PhDs in the Humanities 2024
Call for proposals

2024 | Social Sciences and Humanities
1 Introduction

In this Call for proposals information is provided about the application procedure for the ‘PhDs in the Humanities’ 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.

1.1 Background

The committee National Plan for the Future of the Humanities (in brief the Cohen Committee) in its report of 2008 entitled ‘Sustainable Humanities’ made nine recommendations aimed at ensuring a sustainable future for the humanities. The so-called National Plan for the Future of the Humanities contains, for example, the proposal to give research talent more opportunities. The Call for proposals PhDs in the Humanities is the joint initiative of the Programme Office Sustainable Humanities and NWO to increase the number of PhD positions within the humanities faculties.

1.1.1 Changes since the previous Call for proposals

In section 3.1 (who can apply) and 3.1.1. (main and co-applicants), a change has been made regarding the co-applicants. Opposed to the 2023 Call, there is now a maximum amount of co-applicants. Daily supervisors can now submit the application, as well the ‘beoogd promotor’. As a condition for this change a maximum amount of co-applicants has been added.

1.2 Available budget

The available budget for this Call for proposals is €4,248,372. Within this Call for proposals it is expected that a maximum of 14 proposals will be awarded funding.

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

The deadline for submitting full proposals is February 27 2024, before 14:00:00 hours CET.
2 Aim

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

2.1 Aim of the programme

The aim of the programme PhDs in the Humanities is to provide research talent with the opportunity to carry out an independent PhD project.

National funding rounds will be organised each year. The Programme Office Sustainable Humanities and the NWO Domain Board Social Sciences and Humanities evaluate the funding instrument each year and can – if necessary and insofar it is possible within the funding framework – then decide to adjust procedures, quotas and/or criteria.
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 only be submitted:
- For PhD students who have been selected by the deans of the following Humanities faculties:
  - Erasmus University Rotterdam
  - Leiden University
  - Maastricht University
  - Open University
  - Protestant Theological University
  - Radboud University Nijmegen
  - Theological University Apeldoorn
  - Theological University Kampen / Utrecht
  - Tilburg University
  - University of Amsterdam
  - University of Aruba
  - University of Curaçao
  - University of Groningen
  - University of Humanistic Studies
  - University of St. Martin
  - Utrecht University
  - VU University Amsterdam

- by applicants who have a contract of appointment with one of the universities mentioned above for at least the duration of the research for which funding is requested. Full, associate and assistant professors and other researchers with a comparable appointment who act as a daily supervisor for the PhD student can apply as main applicant. Personnel with a zero-hour appointment is excluded from applying.

*A comparable appointment refers to a researcher that has a demonstrable and comparable number of years of experience in carrying out scientific research and supervising other researchers as a full, associate or assistant professor.

If the applicant is not the responsible supervisor (‘beoogd promotor’) a recommendation of the responsible supervisor (‘beoogd promotor’) is part of the application form. A ‘beoogd promotor’ is a Full Professor or Associate Professor who has been granted the right to act as promotor by their university. The promotor can be registered in ISAAC as the co-applicant.

Adding co-applicants is only possible in case the promotor is the co-applicant. In all other cases, it is not allowed to register co-applicants in ISAAC.

Candidates must have completed a (research) master’s degree before 1 September 2024. ¹

¹ If a candidate is expected to graduate before 1 September 2024, but has not yet graduated at the time of the deadline for submission for this Call for proposals, a signed letter of confirmation from the thesis supervisor containing the expected graduation date of the candidate is part of the application.
Please note: if a PhDs in the Humanities project gets funded, this may have effect on the eligibility of the main applicant in the funding instruments SSH Open Competition M and SSH Open Competition L. See NWO Open Competition – SSH for more information.

Extra conditions

University selection

The internal selection of the candidates and the submission of a limited number of candidates to NWO (see Allocation formula) is the responsibility of the deans of the faculties concerned. Each faculty is responsible for organising an open and transparent pre-selection procedure to determine which proposals can be submitted to NWO.

A candidate may not be involved in more than one proposal per funding round: therefore a candidate cannot be nominated by different universities at the same time.

