



Open Competition Domain Science-M

round 2024-2025

Call for proposals

Dutch Research Council Science

2024



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1 Introduction

In this Call for proposals information is provided about the application procedure for the Open Competition Domain Science-M funding round 2024-2025 and the conditions for bilateral applications via the Weave principle. 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

NWO advances world-class scientific research. Scientific research – fundamental, applied and practice-oriented research – plays a key role in shaping our society. Through their independent, reliable and world-class research, researchers expand the frontiers of our knowledge and capabilities with their creativity and perseverance.

NWO Domain Science (NWO-domein Exacte en Natuurwetenschappen (ENW)) wants to provide opportunity for wonder, discovery, unexpected links and inspiration. Within the Open Competition of the Domain Science, NWO finances curiosity-driven research within the research areas of the Domain Science. The research subject is of your own choice without specific thematic prerequisites.

There are three types of funding in the NWO Open Competition Domain Science: XS, M and XL which all have their specific aim and conditions. A promising idea can be quickly explored with a Domain Science-XS-grant and can be further explored with a Domain Science-M-grant. The Domain Science-XL-grants allow for the advancement of the research idea into a world-class, challenging and innovative research line by combining the expertise and strengths of multiple researchgroups to work together in a consortium. For more information about the Domain Science-XS and –M grants we refer you to the respective Call for proposals on the NWO webpage.

1.1.1 Non-thematic international cooperation through Weave

Weave is a cross-European initiative set up by European research funders and embedded in Science Europe through which 12 European research funders currently fund cross-border research with partner countries, see <https://Weave-research.net/>. Through the lead agency principle, researchers can collaborate bottom-up with partners from member countries/regions, for proposals concerning a fundamental research question. The aim of Weave is to simplify assessment procedures by having applicants submit to a single research funder ('lead agency') that is responsible for further scientific evaluation. Upon granting, the other countries' research funders ('partner agencies') fund their 'own researchers' and thus typically follow the decision of the lead agency where the proposal was submitted.

NWO is not an official partner within the Weave consortium yet, but is exploring whether it could eventually become one. To this end, the Domain Science is running a pilot within this Call for proposals with partners from Germany and Flanders. NWO has made agreements with the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) in Germany and with the Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Vlaanderen (FWO) on funding bilateral projects according to the Weave principle. Cooperation with one or more German or Flemish researchers is possible by submitting a Weave proposal to DFG, FWO or NWO. Trilateral projects, in which both DFG, FWO and NWO act as research funders, are excluded for the time being.

Where this Call for proposals refers to a 'Dutch applicant', it means an applicant working at the institutions defined in section 3.1, and therefore does not refer to the nationality of the applicant. 'German or Flemish (co-)applicant' refers to an applicant who meets the submission requirements of DFG or FWO respectively, and therefore does not refer to the nationality/origin of the applicant.

If the proposal is submitted in the Netherlands, NWO acts as lead agency (ENW-M-1-Weave). In that case the proposal will be considered and assessed in accordance with the application procedure as described in this Call for proposals. Where this Call for proposals refers to 'submission to NWO' this refers to both national ENW-M proposals and bilateral ENW-M-1-Weave/LUX proposals (where NWO is the lead agency).

When the proposal is submitted to DFG or FWO, NWO acts as partner agency. The application is then processed according to the evaluation procedure of the lead agency's funding instrument. If NWO acts as partner agency, NWO checks amongst other things whether the Dutch co-applicant and the Dutch part of the budget meet the conditions of this Call for proposals. To this end the proposal must be submitted administratively to NWO (administrative submission). The conditions and the full procedure if NWO acts as partner agency are described in the appendix (section 7.3). Section 7.4 includes a Weave glossary.

1.1.2 Changes since the previous Call for proposals

The Call for proposals Open Competition Domain Science-M, round 2024-2025 is a further development of the ENW-M call of recent years. Compared to the Call for proposals of Open Competition Domain Science-M, round 2023-2024, two major changes have been made:

- Adding the possibility of cooperation with researchers from Germany or Flanders. This can be done by submitting a bilateral Weave proposal. A Weave proposal can be submitted to NWO (see section 3.2.1), or to DFG or FWO (see section 7.3 for the conditions for the Dutch part of the proposal).
- The M-invest proposal option for the sole purpose of an investment disappears. Instead, it becomes possible to apply for an investment of maximum size of €500,000 on top of an M-1 proposal (see section 3.2, ENW-M-1X).

1.2 Available budget

1.2.1 Proposals submitted to NWO, including ENW-M-1-Weave/LUX proposals

The subsidy ceiling for proposals submitted to NWO for the period is € 50,000,000. Proposals can be submitted continuously within this period. The budget available will be distributed according to the following:

- a maximum of five packages, each consisting of a maximum of three clusters, will be taken into consideration in the period mentioned;
- each package consists of up to 84 proposals that will complete the assessment procedure. A package will be closed once 84 proposals have been taken into consideration in that package;

- for each package, approximately € 10,000,000 is available. From this, an amount of € 1,200,000 will be earmarked for at most three proposals that will be awarded funding via preferential treatment;
- the distribution of the subsidy ceiling per package among the clusters follows a weighted distribution based on total budget requested per cluster;
- for each package, first the highest-ranked proposals up to € 8,800,000 will be awarded funding. These are the regular allocations. Subsequently, from the earmarked amount, a maximum of three proposals will be additionally awarded funding via preferential treatment, one in each cluster. N.B. this will not include the proposals already allocated funding via the regular route that are also eligible for preferential treatment;
- An ENW-M-1-Weave proposal must finish in the top 6 of the ranking per cluster to be awarded. If a Weave proposal ends up outside the top 6 of the ranking per cluster and the NWO-part of the Weave proposal falls within the available budget of the cluster, NWO can consult with the partner agency about awarding of the relevant Weave proposal. In this case awarding will depend on the financial scope available to the partner agency;
- If there are residual budgets in the clusters, the combined residual budget is allocated according to the method described in section 4.2.9.

If for the last package less than 84 proposals, but at least 28 admissible proposals, are submitted, then the last package will consist of these proposals. The budget available for awarding funding to the highest-ranked proposals and the budget for awarding grants to the proposals with a preferential treatment will, in that case, be proportionately reduced. If in the last package, fewer than 28 admissible proposals are submitted, then these proposals will be added to the penultimate package. The budget available for awarding funding to the highest-ranked proposals and the budget for awarding grants to proposals with a preferential treatment will, in that case, be proportionately increased.

