to provide a full list of publications but can instead selectively choose the output they showcase. The term output is broadly defined: peer-reviewed articles, preprints, Open Access data, software, presentations, contributions to popular media, etc. All types of output that are relevant for the candidate’s profile, the discipline, society or the proposal can be stated. By limiting the number of outputs, the focus shifts from quantity to quality and the impact of the contributions. A maximum of ten outputs may be stated; candidates may also choose to state fewer than ten outputs. They can demonstrate what they consider to be important and by doing that make a link with part 1, the academic profile. For each output, the candidate is requested to state the role/contribution they played (in the team), the output’s impact, its relationship with the proposal and/or why it uniquely shows the quality of the candidate.

Guidelines for the use of quality indicators

In the motivation for the choice of output, reference can be made to certain quality indicators, but not to additional output. The guideline for these indicators is as follows: all types of quality indicators may be stated, as long as they only relate to a single output item.
Both quantitative and qualitative indicators that satisfy this guideline are permitted. For instance, the number of times a dataset is downloaded may be stated, or the impact of a certain article on policy. NWO encourages stating several quality indicators per output, so for example the use of the results presented in professional practice as well as a sentiment analysis of the citations or the number of citations for that one output. It is therefore possible to state the article was cited exceptionally often or has led to changes in textbooks, but also, for example, that this collaboration resulted in a successful H2020 application. Applicants are requested to explain why the chosen indicators are relevant; how do the indicators chosen in this specific case provide insight into the quality of the work and/or the applicant?

All indicators that do not satisfy the guidelines above are excluded. For instance, this means that journal impact factors (JIF) or any other indicator that refers to a journal, publisher or publication platform may not be stated. This rule applies not only to quantitative indicators but also to qualitative descriptions of reputation. Therefore, terms such as “top journal” and “high-quality university press” may not be used either. H-indexes and sums and averages of citations may also not be stated as these indicators do not just refer to the specific output concerned. Key Output: a list of at most ten key outputs with an explanation as to why the applicant considers these to be the most important output. This part, in which applicants demonstrate their research output, also has a narrative.

### 3.3.2 Advice about field choice

For this Call, you have to choose which field you will submit your application to. You can choose from:

- Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES);
- Science (ENW);
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH);
- ZonMw (Health Research and Medical Sciences).

Within SSH, there are six different disciplinary panels with different ISAAC links:

- Cultural sciences and linguistics;
- Economics and business administration;
- Philosophy, historical sciences, and religion;
- Behaviour and education;
- Law and public administration;
- Social sciences

Please decide well in advance to which field it would be best to submit your application. If you have doubts about which field would be most appropriate, for example, because your application has a (partly) field-overarching character, then you should get in touch with one of the contact persons from the programme well before the deadline. They can advise you about which field would best suit your application. Please note that the final choice is yours.

For advice, please contact the following persons:

AES:  ttw-veni@nwo.nl, +31 30 600 13 67
Science: enw-veni@nwo.nl, +31 70 344 06 38
SSH:  sgw-veni@nwo.nl, +31 70 349 41 36
ZonMw:  veni@zonmw.nl, +31 70 349 54 68
3.4 Conditions for submission

3.4.1 Formal conditions for submission

NWO will assess your application against the conditions listed below. Your application will only be admitted to the assessment procedure if it meets these conditions. After submitting your application, 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 main applicant meets the conditions stated in Section 3.1 and 3.4.1;
- the application form is, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled out according to the instructions;
- the application is submitted via the main applicant’s ISAAC/Mijn ZonMw -account;
- the application is received at or before the deadline set;
- the application is written in English;
- the application budget is drawn up in accordance with the conditions for this Call for proposals;
- the proposed project has a duration of at most 5 years;
- All of the required annexes are, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled out according to the instructions.

3.4.2 Career-dependent submission period and extension scheme

This round is open for researchers who on date 1st of October 2022 gained their PhD no more than no more than eight years ago.