Allocation formula

An allocation formula has been devised for the submission of applications. The maximum number of FTEs that may be submitted to NWO for funding each year by the dean of the faculty concerned is calculated to be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>PhD candidates 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Amsterdam</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utrecht University</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Groningen</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leiden University</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radboud University Nijmegen</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VU Universiteit Amsterdam</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erasmus University Rotterdam</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilburg University</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maastricht University</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open University</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theological University Kampen / Utrecht</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theological University Apeldoorn 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Protestant Theological University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Humanistic Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Aruba</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Curaçao</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of St. Martin 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>39 FTE</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This allocation formula does not apply to the awarding of proposals. If the maximum number of FTEs that may be submitted to NWO is exceeded by a university, a guarantee has to be provided by the dean in a separate letter before the deadline for submission that states that additional funds will be matched for this specific application. If this specific application is selected for funding, the matching

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2 See also section 3.5.6.
3 The universities based on philosophical or religious principles are allowed to submit one application in total. The Nationwide Network of Universities based on Religious Principles (NLU) is responsible for the execution of an internal selection round.
4 The universities of Aruba, Curaçao and St. Martin are allowed to submit one application in total. The rectors of these universities are responsible for the execution of an internal selection round.
commitment applies (independent of the total number of projects being financed from that university).

Each dean submits a letter to NWO in which is stated which proposals are selected by their faculty and how the pre-selection was organized. In this same letter, the matching of 20% of the requested budget for all proposals to be submitted must be confirmed by the dean.

In case the main applicant is not the promotor, the promotor can be registered as co-applicant in ISAAC. In all other cases, it is not allowed to register co-applicants in ISAAC.

### 3.1.1 Main and co-applicants

The main applicant submits the proposal via the NWO web application ISAAC. During the assessment process, NWO will communicate with the main applicant. After a proposal has been awarded funding, the main applicant will become the project leader and point of contact for NWO. The knowledge institution of the main applicant is the main beneficiary and will become the official secretary.

Co-applicants have an active role in realising the project. The (sub)project leaders and beneficiary/beneficiaries are jointly responsible for realising the entire project.

### 3.2 What can be applied for

Funding can be requested for a PhD who is appointed for 1.0 FTE for a duration of 48 months or for 0.8 FTE for a duration of 60 months. The salary costs are funded in accordance with the UNL salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded (www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables). A one-off individual bench fee of € 5,000 (no specification required) is added on top of the salary costs. This bench fee is intended to encourage the scientific career of the PhD-candidate funded by NWO. Remunerations for PhD students/PhD scholarship students at a Dutch university are not eligible for funding from NWO.

A maximum of € 5,000 material budget (specifications required) per application can be applied for. The material budget is specified according to the three categories below:

- **Project-related goods/services**
  - consumables (glassware, chemicals, cryogenic fluids, etc.)
  - measurement and calculation time (e.g. access to supercomputer, etc.)
  - costs for acquiring or using data collections (e.g. from Statistics Netherlands)
  - access to large national and international facilities (e.g. cleanroom, synchrotron, etc.)
  - work by third parties (e.g. laboratory analyses, data collection, citizen science, etc.)

- **Travel and accommodation costs for the personnel positions applied for**
  - travel and accommodation costs
  - conference attendance (maximum of two per year)
  - fieldwork
  - work visit

- **Implementation costs**
  - national symposium/conference/workshop organised within the research project
  - costs for Open Access publishing (solely in full gold Open Access journals, registered in the “Directory of Open Access Journals” [https://doaj.org/])
  - data management costs
  - costs involved in applying for licences (e.g. for animal experiments)

Costs that cannot be applied for are:
- basic facilities within the institution (e.g. laptops, desks, etc.);

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5 Or rector in case of the universities of Aruba, Curaçao and St. Martin.
Chapter 3: Conditions for applicants

3.3 Preparing an application

The steps involved in writing your application are:
- download the application form from the NWO web application ISAAC or from the NWO web page (on the grant page of the funding instrument concerned);
- complete the application form;
- save the application form in ISAAC as a PDF file and upload it with any compulsory annexes;
- fill in the requested information online in ISAAC.

Compulsory annex:
- budget form.

Optional annex:
- only in case the candidate hasn’t graduated yet, but is expected to graduate by September 1 2024: a signed letter of confirmation from the responsible supervisor (‘beoogd promotor’) containing the expected graduation date of the candidate.