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

You can submit your proposal at any moment from 6 August 2024 up to and including 31 July 2025, 14:00:00 CEST, with the exception of ENW-M-1-Weave proposals with FWO as partner agency, which may be submitted from 1 December 2024 to 28 February 2025 14:00:00 CET.

If an ENW-M-1-Weave or ENW-M-1-LUX proposal (see section 3.1) is submitted to NWO, an administrative submission of the proposal to the foreign partner agency must also be made within seven calendar days of submission to NWO.

2 Aim

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

2.1 Aim of the programme

ENW-M grants are intended for curiosity-driven fundamental scientific research with impact. Impact includes both scientific and societal impact, and the programme allows a choice between scientific impact, societal impact, or both; see the assessment criteria in Section 4.3.1. Section 2.2 explains how societal impact is interpreted within the programme, which focuses on curiosity-driven fundamental scientific research.

ENW-M grants give researchers the opportunity and freedom to initiate or to build on excellent, challenging and innovative research lines, both mono disciplinary, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary. ENW-M funding focuses on small-scale research projects in which a concrete research project is central. An investment may be crucial to properly carry out the high-quality proposed research. Research projects in method development or instrumentation development also fall within the scope of this funding instrument. These projects, like the other proposals, are assessed based on quality and impact as specified in section 4.3.

This funding instrument is open for proposals with a research question in or overlapping the fields of earth sciences, astronomy, chemistry, computer science, life sciences, physics and mathematics. Proposals can be both mono disciplinary, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary. For applications with a (partial) domain-overarching and/or ZonMw component, the core of the research proposal should fit one or more of the seven disciplines of the Domain Science, see Section 3.3.1. The disciplines and research areas of Domain Sciences are listed in Section 7.1.

2.2 Societal impact

New knowledge and insights from scientific research can make an important contribution to developing solutions for the various issues society faces, including, amongst other things, the energy transition, health and care, or climate change. By facilitating greater interaction and alignment between researchers and potential knowledge users, the chance of knowledge utilisation increases, as well as the likelihood of generating societal impact. Through its policy on impact, NWO promotes the potential contribution that research can make to societal issues by encouraging productive interactions with societal stakeholders, both during the development stage and the subsequent implementation of research. It does so in a manner that is in accordance with the aim of the particular funding instrument.

2.2.1 Tailor-made impact

The primary aim of the funding instrument determines the method that NWO will deploy to facilitate knowledge utilisation in various phases of the project (proposal, realisation, project completion) as well as the effort required from the applicant(s) and partner(s).

In this programme, the Impact Outlook approach is applied. Here, researchers can choose which type of impact they want to specifically focus on, while proportional consideration is also given to what can be done for the remaining impact.

NWO offers an e-learning module that can help interested parties via [NWO Impact - Online workshops](#). For more information on our policy on impact, please visit the website: [Knowledge utilisation | NWO](#).

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

Full, associate and assistant professors and other researchers with a comparable position* may submit an application if they have a tenured position (and therefore a paid position for an indefinite period) or a tenure track agreement at one of the following organisations:

- 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.
- The Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI);
- IHE Delft Institute for Water Education.

*A comparable position 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.

** Persons with a contract for a limited period of time (other than a tenure track appointment) may not submit a proposal, except for the following exception. Researchers with a one-year or a two-year employment contract who are expected to be offered a permanent employment contract after the initial one-year or two-year period has elapsed, are also eligible to submit a proposal. In such cases, applicants should add a statement from their employer, confirming that the relevant organization will offer the applicant a permanent position if their performance meets the required standards. Persons with a zero-hour employment agreement may not submit a proposal.

It could be the case that the applicant's tenure track agreement ends before the intended completion date of the project for which funding is applied for, or that before that date, the applicant's tenured contract ends due to the applicant reaching retirement age. In that case, the applicant needs to include a statement from their employer in which the organisation concerned guarantees that the project and all project members for whom funding has been requested will receive adequate supervision for the full duration of the project.

Applicants with a part-time contract should guarantee adequate supervision of the project and all project members for whom funding is requested.

Extra conditions (applies to both the main applicant and co-applicants):

- ENW-M-1 and ENW-M-1X have a single main applicant and no co-applicants.
- ENW-M-2 has a single main applicant and a single co-applicant who work together and whose expertise is complementary. Main applicant and co-applicant may be employed by the same organization, as long as their expertise is complementary.

- On the NWO side, ENW-M-1-Weave has one main applicant who meets the conditions set out in this Call for proposals and one or more co-applicants who meet the conditions of DFG or FWO. Trilateral applications are not possible.
- ENW-M-1-LUX has one lead applicant who meets the conditions set out in this Call for proposals, and one co-applicant who meets the conditions of FNR.
- For ENW-M-1-Weave and ENW-M-1-LUX applications submitted to NWO, the Dutch applicant should be the lead applicant.
- After substantive consideration of an ENW-M proposal, including a Weave proposal, regardless of whether NWO or DFG/FWO is lead agency, Dutch applicants are subject to a mandatory waiting period of 12 calendar months before a new application may be submitted, regardless of whether a researcher is involved in the role of lead or co-applicant. This period starts from the original submission date of a proposal that meets the conditions for submission.
- If the budget module Money follows Cooperation (MfC) is included in an ENW-M-2 proposal, the foreign knowledge institution of the co-applicant must meet the requirements in Article 1.1, paragraph 3 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017, with the exception of the condition that the co-applicant must be established in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The representation and promotion of women in science lags considerably behind that of men. NWO therefore strongly encourages women to submit proposals.

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.

The optional co-applicant has an active role in realising the project. The (sub)project leaders and beneficiary/beneficiaries are jointly responsible for realising the entire project.

3.1.2 Preferential treatment for new tenured members of staff and tenure trackers

To simplify the acquisition of funding for starting researchers they can make use of a one-off request for preferential treatment. This only applies to ENW-M-1 proposals (and not ENW-M-1X, ENW-M-1-weave, ENW-M-1-LUX, ENW-M-2 proposals). Starting researchers must satisfy the following requirements:

- the starting researcher is at the beginning of their scientific career;
- the starting researcher has the option to apply for a preferential treatment during two years. This two-year period is calculated from the first temporary or tenured appointment as referred to in Section 3.1, whichever comes first;
- prior to the submission date, the starting researcher has not received any previous support in the Open Competition Domain Science M or XL, in its predecessors or in the form of a Vidi or Vici grant from the NWO Talent Programme;
- the starting researcher has not previously requested this preferential treatment or its predecessor.