The stated maximum career-dependent submission period can be extended by NWO if there was a long period of leave due to illness, parenting, pregnancy or care. The maximum extension to the submission period allocated by NWO is five years.

An extension is also possible for parents who take care of one or more children. An extension is also possible in the case of a part-time appointment combined with care duties or in the case of training for a number of clinical specialisations. In the case of care leave combined with a training to be a clinical specialist, the extension allocated is also a maximum of five years.

For more information, see www.nwo.nl/en/extension-clause. If you would like to make use of the extension scheme, then you should always contact NWO (see Section 6.1) before you submit your proposal.

3.4.3 Parental leave

For instruments in which no co-applicants can be entered, NWO offers applicants who take parental leave during the assessment period due to the arrival of a child, the possibility to make use of the ‘Compensation scheme for parental leave’.. This scheme applies to this Call for proposals. For more information, please see www.nwo.nl/en/compensation-scheme-parental-leave.

If an applicant wants to make use of this compensations scheme, then a written request for this, supported by reasons, should be submitted to NWO via the contact person for this funding round. With this request, the applicant should provide all information that NWO needs to take a decision, including information from which it is clear that the applicant is hindered from providing input due to childcare leave.

3.5 Conditions on granting

The NWO Grant Rules 2017 and the Agreement on the Payment of Costs for Scientific Research are applicable to all applications.
3.5.1 Data management

The results of scientific research must be replicable, verifiable and falsifiable. In the digital age, this means that, in addition to publications, research data must also be publicly accessible insofar as this is possible. NWO expects that research data resulting from NWO-funded projects will be made publicly available, as much as possible, for reuse by other researchers. “As open as possible, as closed as necessary” is the applicable principle in this respect. Researchers are at least expected to make the data and/or non-numerical results that underlie the conclusions of work published within the project publicly available at the same time as the work’s publication. Any costs incurred for this can be included in the project budget. Researchers should explain how data emerging from the project will be dealt with based on the data management section in the proposal and the data management plan that is drawn up after funding is awarded.

Data management section

The data management section is part of the proposal. Researchers are asked before the start of the research to consider how the data collected will be ordered and categorised so that this can be made publicly available. Measures will often already need to be taken, during the creation of data and analysis of the data, to make its later storage and dissemination possible. If it is not possible to make all data from the project publicly available, for example due to reasons of privacy, ethics or valorisation, then the applicant is obliged to list the reasons for this in the data management section.

The data management section in the proposal is not evaluated and will therefore not be weighed in the decision whether to award funding. However, both the referees and the committee can issue advice with respect to the data management section.

3.5.2 Scientific integrity

In accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017, the project that NWO funds must be carried out in accordance with the nationally and internationally accepted standards for scientific conduct as stated in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2018). By submitting the proposal, the applicant commits to this code. In the case of a (possible) violation of these standards during a project funded by NWO, the applicant should immediately inform NWO of this and should submit all relevant documents to NWO. More information about the code of conduct and the policy regarding research integrity can be found on the website: www.nwo.nl/en/scientific-integrity. https://www.nwo.nl/integriteit

3.5.3 Ethical statement or licence

The applicant is responsible for determining whether an ethical statement or licence is needed for the realisation of the proposed project. The applicant should ensure that this is obtained from the relevant institution or ethics committee on time. If the project is awarded funding, then the grant is issued under the condition that the necessary ethical statement or licence is obtained before the latest start date for the project. The project cannot start until NWO has received a copy of the ethical statement or licence.

3.5.4 Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol ensures an honest and reasonable distribution of benefits emerging from the use of genetic resources (Access and Benefit Sharing; ABS). Researchers who make use of genetic sources from the Netherlands or abroad for their research should familiarise themselves with the Nagoya Protocol (www.absfocalpoint.nl). NWO assumes that researchers will take all necessary actions with respect to the Nagoya Protocol.http://www.absfocalpoint.nl/

3.5.5 Co-funding

In the event of a contribution by the research institute and/or a third party, a ‘Co-funding Statement’, signed by the co-funding party, must be uploaded with the full proposal. It is important that this party is explicit about the amount of the contribution in the Statement. The Statement is unconditional and does not contain any resolutive conditions.