In case NWO has made a template available, the annexes should be drawn up according to the NWO template. Annexes must be uploaded in ISAAC separately from the application. All of the annexes, except for the budget, must be submitted as PDF files (without encryption). The budget must be submitted in ISAAC as an Excel file. 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. Applications that are not submitted via ISAAC will not be taken into consideration.

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

It is important to start with your application in ISAAC on time:
- if you do not yet have an ISAAC 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 helpdesk, see contact (Chapter 6).

The applicant must inform the organisation where she/he works about the submission of the application, and the organisation must accept the granting conditions of this Call for proposals.

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 and prospected PhD candidate meet the conditions stated in Section 3.1;

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6 Full Professors or Associate Professors who have been granted the right to act as promotor by their university.
Chapter 3: Conditions for applicants

- the application complies with the DORA guidelines as described in Section 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 account;
- the application is received before the deadline;
- 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 least 48 months (when applying for 1 FTE per year) and at most 60 months (when applying for 0.8 FTE per year);
- 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 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 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 Compliance with the National Knowledge Security Guidelines

World-class science can benefit from international cooperation. The National Knowledge Security Guidelines (hereafter: the Guidelines) helps knowledge institutions to ensure that international cooperation can take place securely. Knowledge security concerns the undesirable transfer of sensitive knowledge and technology that compromises national security; the covert influence of state actors on education and research, which jeopardises academic freedom and social safety; and ethical issues that may arise in cooperation with countries that do not respect fundamental rights.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their project complies and will continue to comply with the Guidelines. By submitting an application, the applicant commits to the recommendations stipulated in these Guidelines. In the event of a suspected breach of the Guidelines in an application submitted to NWO for project funding, or in a project funded by NWO, NWO may ask the applicant to provide a risk assessment demonstrating that the recommendations in the Guidelines have been taken into consideration. If the applicant fails to comply with NWO’s request, or if the risk assessment is in apparent breach of the Guidelines, this may affect NWO’s grant award or decision-making process. NWO may also include further conditions in the award letter if appropriate.

The National Knowledge Security Guidelines can be found on the central government website at: Home | National Contact Point for Knowledge Security (loketkennisveiligheid.nl).
3.5.2 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.

3.5.3 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: Scientific integrity | NWO.

3.5.4 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.

3.5.5 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 (ABS Focal Point - ABS Focal Point). NWO assumes that researchers will take all necessary actions with respect to the Nagoya Protocol.
3.5.6 Additional personnel cost

Universities who via the allocation formula end up with 0,5 FTE\(^7\) are allowed to fund an additional 10% in personnel costs in order to increase this to 1,0 FTE. This has to be clearly stated in the provided budget.

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\(^7\) University of Amsterdam, Utrecht University, University of Groningen, Leiden University, Radboud University Nijmegen, VU University Amsterdam.
4 Assessment procedure

This chapter first describes the assessment according to the DORA principles (Section 4.1) and the course of the assessment procedure (Section 4.2). Second, it states the criteria that the assessment committee will use to assess your application (Section 4.3).

The NWO Code for Dealing with Personal Interests applies to all persons and NWO employees involved in the assessment and/or decision-taking process (Code for Dealing with Personal Interests | NWO).

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 (Diversity and inclusion | NWO). NWO encourages members of the assessment committee 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.

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 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 DORA | NWO.

4.2 Procedure

The application procedure consists of the following steps:

− submission of the proposal;
− admissibility of the proposal;
− pre-advice assessment committee;
− interview and meeting of the assessment committee;
− decision-making.

An external, independent assessment committee will be installed for this Call for proposals, consisting of representatives from different humanities disciplines with knowledge of the field. The task of the assessment committee is to assess the applications and the relevant documents submitted, in conjunction with each other and on each application’s own merit, on the basis of the selection criteria given in this Call for proposals.
The assessment committee is made up of members drawn from different disciplines within the humanities. In principle, the assessment committee has ten members, to be nominated by the Programme Officer Sustainable Humanities and appointed by NWO. If members of the previous round’s assessment committee are appointed for the current round, they will make up no more than two-thirds of the assessment committee. The names of the members are announced on the NWO programme page of the PhDs in the Humanities after the final results of the round are communicated to the applicants.

