Guidelines for drawing up an application

1. Guidelines for preparing a proposal in the framework of PhDs in the Humanities

A template for drawing up an application and a budget form can be downloaded from the ISAAC account of the applicant and on the web page of the funding instrument. Applications should be written in English in a standard font (at least 10 pt, with the exception of the references for which 9 pt is permitted).

The description of the project proposal (section 9) may contain a maximum of 2500 words. A list of references of 1 page may be added. In addition, the application may contain a separate annex of maximum 2 pages A4 (9 points). This annex may contain a list of sources, an example from a printout from a database, etc.

The grants to be awarded for personnel costs are in line with the agreements made between NWO and the universities about this in the Approval of funding for scientific research 2008. The research budget that can be applied for consists of personnel costs (www.nwo.nl/salary-tables), which include a benchfee of € 5000 for the entire funding period, and material costs that are directly related to the research up to a maximum of € 5000 for the entire funding period. No specifications are needed for the benchfee; clear specifications are needed for the material costs (see call for proposals).

I. General information (to be filled out in your ISAAC account)

1. Main applicant
   NWO recognizes just one main applicant. This person bears the primary responsibility for the project and is responsible for the financial aspects of the research.

2. Title of research proposal
   State a brief title for the project proposal.

3. Abstract
   Provide a brief summary of the project (a limit of 250 words applies). This should amplify the title of the research proposal.

4. Grant period
   State the intended starting date and the total duration of the project. The minimum duration is four years and the maximum duration is five years. The project should start no later than 30 September 2023.

5. Discipline code and name
   Please select the discipline and sub discipline code and name within which you think your application fits best from the list on www.nwo.nl/researchfields. Please note that it is compulsory to fill in a discipline code in ISAAC before submitting the proposal. Fill in the codes under the tab “General Information” (Algemeen) section “Research fields” (Disciplines) before submitting the proposal.

II. Project proposal (download the application template in your ISAAC account to describe the following parts)

1. Details of main applicant
   Title:
   Initials:
   Prefix:
   Surname:
   Address for correspondence (for the entire period of the PhDs in the Humanities round):
   Telephone:
Cell phone: 
Email: 
Website (optional): 

2. Co-applicants 
If the de-facto promotor is not the main applicant state the details of the promotor here. (I.e. the daily 
supervisor acts as main applicant.) 

3. Title of research proposal 
State a brief title for the project proposal in English. 

4. Summary 
Please provide a brief summary (250 words maximum) of the project in English. This should explain the title of 
the research proposal in greater detail and should be the same summary you use in ISAAC. 

5. Resubmitted proposal 
If a proposal is being resubmitted then please state the year of submission, file number and title of the 
previous proposal. 

6. PhD candidate 
Initials: 
Prefix: 
Surname: 

7. Curriculum Vitae PhD candidate 
Provide the details of the PhD candidate according to the headings given below. Additional information, such 
as marital status, contact details and pictures of the candidate should not be included in the file. The cv (7a – 
7f) may not exceed two and a half pages. 

a) Education 
List the qualifications obtained and (a selection of the) courses followed. You should also state the 
graduation date for any degrees completed. 
If a degree relevant to the application has not yet been completed, a written confirmation with the 
graduation date should be supplied. Please also see the call for proposals, footnote 4. Please add this 
confirmation to the PDF of the application, so that both the application and the confirmation are (part 
of) one document. N.B. The candidate must have graduated before 1 September 2023. 

b) Honours, prizes, scholarships and grants 
State any honours, prizes and (travel) grants that may have been acquired and a motivation for the 
selection of each of these items; how they show the candidate’s abilities/qualities as a researcher and 
(if applicable) how they are related to the proposed project. 

c) Relevant academic experience 
State student assistantships, internships, international activities, board activities, etc. 

d) Other relevant positions 
If applicable, state any other relevant positions fulfilled. 

e) Output
State any output items by the candidate. Please provide the references to the output and, if preferred, a motivation for the selection of each of these output items may be included, i.e., how they show the candidate’s abilities/qualities as a researcher and (if applicable) how they are related to the proposed project. Output may include (but is not limited to) refereed articles, non-refereed articles, letters (to editors), books, book chapters, pre-prints, patents, working papers, proceedings, conference reports, software, code and open access databases. All types of output that occur in the candidate’s field may be mentioned. The status of the output must be clearly indicated.

f) Motivation for doing PhD research
Briefly describe the PhD candidate's motivation for doing scientific research and why this experience is relevant for carrying out the project proposed. Where possible relate this to the points stated under 7a to 7e. The applicant or the candidate may formulate the motivation (i.e., it can be formulated in third or first-person). This brief explanation may contain a maximum of 300 words.

8. Period of funding
State the size of the appointment in fte, the total duration of the project and the intended starting date of the research.

9. Description of the proposed research
The maximum permitted size of the text is 2500 words (excluding the list of references).

10. Number of words
State the total number of words used in section 9.

11. Summary in keywords
State a maximum of 5 keywords that in your opinion best characterize the content of the research proposal.

12. Data management
Answer these four questions about data management within the intended research project:

1. Will data be collected or generated that are suitable for reuse?
   Yes: Then answer questions 2 to 4
   No: Then explain why the research will not result in reusable data or in data that cannot be stored or data that for other reasons are not relevant for reuse

2. Where will the data be stored during the research?

3. After the project has been completed, how will the data be stored for the long-term and made available for the use by third parties? To whom will the data be accessible?

4. Which facilities (ICT, (secure) archive, refrigerators or legal expertise) do you expect will be needed for the storage of data during the research and after the research? Are these available?*

   *ICT facilities for data storage are considered to be resources such as data storage capacity, bandwidth for data transport and calculating power for data processing.

13. Institutional embedding and supervision
Describe the research group that the candidate will be part of and state how the day-to-day supervision of the candidate will be realised. Maximum ½ page A4.
14. Work programme
Specify and phase the work plan for the intended duration of the grant. Please bear in mind that the writing phase for the final publication is a fundamental component of the work programme. Time required for holidays must also be allowed for. Also allow time for the training and supervision programme. Maximum 1 page A4.

15. Summary for non-specialists (in Dutch or English)
Provide a summary for non-specialists about your proposed research (in Dutch or English). This summary should be 300-500 words long.

16. Title and summary for newsletters and website (in Dutch and English)
Provide a title and a summary (both in Dutch and in English) that, if the application is granted, will be used in the newsletters and on the website. The summary should be 50-100 words long.