Co-financing for applications in the domain AES
If parties other than the host institute make a "in cash" or "in-kind" contribution to the project, the AES-specific format "Letter of support" should be used. At AES, co-financing statements in which third parties commit to in cash and/or in-kind support are sent to referees and committee members. Please note: for co-funding statements, the domain-specific form must be used, which can be found on the funding page of the relevant domain.

**Invoicing in-cash co-funding**

After the proposal has been awarded funding, NWO will invoice the private or public party that has pledged an in-cash contribution. After these funds have been received, NWO will allocate the funding to the project.

**The following are permitted as in-kind co-funding:**

The use of personnel and material contributions is permitted on the condition that these are capitalised and are fully part of the project. Services and know how may not already exist or be available to the applicant. In-kind contributions are only accepted under the condition that the part contributed by the co-funder is an integral part of the work plan and can be made visible as an identifiable effort.

**Determining the value of in-kind co-funding**

- The use of personnel is valued on the basis of hours x rate, whereby the hourly rate is based on the actual salary costs (incl. a premium for social benefits and employer costs). Furthermore, 1400 hours is taken as the standard number of productive hours per year for the calculation of the hourly rate. This hourly rate may be no more than 125 euros per hour;
- The value for material in-kind contributions is determined on the basis of the cost price of consumables. The value of investments/equipment is determined based on standard depreciation costs bearing in mind the intensity of use and any existing depreciations according to applicable reporting principles;
- For in-kind contributions in the form of services or know-how (knowledge, software, access to databases or cell lines) the economic value must be established and only the actual costs that can be directly attributed to the project may be counted as co-funding. This is always without a profit margin. Furthermore, the service or know how must not already be present at or available to the applicant.

Co-funders should justify the structure and size of the in-kind contributions provided (including hourly rates) in the letter of support. NWO can request substantiation and documented evidence of the rates used and can also request their adjustment.

**The following may not be contributed as co-funding (both in cash and in kind):**

- funding awarded by NWO;
- PPP allowance;
- co-funding may not come from parties that on the basis of this call for proposals can submit a funding proposal to NWO;
- discounts on commercial rates, e.g. on materials, equipment and services;
- costs related to overheads, supervision, consultancy and/or participation in the user committee (see Section 5.1.5);
- costs of services that are conditional. The co-funding provided may not be subject to any conditions. The provision of the co-funding does not depend on whether a certain stage in the research plan is achieved (e.g. go/no-go moment);
- costs that are not reimbursed according to the call for proposals;
- costs of equipment if one of the (main) objectives of the proposal is the improvement or creation of added value for this equipment.

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1 Funding awarded by NWO is understood to be funding obtained through a proposal submitted to NWO that is granted funding. In this regard it does not matter from which programme this funding was obtained or who the recipient of the funding is.
Accounting for in-kind co-funding

The main applicant reports to NWO about the in-kind co-funding that he or she has received from a cofunder. The main applicant provides accountability in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017 on an annual basis. If a co-funder fails to partly or entirely fulfil its obligations to the main applicant and/or NWO, then this can have consequences for the grant settlement (see Article 3.4.5 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017).
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.

When assessing the scientific track record of applicants, NWO makes use of a broad definition of scientific output.

NWO requests committee members and referees not to rely on indicators such as the Journal Impact Factor or the h-index when assessing applications. Applicants are not allowed to mention these in their applications. You are, however, allowed to list other scientific products besides publications, such as datasets, patents, software and code, et cetera.

