

## Departmental criteria for VENI applications

30-10-2025

### Policy

The VENI is part of the NWO Talent Programme and enables talented early-career researchers to develop their own research ideas during three years of independent work. To ensure quality and feasibility, Dutch universities agreed with NWO to limit the number of applications. TU Delft and the Faculty of CEG therefore require departments to screen proposals carefully before submission. The I&IC can only support proposals that have received formal departmental approval.

The department of Hydraulic Engineering supports only strong, well-embedded and financially feasible VENI proposals. In addition to the standard HE project assessment, the following VENI-specific criteria apply:

- The candidate must be excellent and show clear potential for leadership and independence.
- The proposal must be well embedded in the department, with explicit staff support.
- The project must fit within the VENI budget; the department cannot provide extra funding.
  - For external candidates, a three-year postdoc salary already covers most of the available budget.
- Applications leading directly to a permanent position will not be supported.

### Application Procedure

Step	Action / Requirement	Responsibility	Notes
1	Follow the regular HE Project Procedure for preparing and submitting project proposals.	Applicant / Section leader	See the HE Project Procedure for details.
2	Discuss the proposal with the section leader to confirm departmental embedding and support.	Applicant / Section leader	Ensure at least one HE staff member is formally involved.
3	Submit the proposal for review and decision by the HE Department Board (MT).	Section leader	VENI proposals are discussed in MT meetings.
4	Final decision on departmental support.	HE department board (MT)	The last opportunity for approval is the final MT before the summer break (July).