For applicants requesting preferential treatment and for whom the final submission date falls during the period that the call for proposals OC ENW-M, round 2024-2025 has been closed and round 2025-2026 will be opened, the final submission date is extended till 1 September 2025.

Extension clause

The extension clause allows applicants requesting preferential treatment under ENW-M-1 an extension to their two-year application deadline if they can demonstrate that they have taken a period of care leave or sick leave during that period, or that they have had one or more children during that period. It is not only applicants who have been absent from work due to pregnancy leave or maternity leave who are eligible for the extension clause. Applicants on adoption leave, partners' leave and leave in relation to the arrival of a foster child are also eligible for the extension clause.

Upon applying for preferential treatment, the biological mother of the child is entitled to an extension of 16 weeks per child and the other parent is eligible for an extension of 5 weeks per child. Extensions for parents are only granted if the children are part of the same household. In the case of long-term illness or care leave involving a first-degree relative, any reduction in working time is compensated. In all cases, the maximum extension is one year.

How do you request preferential treatment (with extension)?

To request preferential treatment, the application must be accompanied by a separate covering letter in which the applicant outlines the extent to which the conditions mentioned above are fulfilled (see the template available on the website). If you make use of the extension clause, a statement must also be provided by your organization showing when exactly you took abovementioned leave. The manner in which NWO applies preferential treatment is described in Section 4.1.11.

3.2 What can be applied for

ENW-M-1

An ENW-M-1 grant has a maximum size of € 400,000 and has a single main applicant and no co-applicants. The grant must be used for a single temporary scientific position (PhD or postdoc) in combination with the other budget modules available. The module Investments (€ 150,000 to € 500,000) and the module Money follows Cooperation are not available for this type of grant.

ENW-M-1-X

An ENW-M-1 proposal can be extended to include an investment required for the research to be carried out. This variant is called ENW-M-1X. Requested funding for ENW-M-1X has a maximum size of €800,000 and has one main applicant, no co-applicants. The funding must be used for one temporary scientific position (PhD or postdoc) and an investment via the Investment module (€ 150,000 to € 500,000), in combination with the other available budget modules. The Money follows Cooperation module is not available in this funding form.

ENW-M-1-Weave

An ENW-M-1-Weave proposal has one Dutch lead applicant and one or more co-applicants from Germany or Flanders working together to carry out the proposed research. The maximum funding requested from NWO is €400,000. The funding applied for at NWO must be used for one temporary scientific position (PhD or postdoc) in combination with the other available budget modules. The Investment module (€ 150,000 to € 500,000) and the Money follows Cooperation module are not available in this funding form. Funding requested via Weave from DFG or FWO can be spent in accordance with the conditions set by DFG or FWO.

ENW-M-1-LUX

An ENW-M-1-LUX proposal has one main applicant from the Netherlands and one co-applicant from Luxembourg working together to carry out the proposed research. The maximum funding requested from NWO is €400,000. The funding requested from NWO must be used for one temporary scientific position (PhD or postdoc) in combination with the other available budget modules. The Investment module (€ 150,000 to € 500,000) and the Money follows Cooperation module are not available in this funding form. Funding requested from FNR is to be spent in accordance with the conditions set by FNR.

ENW-M-2

An ENW-M-2 grant has a maximum size of € 800,000 and has a single main applicant and a single co-applicant who work together to realise the proposed research. Main applicant and co-applicant may be employed by the same organisation, as long as their expertise is complementary. The grant must be used for two temporary scientific positions (PhD or postdoc) in combination with the other budget modules available with the exception of the module Investments (€ 150,000 to € 500,000). The scientific positions must be equally allocated across both collaborating applicants.

Budget modules

budget modules (including the maximum amount) available for this Call for proposals are listed in the table below. Apply only for funding that is vital to realise the project. A more detailed explanation of the budget modules can be found in the annexe to this Call for proposals (7.2).

Budget module	Maximum amount
PhD student	according to UNL or UNF rates ¹
Postdoc	according to UNL or NFU rates ¹
Non-scientific staff (NSS) at universities	€100,000, according to UNL or NFU rates ¹ ; in combination with PhD student(s) and or postdoc(s) ¹
Material costs	€15,000 per year per FTE scientific position
Investments (up to €150,000)	Maximum €150,000
Investments (€150,000 to €500,000)	Greater than or equal to €150,000 (for data collections, a minimum of €25,000 applies) and less than or equal to €500,000, with 25% contribution by the applying research institution
Knowledge utilisation	€25,000
Internationalisation	€25,000
Money follows Cooperation	Less than 50% of the total budget applied for

¹ For personnel outside the Netherlands, the local rates are reimbursed. These rates are capped at a maximum equal to the UNL rates corrected by the NWO Country correction coefficients (CCC) table, see [Money Follows Cooperation | NWO](#).

3.2.1 Cooperation with researchers abroad

Within this Call for proposals, there are several options to apply for funding to collaborate with researchers abroad. Please contact NWO (see section 6.1.1) if you would like more information about this.

- Travel and accommodation expenses for foreign guest researchers can be reimbursed through the Internationalisation budget module;
- travel and accommodation costs (including working visits, internships, and research stays) for the requested personnel positions are eligible within the Materiel budget module. Project-related services, such as (laboratory) analyses by a foreign partner, are also reimbursable within the Material budget module;
- the Money follows Cooperation budget module gives the possibility to carry out part of the project at a knowledge institution with a public task outside the Netherlands, for example by appointing a temporary scientific employee at that knowledge institution.

For more information, see the notes to the budget modules in section 7.2.

Specific arrangements exist in this Call for proposals for the appointment of temporary scientific personnel in collaborative projects with researchers from Germany, Luxembourg and Flanders (ENW-M-1-Weave, ENW-M-1-LUX). As a result of the lead agency principle underlying the agreements with Germany, Luxembourg and Flanders, it is not possible to use the Money follows Cooperation budget module for these countries/regions.

Collaboration with Germany or Flanders

NWO has made agreements with DFG and FWO to (co)fund bilateral projects according to the Weave principle. With NWO as lead agency, an ENW-M-1 proposal can be extended with at least one co-applicant from Germany or from Flanders, creating an ENW-M-1-Weave proposal. Trilateral proposal are excluded for the time being. The foreign component does not count in determining maximum budget size on the Dutch side. Funding can be requested for a maximum of 3 years in an ENW-M-1-Weave application with DFG as partner agency. Accordingly, it is not possible to apply for a PhD student on the Dutch side in an ENW-M-1-Weave application with Germany. Funding for a maximum of 4 years can be applied for in an ENW-M-1-Weave with FWO as partner agency.