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 application procedure consists of the following steps:

- Submission of the proposal
- Consideration of the proposal
- Pre-selection (if applicable)
- Peer review by referees
- Rebuttal
- Initial advice assessment committee
- Interview
- Assessment committee meeting
- Decision-making
4.2.1 Submission of a proposal

For the submission of the proposal, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO website. When you write your proposal, you must adhere to the questions stated on this form and the procedure given in the explanatory notes. You must also adhere to the conditions for the maximum number of words and pages.

Your complete application form must have been received before the deadline via ISAAC/MijnZonmw (see paragraph 1.3). After this deadline, you can no longer submit a proposal. After submitting the proposal, the main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt.

4.2.2 Consideration of the proposal

As soon as possible after you have submitted your proposal, you will hear from NWO whether or not your proposal will be taken into consideration. NWO will determine this based on several administrative-technical criteria (see the formal conditions for submission, Section 3.4). NWO can only take your proposal into consideration if it meets these conditions.

Please bear in mind that within three weeks after the submission deadline, NWO may approach you with any possible administrative corrections that need to be made so that your proposal can (still) meet the conditions for submission. You will be given one opportunity to make the corrections, and you will be given five working days to do this.

4.2.3 Pre-selection

If a disciplinary NWO domain receives so many proposals that the total amount of funding requested is four times or more the available budget for this domain for proposals (as stated in Section 1.2), then a pre-selection of the proposals will take place. In this not the case all applications will be send without pre-selection to external reviewers. If this is case, the assessment committee will globally assess all proposals based on the assessment criteria (see Section 4.3).

Candidates whose applications are judged least likely to be awarded grants will be notified that the committee does not intend to select their applications for further consideration. In the case of factual inaccuracies in the motivation, the candidate may send a reasoned response to the domain handling the application within 5 working days. On the basis of this response, the committee may change its decision and select the application for further processing after all. Otherwise, a formal decision letter rejecting the application will be sent to the applicant.

Taking this information into account, the assessment committee will advise NWO to reject the proposals that have the least chance of being awarded funding. The other proposals will be considered further.

4.2.4 Peer review by referees

Before the assessment committee considers your proposal, NWO will request input from at least two external referees. These are independent advisers who are expert in the subject of the proposal. They will assess the proposal based on the assessment criteria stated in the Call for proposals (Section 4.3).

Referees for the domain AES will also receive letters of support, where relevant.

A maximum of three non-referees can be registered. Applicants can register these non-referees in ISAAC when submitting the proposal. NWO will not approach these non-referees to assess the proposal as external referees.

4.2.5 Rebuttal

The main applicant subsequently receives the anonymised referees’ reports. You then have the opportunity to formulate a rebuttal. You will be given 5 working days to submit your rebuttal via ISAAC. If you decide to withdraw the proposal, then you should do this as quickly as possible by sending an email stating this to the office and withdrawing the proposal in ISAAC. If NWO receives your rebuttal after the deadline, then it will not be included in the rest of the procedure.
4.2.6 Pre-advice assessment committee

After this, your proposal and the referees’ reports and your rebuttal will be submitted for comments to several members of the assessment committee (the pre-advisers). The committees for the AES domain will also receive letters of support, where relevant. The pre-advisers will provide a written substantive and reasoned response to the proposal. They will formulate these comments based on the substantive assessment criteria (see Section 4.3.1).

4.2.7 Interview

The proposals, the referees’ reports and the rebuttal will be submitted to the assessment committee. If no pre-selection is part of the procedure, the assessment committee subsequently can invite the applicants with the highest ranked proposals for an interview or an alternative form of rebuttal. During the interview, the assessment committee has the opportunity to pose questions, including new questions that the referees have not yet asked. During the interview, the applicant can respond to these in the discussion with the committee. In this manner, the principle of hearing and rebuttal is applied. The interview is an important part of the assessment and can lead to an adjustment of the assessment and the score of the proposal.