Due to the expertise present in the assessment committee and the small size of the grant, NWO has decided for the assessment of the applications to make use of the possibility given in Article 2.2.4, paragraph 2, of the NWO Grant Rules 2017, to assess all applications without involving referees.

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 (see Section 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 Admissibility 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 two 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-advice assessment committee

After this, your proposal will be submitted for comments to several members of the assessment committee (the pre-advisers). 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) and will give the proposal a numerical score per assessment criterion. For this, the NWO score table will be used (on a scale of 1 to 9, where “1” is excellent and “9” unsatisfactory).

4.2.4 Interview and meeting of the assessment committee

All prospective PhD’s will be invited for an interview.

During the interview, the assessment committee has the opportunity to pose questions. During the interview, the candidate 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. The committee will make its own assessment based on the available material. The pre-advises will to a large extent ‘guide’ the final assessment but will not be blindly accepted by the committee without question. The committee will consider and compare the arguments of the pre-advisers (also among each other).
Following the discussion, the committee draws up a written recommendation addressed to the Domain Board about the quality and ranking of the proposals. This recommendation is based on the assessment criteria. For more information about the qualifications, see Applying for funding, how does it work? | NWO.

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

4.2.5 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 borders of the available budget or the selection borders. 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 borders of the available budget or the selection borders. 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 borders of available budget or the selection borders, then the committee considers the distribution of applications across disciplines.8

If the proposals subsequently still remain 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 if it is not desirable to vote, the ex aequo situation will be send on to the decision-making body.

4.2.6 Decision-making

Finally, the NWO Domain Board Social Sciences and Humanities and the Programme Office Sustainable Humanities will assess the procedure followed and the advice from the assessment committee. They will both subsequently determine the final qualifications and take a decision about awarding or rejecting the proposals. When both the NWO Domain Board Social Sciences and Humanities and the Programme Office Sustainable Humanities have come to the same provisional decision, the NWO Domain Board Social Sciences and Humanities confirms the decision about awarding and rejecting of the proposals.

4.2.7 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 be informed about this in time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>End 2023</th>
<th>Programme Office Sustainable Humanities and NWO Domain Board Social Sciences and Humanities publish Call for proposals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>before 27 February 2024, 14:00:00 CET</td>
<td>supervisors submit applications selected by respective faculty to NWO via ISAAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>before 27 February 2024, 14:00:00 CET</td>
<td>The deans⁹ inform NWO by letter about the PhD proposals selected by their faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2024</td>
<td>NWO determines admissibility of proposals submitted and informs applicants accordingly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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8 Based on the main discipline code of the proposal.

9 Rector in case of Aruba, Curaçao, St. Martin
April 2024 | committee discusses the applications and establishes subjects for the interview
---|---
End of April / May 2024 | committee interviews all of the candidates and draws up a written recommendation
June 2024 | Board Programme Office Sustainable Humanities and the NWO Social Sciences and Humanities Domain Board take decision; NWO informs applicants

### 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 of the PhD candidate (50%)
2. Quality of the research proposal (50%)

**1. Quality of the PhD candidate**

The following indicators will be considered for the assessment:

- studies, honours, prizes, travel grants, output, relevant academic activities
- motivation for doing academic research
- (other) experience relevant to carrying out the proposed PhD project
- persuasiveness

**2. Quality of the research proposal**

The following indicators will be considered for the assessment:

- scientific importance
- originality/innovative character of the objectives and methodology (originality)
- clarity of the problem posed; operationability in sub-questions
- suitability of the approach chosen and methodology for the objectives set
- feasibility of the work plan
- satisfactory composition of the supervision/research group
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 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: Research data management | NWO.

5.1.2 Intellectual property

With respect to intellectual property (IP), the NWO IP policy applies. This can be found in Chapter 4 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017.

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.

5.1.3 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 “19.4511_Ten_principles_for_Socially_Responsible_Licensing_v19-12-2019.pdf (nfu.nl)”.

5.1.4 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;
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6 Contact and other information

6.1 Contact

6.1.1 Specific questions

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6.1.4 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.

6.2 Other information

NWO processes data from applicants received in the context of this Call in accordance with the NWO Privacy Statement, Privacy Statement | NWO.

NWO might approach applicants for an evaluation of the procedure and/or research programme.