For submission conditions of the German co-applicant, for announcement see:

<https://www.dfg.de/en/news/news-topics/announcements-proposals>

For submission conditions of the Flemish co-applicant, see: <https://www.fwo.be/en/support-programmes/all-calls/senior-researchersresearch-teams/weave-fwo-partner/> en

<https://www.fwo.be/en/support-programmes/all-calls/senior-researchersresearch-teams/junior-and-senior-research-project/>

The conditions that apply if NWO acts as partner agency and DFG or FWO acts as lead agency are described in section 7.3.

Collaboration with Luxembourg

NWO has made agreements with the Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR) in Luxembourg about the joint funding of bilateral projects. Collaboration with a research group from Luxembourg is possible by expanding an ENW-M-1 proposal with the Luxembourgian equivalent of ENW-M-1, effectively creating a bilateral ENW-M-2 proposal (ENW-M-1-LUX). The foreign component does not count for determining the maximum budget size on the Dutch side. NWO considers the bilateral proposal as an ENW-M-2 grant (proposal) and will assess the proposal in its entirety in consultation with the FNR. Please contact NWO (see Section 6.1.1) if you are considering this variant or if you would like to receive further information about this.

Researchers affiliated to a Luxembourgian research group and involved in an ENW-M-1-LUX proposal must comply to the conditions of the FNR INTER programme (<https://www.fnr.lu/funding-instruments/inter/>). Please note that agreements with FNR on cooperation with Luxembourg are not made according to the Weave principle. FNR therefore does not accept applications with a Dutch co-applicant in the INTER Programme.

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(es):

- budget (for the budget requested from NWO) - always compulsory;
- budget (for the budget requested from the foreign partner (DFG, FNR, FWO)) - mandatory for bilateral application;
- Declaration of appointment and project supervision - mandatory for applicant whose appointment does not cover the entire duration of the project and mandatory in case of application for preferential treatment;
- Declaration of own contribution to investment - compulsory for ENW-M-1X proposal.

Optional annex(es) only:

- request for preferential treatment,
- declaration of support from collaboration partners, without co-funding;
- quotation from external party that provides (an indication of) the cost of the requested investment.

The appendix must be drawn up in accordance with the template provided by NWO. Annexes must be uploaded in ISAAC separately from the application. The NWO-budget must be submitted in ISAAC as an Excel file. All of the other annexes, except for the budget, must be submitted as PDF files (without encryption). Any annexes other than those stated above 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.

The call OC ENW-M, round 2024-2025 will be closed by the board of the NWO domain Science (domain board ENW) as soon as the 84th proposal in the 4th package has been taken into consideration (total 336th proposal). In that case, it will be stated on the NWO funding page that the Open Competition ENW-M has been paused. From August 2025, applications can be submitted in the 2025-2026 round, for which the call for proposals will be published in due time. Applicants whose proposal in OC ENW-M round 2023-2024 was not substantively considered due to closure of the round, may submit an ENW-M proposal in OC ENW-M round 2024-2025. This applies to all proposals received by NWO after the 84th proposal in the 5th package of round 2023-2024 has been taken in consideration.

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).

Does a main and/or co-applicant work at an organisation that is not included in the ISAAC database? You can report this via relatiebeheer@nwo.nl so that the organisation can be added. This will take several days. It is therefore important that you report this at least one week before the deadline.

Applicants are expected to have informed the organization where they work about submitting the application and that the organisation accepts the grant conditions of this Call for proposals.

3.3.1 Advice about substantive suitability

For this Call for proposals, your application must fit in the NWO Domain Science, see Section 2.2. . Therefore, please consider well ahead of time whether your application meets the substantive criteria. In the event of any doubt, for instance because your application (partly) encompasses various domains and/or has a ZonMw character, then please get in touch with the contact person for this programme well in advance of the deadline. This person can advise you about the substantive connection between your application and this Call for proposals. Please note that the final choice is yours. For contact details please see Section 6.1.1.

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 optional co-applicant of an ENW-M-2 proposal meet the conditions stated in Section 3.1;
- 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;
- For ENW-M-1-Weave and ENW-M-1-LUX applications: the corresponding administrative submission has been submitted to the foreign partner (DFG, FWO or FNR) on time and meets the foreign partner's requirements;
- 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 most 6 years. Exception: a proposed ENW-M-1-Weave project with Germany or Flanders has a maximum duration of 3 (in the case of DFG) and 4 years (in the case of FWO), respectively;
- 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 for parental leave](#).

In case of ENW-M-1 or ENW-M-1X: 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, at very least, are expected to make the data and/or non-numerical results that underlie the conclusions of the published work resulting from 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, both during data generation and as part of analysing the data, to make its subsequent 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. The absence or presence of an ethical statement or licence at the time of the application process has no effect on the assessment of the application. 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.

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-making process ([Code for Dealing with Personal Interests | NWO](#)).

NWO strives to achieve an inclusive culture where 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 referees and members of an 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 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 [DORA | NWO](#).

4.2 Procedure

The application procedure consists of the following steps:

- submission of the proposal;
- admissibility of the proposal;
- peer review by referees;
- rebuttal;
- allocation to packages and clusters
- pre-advice of cluster committees
- assessment committee meeting;
- decision-making.

An external, independent assessment committees will be assigned for this Call for proposals, consisting of representatives from science with knowledge of the field. The task of the assessment committee is to assess the applications and the relevant documents that are submitted, in conjunction with each other and with regard to both the respective merits of each application and the selection criteria outlined in this Call for proposals.

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. In the case of ENW-M-1-Weave proposals and ENW-M-1-LUX proposals you should expect a longer period due to the formal checks by the partner agency and coordination between the two organisations. You will be given one opportunity to make the corrections, and you will be given five working days to do this.

4.2.3 Peer review by referees

Prior to the assessment committee considering your proposal, NWO will request input from at least two external referees. These are independent advisers who are experts in the subjects of the proposal. They will assess the proposals based on the assessment criteria outlined in the Call for proposals (Section 4.3).

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.

4.2.4 Rebuttal

The main applicant subsequently receives the anonymised referee reports. You then have the opportunity to formulate a rebuttal. You will be given five 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.