4.2.8 Meeting of the assessment committee

The pre-advice for each proposal is the starting point for the plenary discussion of the proposals by the assessment committee. The committee will make its own assessment based on the application, the referees’ reports, the rebuttal and the interview. The referees’ reports will ‘guide’ the final assessment but will not be blindly accepted by the committee without question. The committee will consider and compare the referees’ arguments (also among each other) and examine whether the rebuttal contains a well-formulated response to the critical comments from the referees’ reports and whether the questions posed by the committee are properly addressed during the interview. Furthermore, the committee, unlike the referees, assesses the quality of all proposals and rebuttals submitted. Therefore, the committee may reach a different assessment than the referees.

Following the discussion, the committee draws up a written recommendation addressed to the relevant domain board about the quality and ranking of the proposals. This recommendation is based on the assessment criteria. The proposal must receive an overall qualification of at least “very good” to be eligible for the funding. For more information about the qualifications, see www.nwo.nl/en/apply-funding-hoe-does-it-work.https://www.nwo.nl/kwalificaties

If, after the discussion of the proposals, it transpires that two or more of the proposals based on their weighted total score cannot be distinguished from each other, then there is an ex aequo situation (see the paragraph about ex aequo).

4.2.9 Ex aequo

NWO understands ex aequo to be a situation in which two or more proposals based on their weighted score cannot be distinguished from each other. An ex aequo situation is relevant with respect to the boundary of the available budget or the selection boundary. The existence of an ex aequo situation is determined as follows. The starting point is the ranking drawn up by the assessment committee, with the final scores rounded down to two decimal points. The reference score is the score of the lowest-ranked proposal within the boundary of the available budget or the selection boundary. All proposals with a score that is within 0.05 or less of the reference score will be considered. In this way, the proposals that are equal within a score of 0.1 will be selected. If an ex aequo situation occurs at the boundary of available budget or the selection boundary, then, in order to stimulate the number of females in science, the proposal from a female applicant will end as the highest. If the proposals subsequently in a tie, the assessment committee, with the help of an (anonymous) majority vote, will determine the ranking (in accordance with Article 2.2.7, third paragraph, sub a, part iv of the NWO Grant Rules 2017). If this vote provides no resolution either, or is not desirable to vote, the ex aequo situation will be send on to the decision-making body.
4.2.10 Decision-taking

Finally, the relevant domain board will assess the procedure followed and the advice from the assessment committee. It will subsequently determine the final qualifications and take a decision about awarding or rejecting the proposals.

4.2.11 Timetable

Below, you will find the timetable for this Call for proposals. During the current procedure, NWO might find it necessary to make further changes to the timetable for this Call for proposals. You will, of course, be informed about this in time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Propositions</th>
<th>Deadline proposals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4 October 2022</td>
<td>Deadline proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to March 2023 (depending on the domain)</td>
<td>Referees consulted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to April 2023 (depending on the domain)</td>
<td>Applicants can submit a rebuttal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April/May 2023 (depending on the domain)</td>
<td>Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2023</td>
<td>Last decision by the domain boards and notifying applicants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3 Criteria

4.3.1 Substantive assessment criteria

The applications submitted within this Call for proposals will be substantially assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Quality and innovative character of the research proposal;
2. Scientific and/or societal impact;
3. Quality of the candidate/

These criteria are weighted respectively 40%, 20% and 40% in the each in the overall assessment of the proposal.

Quality and innovative character of the research proposal

- Challenging content;
- Originality of the topic;
- (Elements of) scientific innovation;
- Aimed at building up a new line of research;
- Potential to make an important contribution to the advancement of science;
- Effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed research; and
- International importance of the proposed research area.

Scientific and/or societal impact;

Applicants can choose to focus in their research project on scientific impact only, societal impact only or a spread across both forms of impact.

NWO assesses scientific impact as follows:
- An ambitious vision and appropriate strategy regarding the dissemination and/or implementation of the research results in one’s own discipline, related disciplines and the broader scientific field.

NWO assesses societal impact as follows:
- The added value of the project for societal impact;
- Potential for societal impact in the short and long term;
- an ambitious vision and appropriate strategy regarding the way(s) in which the proposed research may lead to societal impact.

In addition to the above, the assessment committee, as part of this criterion, will also weigh:
- the motivation for the focus on scientific impact and/or societal impact;
- If the focus is primarily on scientific impact: how proportional attention is given during the course of the project to increasing (unforeseen) opportunities for social impact;
- If the focus is primarily on societal impact: how proportional attention is given during the course of the project to increasing (unforeseen) opportunities for scientific impact.

It is possible to achieve a good evaluation for this criterion if the focus of the proposal lies on scientific impact, societal impact, or a spread across both forms of impact. The score of this criterion is independent of the chosen focus; one form of impact is not better or worse than the other.

**Quality of the researcher**
- Fit in terms of profile in the target group;
- Showing qualities which clearly exceed what is customary within their international peer group, which can be seen in the quality and impact of publications and/or other scientific output;
- academic excellence as demonstrated by e.g. the PhD thesis, publications and/or other scientific achievements;
- inspiring enthusiasm for research and/or technology and in general and for the execution of the research idea in particular;
- persuasiveness;
- clear indication(s) that the researcher has a striking talent for doing scientific research;
- clear positioning of the researcher’s work with respect to scientific and (where possible) public themes or questions;
- (inter) national visibility and embedding;
- indication(s) of independence and/or independent research line(s);
- indications of other academic activities, including contributions to Open Science, ‘academic citizenship’, education and the linking of these to science;
- clear alignment of the candidate’s profile with the research idea, or clear vision of how this alignment will be achieved;
- ability to translate the output of scientific research for the benefit of potential knowledge users outside of the own academic work area as well as within society;
- demonstrably capable of generating innovative ideas and independently developing these successfully;
- capable of leading and supervising other researchers and staff;
- indication(s) of collaborative abilities.
5 Obligations for grant recipients

This chapter details the various obligations that - in addition to the conditions stated in Section 3.5 - apply after funds have been awarded.

5.1.1 Arrangements and reporting

Vidi projects must always start within six months of the grant being awarded. The projects awarded funding will be managed by one of the NWO domains. During the Veni project you are responsible for the progress and final reports and you bear final financial responsibility. With the subsidy decision you will be informed who your contact person will be during the term and which obligations you must meet.

5.1.2 Data management

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the researcher should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. For this, applicants can make use of the advice from the referees and committee. The applicant describes in the plan whether use will be made of existing data, whether new data will be collected or generated, and how the data will be made FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable. Before submission, the data management plan should be checked by a data steward or similar officer of the organisation where the project will be realised. The plan should be submitted to NWO via ISAAC within 4 months after the proposal has been awarded funding. NWO will check the plan as quickly as possible. Approval of the data management plan by NWO is a condition for disbursement of the funding. The plan can be adjusted during the research. More information about the data management protocol of NWO can be found at: [www.nwo.nl/en/research-data-management](http://www.nwo.nl/en/research-data-management).

5.1.3 Project agreement

Applicants must carry out a project funded by NWO during the time that they work for the knowledge institution. If an applicant or a researcher funded by NWO is appointed by more than one employer, then the other employer should relinquish any possible IP rights that emerge from the project of the applicant.

For the application of results, it can be desirable to transfer IP rights or to provide a licence to (one of the) project participants (applicants, co-funders and collaborative partners. This is why after a proposal has been awarded funding, the conclusion of a project agreement is one of the conditions for starting the project.

NWO will provide a compulsory project agreement that will be made available on the financing page of the relevant domain. The content of the project agreement is non negotiable. With regards to arrangements about intellectual property and publication and confidentiality, project participants can choose between the standard text or their own agreements. Regarding intellectual property, the IP-policy of the NWO Grant Rules 2017 applies.

The project agreement – approved by NWO beforehand – must be signed by all project participants.