4.2.5 Allocation to packages and clusters

A maximum of five times in each round, NWO assesses a package of proposals. Each package consists of a combination of different types of proposals (ENW-M-1, ENW-M-1X, ENW-M-1Weave, ENW-M-1-LUX, and ENW-M-2) that were accepted in the previous period, have already been through the referee phase and are assessed in competition to one another. Proposals are allocated to a package in the order in which they were received. The package of proposals is distributed over a maximum of three clusters with different focus areas, based on the Domain Science research areas indicated by the applicants. For each cluster, a cluster committee is formed. The cluster committees together make up the assessment committee. When composing the cluster committees, NWO chooses experts as best as possible from the ENW research areas indicated by the applicants.

4.2.6 Pre-advice assessment committee

After this, your proposal, the referees' reports and your rebuttal 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).

4.2.7 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 available material. Although the referees' reports will 'guide' the final assessment to a large extent, it will not be blindly accepted without question by the committee. The committee will consider and compare the arguments of the referees (also amongst each other) and examine whether the rebuttal contains a well-formulated response to the critical comments from the referees' reports. Furthermore, the committee, unlike the referees, will assess the quality of all the proposals and rebuttals submitted. Therefore, the committee's assessment may differ from that of the referees.

Following the discussion, the committee draws up a written recommendation addressed to the board of the NWO Domain Science about the quality and ranking of the proposals. This recommendation is based on the assessment criteria.

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 this will result in an *ex aequo* situation (see paragraph 4.2.8).

4.2.8 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. The committee will consider the quality of those proposals once again. Should this discussion not result in a clear differentiation of the assessment of quality, the proposals are deemed ex aequo. If an ex aequo situation occurs at the borders of available budget or the selection borders, then, in order to promote the number of females in science, the proposal with the highest percentage of female applicants will be given priority. If the ex aequo situation is not resolved with this, then the proposal with the highest score for the criterion 'Scientific quality of the proposal' will end highest. If the proposals subsequently still remain in a tie, the ex aequo situation will be sent on to the decision-making body, the board of the NWO domain Science

4.2.9 Decision-making

Finally, the board of the NWO domain Science 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.

If, within one or more of the three clusters, the residual budget of the relevant budget for that cluster is insufficient to award the next proposal meeting the criteria of the call and the minimum qualification in the corresponding cluster, and the collective residual budget of the clusters is sufficient to allocate at least one additional proposal, the board of the NWO domain Science may decide, for the purpose of optimising the use of the budget per package, to allocate these remaining budgets as follows.

Proposals concerned are those proposals in the three clusters that ended up directly 'below the selection border' in the priority of their respective cluster and hence could not be awarded within the budget of that cluster. If - in accordance with the distribution rules below - the next proposal is a Weave proposal that ended up outside the top-six in the ranking per cluster, NWO can consult with the partner agency about awarding of the relevant Weave proposal. In this case awarding will depend on the partner agency's financial scope.

- 1) If the collective residual budget is sufficient, the proposal next-in-line in the cluster with the lowest success rate will be awarded. Success rates are determined based on the budget to be awarded to a cluster and the total budget requested per cluster. Success rates are rounded to whole numbers. If the residual budget is insufficient for this proposal, the next proposal from the cluster with the second lowest success rate will be allocated. If the residual budget is also insufficient for that proposal, the next proposal from the cluster with the highest success rate will be awarded.
- 2) When two or three clusters have an equally low success rate, then, in order to promote the number of females in science, the proposal with the highest percentage of female applicants will be awarded. If the remaining budget is insufficient for this proposal, the proposal with the second highest percentage of female applicants will be allocated. If the remaining budget is also insufficient for that proposal, the proposal from the cluster with the lowest percentage of female applicants will be allocated.

- 3) If this is not conclusive, as there are two or more proposals with an equal percentage of female applicants and the residual budget is insufficient to award all of these proposals, then, considering the proposals concerned, the proposals coming from the Domain Science discipline and Domain Science research area (as referred to in Section 7.1) with the lowest number of proposals granted in this package will be awarded.

Decision-making ENW-M-1-Weave proposals and ENW-M-1-LUX proposals

For ENW-M-1-Weave and ENW-M-1-LUX proposals, the domain Science board and the partner agency must both reach a positive granting decision to award the proposal. If the partner agency does not reach a positive granting decision, the board of the NWO Domain Science decides to reject the ENW-M-1-Weave or ENW-M-1-LUX proposal as a whole.

4.2.10 Procedure in the event of preferential treatment

NWO will assess a proposal for which a preferential treatment has been requested in the same way as all other proposals. If a proposal with preferential treatment is not awarded with regular funding, but received the NWO qualification “excellent” or “very good”, then it will be eligible for funding. For each package of proposals assessed, a maximum of one proposals per cluster can be awarded funding on this basis. This pertains to the highest ranked proposal with preferential treatment that is not awarded regular funding. If there is no proposals with preferential treatment within a cluster or no proposal with preferential treatment meets the conditions for funding, the earmarked preferential treatment budget becomes available for the benefit of the 'regular' proposals in the relevant cluster.

4.2.11 Timetable

You can submit proposals on a continuous basis. NWO will consider these in the order that they are received. The original submission date and submission time of a proposal that meets the conditions for submission shall determine the order of consideration. You will be notified as soon as the timeline for the assessment of your proposal is known.

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:

Criterion 1: Scientific quality of the proposal (What)

This includes:

- the clarity of the proposal, question posed and the objectives;
- scientifically innovative and/or groundbreaking elements of research proposal/investment;
- alignment with the aim of the call, as detailed in Section 2.1;
- the scientific approach: (challenge in) the approach and the feasibility of this;
- the effectiveness in terms of methodology and/or investment proposed;
- appropriate expertise of the researchers involved, appropriate embedding of the research and access to the equipment needed;
- the requested budget and its justification, and if applicable, the necessity for an investment within an ENW-M-1X;

- in the case of an ENW-M-1-Weave, ENW-M-1-LUX or ENW-M-2 proposal, the collaboration between the applicants must have a clear added value. In which way does the collaboration offer more than the sum of the individual researchers?

Criterion 2: Scientific and/or societal impact (Why)

Scientific impact includes, among others:

- potential and relevance of research results for one's own discipline and related discipline(s);
- potential and relevance of the research results for the wider scientific field.

Societal impact includes, among others:

- potential for societal impact in the short and long term;
 - a vision of the way(s) in which the proposed research could lead to societal impact
- Besides impact, the assessment committee, as part of this criterion, will also weigh the motivation for the focus on scientific impact and/or societal impact.

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

4.3.2 Weighting of the criteria

The scientific quality of each proposal accounts for 70% of the final score and the scientific and/or societal impact 30%. Via the final score, a proposal should have at least acquired the qualification "very good" to be eligible for funding. For more information about the qualifications please see Applying for funding, how does it work?.

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 Additional terms and conditions

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 must describe in the plan whether existing data will be used, or whether new data will be collected or generated, and how this 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 NFO factsheet "[19.4511 Ten principles for Socially Responsible Licensing v19-12-2019.pdf \(nfo.nl\)](#)".

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;
- 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 [Open Access](#) |.

Books

Different requirements apply to scholarly books, book chapters and edited collections. See the Open Access Policy Framework at [Open Science](#) | NWO.

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 [Open Science](#) | NWO.

6 Contact and other information

6.1 Contact

6.1.1 Specific questions

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

Dr. Merijn Blaakmeer, tel.: +31 (0)70 349 41 82, e-mail: ENW-M@nwo.nl

Dr. Dieke Boezen, tel.: +31 (0)70 349 46 20, e-mail: ENW-M@nwo.nl

Dr. Linda Jongbloed, tel.: +31 (0)70 349 46 00, e-mail: ENW-M@nwo.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 (0)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

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, [Privacy Statement | NWO](#). In the case of ENW-M-1-Weave and ENW-M-1-LUX proposals, NWO shares, for the purpose of the assessment process, a limited set of personal data with the foreign partner. The set of data shared is listed on the funding page of this Call for proposals. By submitting the proposal, you agree to this.

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

7 Annexes:

7.1 Overview of Domain Science research areas

Applications only fall within the scope of this call for proposals if they are in or overlap with the fields of earth sciences, astronomy, chemistry, computer science, life sciences, physics and mathematics. In the application you should state which of the following research areas (at least one) is applicable and for each research discipline you should state a percentage (at least 20%, totaling 100%). The NWO Domain Science office will use the research areas stated to allocate the proposals submitted across the cluster committees. Of course there are various research areas that cannot be allocated to one discipline. A few research areas are therefore listed under several disciplines in the list below; the disciplines are stated to make it easy to find the research areas. The research areas are listed in alphabetical order per discipline.

Astronomy

Galaxies

Gravity and the universe

High-energy astrophysics

Instrumentation - telescopes, detectors and techniques

Planetary sciences

Stars

Very large databases in astronomy: archiving, handling and analysis

Chemistry

Analytical chemistry

Biochemistry

Biotechnology

Catalysis

Chemical biology

Chemical technology, process technology

Inorganic chemistry

Macromolecular chemistry, polymer chemistry

Materials chemistry

Molecular biology

Organic chemistry

Physical chemistry

Structural biology

Synthetic biology

Theoretical, computational and quantum chemistry

Computer science

Artificial intelligence, expert systems

Algorithms, data structures, complexity, and computability

Bioinformatics

Computer graphics, computer simulation, virtual reality

Computer systems, architectures, networks

Data management, data mining and information theory

Information systems, information storage and retrieval, user interfaces, multimedia

Security & privacy

Software engineering, programming languages, formal methods

Earth sciences

Atmosphere sciences
Environmental sciences
Geochemistry
Geophysics
Geodesy, physical geography
Geodynamics, sedimentation, tectonics, geomorphology
Geotechnics
Hydrosphere sciences
Marine sciences
Paleoceanography
Paleoclimate
Paleontology, stratigraphy
Petrology, mineralogy, sedimentology
Planetary sciences

Life sciences

Agronomy
Animal sciences, zoology
Biochemistry
Bioinformatics
Biomedical research
Biotechnology
Cell biology
Developmental biology
Ecology
Environmental sciences
Evolutionary biology
Genetics, omics
Immunology
Microbiology, virology, parasitology
Molecular biology
Neurosciences
Nutrition, food
Organismal biology
Pharmaceutics, pharmacology
Physics of life
Physiology
Plant sciences
Systems biology
Theoretical biology, modeling

Mathematics

Algebra, number theory, discrete mathematics
Mathematics of data science
Functional analysis, control theory
Dynamical systems, differential equations
Geometry, topology
Logic, set theory
Numerical analysis, scientific computing
Optimization, operations research

Probability, statistics**Physics**

Atomic, molecular and optical physics

Condensed matter, materials and nanophysics

Particle and astroparticle physics

Physics of energy

Physics of fluids and soft matter

Physics of life

Physics of technology and instrumentation

Plasma physics

Quantum physics and technology

Theoretical and mathematical physics

7.2 Explanation of budget modules

It is possible to apply for the funding of the salary costs of personnel who make a substantial contribution to the research. Funding of these salary costs depends on the type of appointment and the organisation where the personnel are/ will be appointed.

- For university appointments, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the UNL salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded ([Salary tables | NWO](#)).
- For university medical centres, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the NFU salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded ([Salary tables | NWO](#)).
- For personnel from universities of applied sciences, educational institutions and other organisations, salary costs will be funded based on the collective labour agreement pay scale of the employee concerned in accordance with the applicable rate at the time of awarding the grant as taken from Table 2.2, column 'Hourly rate productive hours, excl. Dutch VAT' from the *Handleiding Overheidstarieven* [HOT- Manual Dutch Government Rates] ([Salary tables | NWO](#)).
- For the Caribbean Netherlands, the Dutch government employs civil servants on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba under different conditions than in the European part of the Netherlands ([Employment terms and conditions | Working at the Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland | Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland \(rijksdienstcn.com\)](#)).

NWO will apply a mandatory one-off indexing of the salary² costs with respect to:

- UNL rates: for proposals submitted before 1 July and that are awarded funding after 1 July;
- NFU rates: for proposals submitted before 1 August that are awarded funding after 1 August;
- HOT rates: for proposals submitted before 1 January that are awarded funding after 1 January.

The mandatory one-off indexing does not affect the level of the grant ceiling or the maximum amount of the grant awarded for each proposal. Both the level of the grant ceiling and the maximum amount of the grant awarded will remain unchanged during the assessment procedure. The mandatory one-off indexing will be applied after the decision-making process about awarding or rejecting proposals is completed.

If co-funding is required or permitted then the one-off mandatory indexing will have no consequences for the co-funding requirement or the IP rights that can emerge from the co-funding.

The rates for all budget modules are incorporated in the budget template that accompanies the application form. For the budget modules "PhD student", "EngD" and "Postdoc", a one-off individual bench fee of €5,000 is added on top of the salary costs to encourage the scientific career of the project employee funded by NWO. Remunerations for PhD scholarship students ('bursalen') at a Dutch university are not eligible for funding from NWO.