5.1.4 Socially responsible licensing

The knowledge that emerges from the project could be suitable for use in society. When agreements about licensing and/or the transfer of research results developed under this Call for proposals are made, due consideration should be given to the ten principles for socially responsible licensing, as stated in the NFU factsheet “Socially Responsible Licensing Toolkit for knowledge institutions” ([www.nfu.nl/sites/default/files/2020-09/200902-NFU%20Factsheet%20Toolkit%20SRL.pdf](http://www.nfu.nl/sites/default/files/2020-09/200902-NFU%20Factsheet%20Toolkit%20SRL.pdf)).
5.1.5 User committee for projects in the AES domain

After a project has been awarded funding in the AES domain, a user committee will be appointed in accordance with Article 3.3.2.a of the NWO Grant Rules 2017. The task and procedure of the user committee are detailed in the “Guidelines User’s Committee NWO Domain AES from 1 August 2017” (see the AES project management website). Members join the user committee by invitation from the NWO domain AES.

5.1.6 Open Access

As a signatory to the Berlin Declaration (2003) and a member of cOAlition S (2018), NWO is committed to making the results of the research it funds openly accessible via the internet (Open Access). By doing this, NWO gives substance to the ambitions of the Dutch government to make all publicly funded research available in Open Access form. Scientific publications arising from projects awarded on the basis of this Call for proposals must therefore be made available in Open Access form in accordance with the Open Access Policy.

Scientific articles
Scientific articles must be made available in Open Access form immediately at the time of publication (without embargo) via one of the following routes:
- publication in a fully Open Access journal or platform registered in the DOAJ;
- publication in a subscription journal and the immediate deposition of at least the author accepted manuscript of the article in an Open Access repository registered in Open DOAR;
- publication in a journal for which a transformative Open Access agreement exists between UNL and a publisher. For further information, see www.openaccess.nl/en.http://www.openaccess.nl/

Books

CC BY licence
To ensure the widest possible dissemination of publications, at least a Creative Commons (CC BY) licence must be applied. Alternatively – in case of substantial interest – the author may request to publish under a CC BY-ND licence. For books, book chapters and collected volumes, all CC BY licence options are allowed.

Costs
Costs for publication in fully Open Access journals can be budgeted in the application using the budget module for “material costs”. Costs for publications in hybrid journals are not eligible for reimbursement by NWO. For Open Access books, a separate NWO Open Access Books Fund is available.

For more detailed information about NWO’s Open Access policy, see www.nwo.nl/en/open-science.http://www.nwo.nl/openscience
6 Contact and other information

6.1 Contact

6.1.1 Specific questions
For specific questions about this Call for proposals, please contact:

General questions Vidi and Talent Programme
talent@nwo.nl

NWO-Talentprogramme
AES Domain
Postbus 3021
3502 GA Utrecht
ttw-vidi@nwo.nl

NWO-Talentprogramme
Science Domain
Postbus 93460
2509 AC ’s-Gravenhage
enw-vidi@nwo.nl

NWO-Talentprogramme
SSH Domain
Postbus 93461
2509 AC ’s-Gravenhage
sgw-vidi@nwo.nl

NWO-Talentprogramme
Health Research and Development (ZonMW)
Postbus 93245
2509 AE ’s-Gravenhage
vidi@zonmw.nl

6.1.2 Technical questions about the web application 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 hours on +31 70 34 40 600. However, you can also submit your question by email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will then receive an answer within two working days. Mijn ZonMw: servicedesk@zonmw.nl or +31 70 349 51 76

6.2 Other information
The whole text of this Call for proposals has been published in both Dutch and English. The Dutch version is deemed authentic. For legal interpretation the text of the Dutch version will be decisive.

NWO processes data from applicants received in the context of this call in accordance with the NWO Privacy Statement, www.nwo.nl/en/privacyverklaring.https://www.nwo.nl/privacyverklaring

NWO might approach applicants for an evaluation of the procedure and/or research programme.
Chapter 6: Contact and other information / NWO-Talentprogramme