The available budget modules are explained below.

PhD student (including MD-PhD student)

A PhD student is appointed for 1.0 FTE for a duration of 48 months. The equivalent of 48 full-time months, for example an appointment of 60 months for 0.8 FTE, is also possible. If a different duration of appointment is considered necessary for the realisation of the proposed research, then the standard time can be deviated from as long as this is properly justified. However, the duration of appointment must always be at least 48 months.

² 1 July, 1 August and 1 January are the dates on which the relevant rates are generally adjusted, in the case of indexation the date of actual annual adjustment will be taken into account.

Postdoc

The size and duration of the postdoc appointment is at least 6 full months and at most 48 full-time months. The size and duration of the appointment is at the applicant's discretion, but the appointment is always for at least 0.5 FTE or for a duration of at least 12 months. The product of FTE x duration of appointment should always be a minimum of 6 full-time months.

The material budget is available to cover the costs of a more limited appointment of a postdoc.

Non-scientific staff (NSS) at universities

Funding for the appointment of NSS required to realise the research project can only be applied for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for. A maximum of €100,000 can be requested for NSS. This includes personnel such as student assistants, programmers, technical assistants or analysts. Depending on the level of the position, the appropriate salary table for NSS at MBO, HBO or university level applies.

The size of the appointment is at least 6 full-time months and at most 48 full-time months. The size and duration of the appointment is at the applicant's discretion, but the appointment is always for at least 0.5 FTE or for a duration of at least 12 months. The product of FTE x duration of appointment should always be a minimum of 6 full-time months.

The material budget is available to cover the costs of a more limited appointment of NSS.

Explanation of budget module Material

For each FTE scientific position (PhD student, postdoc, EngD) applied for, a maximum of €15,000 material budget can be applied for per year of the appointment. Material budget for smaller appointments can be applied for on a proportionate basis and will be made available by NWO accordingly. Per 0.2 FTE scientific employee applied for at a university of applied sciences, educational institution or other organisation (with a minimum appointment of 0.2 FTE for 12 months) a maximum of €15,000 in material budget can be applied for per year.

The applicant is responsible for distributing the total amount of material budget across the NWO-funded personnel positions. The material budget that can be applied for is specified according to the three categories below:

Project-related goods/services

- consumables (e.g. 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 [CBS]), for which the total amount may not be more than €25,000 per proposal;
- 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.);
- personnel costs for the appointment of a postdoc and/or non-scientific personnel for a smaller appointment size than those offered in the personnel budget modules.

Travel and accommodation costs for the personnel positions applied for

- travel and accommodation costs;
- conference attendance (maximum of two per year per scientific position applied for);
- fieldwork;
- work visit.

Implementation costs

- national symposium/conference/workshop organised by the project researchers;

- costs for Open Access publishing (solely in full gold Open Access journals, registered in the “Directory of Open Access Journals” <https://doaj.org/>);
- costs data management;
- costs involved in applying for licences (e.g. for animal experiments);
- audit costs (only for institutions that are not subject to the education accountants protocol of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science), maximum €5,000 per proposal; for projects with a duration of three years or less, a maximum of €2,500 per proposal applies.

Costs that cannot be applied for are:

- basic facilities within the institution (e.g. laptops, office furniture, etc.);
- maintenance and insurance costs.

If the maximum amount is not sufficient for realising the research, then this amount may be deviated from, if a clear justification is provided in the proposal.

Citizen science

Involving citizens (citizen science) can contribute to the quality of the research. With the help of citizens, data and insights can be acquired that would not otherwise be available for research. NWO also funds citizen science. Applicants can use the budget module “material, project-related goods/services, work by third parties” to request a remuneration for the involvement of citizens in projects. The budget module offers a possibility and is not a requirement. Applicants are free to decide whether it is worthwhile involving citizens in the project and what exactly they use this budget for (for example, reimbursement of expenses of citizens, skills training for citizens or technical devices for the participating citizen).

Explanation of budget module Investments (up to €150,000)

In this budget module, funding can be requested up to a maximum of €150,000 for investments in equipment, datasets and/or software (e.g. lasers, specialised computers or computer programs).

Explanation of budget module Investments (€150,000 to €500,000)

In this budget module, funding can be requested for investments in scientifically innovative equipment and/or data collections of national and international importance. The minimum amount that can be applied for is €150,000.

NWO funds a maximum of 75% of the total investment costs, up to a maximum of €500,000.

The applying institution must contribute at least 25% of the total costs of the investment. This contribution to the investment must be confirmed in writing by the applying institution when the proposal is submitted.

The costs for investments should be adequately specified and motivated in the proposal.

Funding can be requested for:

- costs for investments in scientific equipment;
- costs for investments in datasets;
- personnel costs for the setting up of databases and the initial digitisation of the bibliographical equipment, if these cannot be purchased;
- personnel costs for employees with essential technical expertise that is necessary in order to build or develop an investment.

If funding for personnel costs is applied for, then the need for these personnel costs must be justified. If the applicant does not have this expertise available, then it must be stated that this expertise needs to be procured with these costs. The internal procurement procedures and/or guidelines of the applicant are applicable.

Funding cannot be requested for:

- costs of infrastructure facilities that can be regarded as part of the usual infrastructure;
- data collections and any associated software and bibliographies that are already available in other ways;
- other personnel costs, including personnel costs required to operate and conduct research with the facility;
- costs for maintenance and use of the equipment on a project. The costs for researchers using equipment for a project can be applied for via the material budget

Explanation of budget module Knowledge utilisation

The aim of this budget module is to facilitate the use of the knowledge that emerges from the research.³ The budget applied for may not exceed €25,000.

As knowledge utilisation takes many different forms in different scientific fields, the applicant needs to specify the required costs, e.g. costs of producing a teaching package, conducting a feasibility study into potential applications, or filing a patent application.

The budget applied for should be adequately specified in the proposal.

Explanation of budget module Internationalisation

The budget for internationalisation is intended to encourage international collaboration. The budget applied for may not exceed €25,000. The amount requested must be specified. If the maximum amount is not sufficient for realising the research, then it may be deviated from if an adequate justification is provided in the proposal.

Funding can be requested for:

- travel and accommodation costs in so far as these concern direct research costs emerging from the international collaboration and additional costs for internationalisation that cannot be covered in another manner, for example from the bench fee;
- travel and accommodation costs for foreign guest researchers;
- costs for organising international workshops/symposia/scientific meetings.

Explanation of the budget module Money follows Cooperation (MfC)

The module Money follows Cooperation provides the possibility of realising a part of the project at a publicly funded knowledge institution outside of the Netherlands.

The applicant must convincingly argue how the researcher from the foreign knowledge institution will contribute specific expertise to the research project that is not available in the Netherlands at the level necessary for the project.

This condition does not apply if NWO has concluded a bilateral agreement concerning Money follows Cooperation with the national research council of the country where the foreign knowledge institution is located. At [Money Follows Cooperation | NWO](#) you will find an overview of research councils that signed a bilateral MfC agreement with NWO. Because of the lead agency agreements made (see 3.2.1), the MfC module is not available to researchers working in Germany, Luxembourg and Flanders.

³ In this budget module, the definition for “knowledge transfer” as used by the European Commission in the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (PbEU, 2014, C198) applies.

The budget applied for within this module must be less than 50% of the total budget applied for.

The co-applicant from the participating foreign knowledge institution must meet the conditions set for co-applicants in Section 3.1 of this Call for proposals, with the exception of the condition that the co-applicant must be employed in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The rates for the personnel costs of researchers at the foreign knowledge institution are calculated on the basis of the NWO Country Correction Coefficients (CCC). The table can be found at [Money Follows Cooperation | NWO](#).

The main applicant receives the grant and is responsible for transferring the amount to the foreign knowledge institution and for providing accountability for the MfC part of the grant. The MfC part will be part of the overall financial accountability of the project.

The exchange rate risk lies with the applicants. Therefore, gains or losses due to the exchange rate are not eligible for funding.

The applicant is responsible for:

- the financial accountability for all costs in both euros and the local currency, for which the exchange rate used must be visible;
- a reasonable determination of the size of the exchange rate. If requested by NWO, the applicant must always be able to provide a description of this reasonable determination.

If more than €125,000 is requested within this module, then the final financial statement must be accompanied by an audit report.

NWO will not award any funding to co-applicants that fall under national or international sanction legislation and rules. The EU Sanctions Map ([EU Sanctions Map](#)) is guiding in this respect.

7.3 Procedure Weave proposals with NWO as partner agency

This section describes the conditions and procedure for Weave proposals where NWO acts as partner agency. Researchers from the Netherlands can submit a bilateral research project together with a partner from Germany or Flanders to DFG or FWO, respectively. This foreign research funder will act as lead agency and handle and assess the submitted proposal. NWO is the partner agency in this case. The bilateral application and the foreign researchers must meet the conditions of the funding instrument designated by DFG or FWO. The applicant from the Netherlands and the Dutch part of the requested budget must meet the conditions of this Call for proposals (the Dutch designated funding instrument), as further specified in this section.

The designated Weave funding channels for basic research at the lead agencies can be accessed via the links below:

[Germany via DFG](#) (German Research Foundation)

[Flanders via FWO](#) (Scientific Research Fund)

7.3.1 Available budget

The subsidy ceiling for the NWO-part of Weave proposals where NWO is the partner agency and submitted to DFG or FWO (DFG or FWO is lead agency) is €14,000,000.

7.3.2 Submission deadlines

Applications with DFG as lead agency and NWO as partner agency may be submitted to DFG at any time during the period from 6 August 2024 to 31 July 2025. If a proposal is submitted to DFG, the deadline for submitting the administrative submission (see section 7.3.3) to NWO is five working days after submission to DFG, at 14:00:00 CE(S)T.

The deadline for submitting applications with FWO as lead agency and NWO as partner agency is 1 April 2025, at 17:00:00 CEST. If an application is submitted to FWO, the deadline for submitting the administrative submission (see section 7.3.3) to NWO is five working days after submission to FWO, at 14:00:00 CE(S)T.

7.3.3 Who can submit

The conditions described in section 3.1 apply to Dutch co-applicants to a foreign Weave proposal.

7.3.4 What can be requested

In a Weave proposal, the NWO side may apply for the equivalent of an ENW-M-1 proposal, see section 3.2. This means that a maximum of €400,000 may be applied from which one temporary scientific position (PhD student or postdoc) will be funded in combination with the modules for Materials, Investments (up to €150,000), Knowledge Utilisation and Internationalisation. The module for Investments (€150,000 to €500,000) and the module for Money follows Cooperation are not available in this funding form. The budget modules available for the NWO part of a Weave proposal (including the maximum amounts) are listed in the table below. Apply only for what is essential to carry out the project. A further explanation of the budget modules can be found in the appendix to this Call for proposals (section 7.2).

Budget module	Maximum amount
PhD student*	according to UNL rates or NFU rates
Postdoc	according to UNL rates or NFU rates
Material costs	€ 15,000 per year per fte scientific position
Investments (up to € 150,000)	Maximum €150,000
Knowledge utilisation	€ 25.000
Internationalisation	€ 25.000

*Funding can be applied for a maximum of 3 years in a Weave proposal with DFG as lead agency. Accordingly, it is **not possible to apply for** a Dutch PhD student in a Weave proposal with DFG as lead agency. Funding for a maximum of 4 years can be applied for in a Weave proposal with FWO as lead agency.

Foreign applicants follow the conditions of the own funding agency. The budget claimed at the lead agency does not count towards the maximum of the budget claimed at NWO and vice versa.

7.3.5 Preparing and submitting the (administrative) submission

The lead applicant from Germany or Flanders submits the joint proposal to DFG or FWO according to the terms and conditions of DFG or FWO.

To prepare and submit the application to DFG, please check the following website:

<https://www.dfg.de/en/news/news-topics/announcements-proposals>

To prepare and submit the application to the FWO, the lead applicant follows the steps as described here: <https://www.fwo.be/en/support-programmes/all-calls/senior-researchersresearch-teams/weave-fwo-lead/>

The deadline for submitting the administrative submission to NWO is five working days after submission of the proposal to the lead agency. To prepare the administrative submission to NWO, the Dutch co-applicant goes through the following steps:

- submits the original application as submitted to DFG or FWO, saved as pdf, with the attachments required at NWO in ISAAC;
- enters data requested online in ISAAC;

Compulsory annexes:

- Budget (only for funds requested from NWO) (Excel);
- lead agency submission confirmation;

Optional annex only:

- Declaration of appointment and project supervision

The appendix must be drawn up in accordance with the template provided by NWO. Annexes must be uploaded in ISAAC separately from the application. All attachments, except the budget, should be submitted as a pdf file (without encryption). The NWO budget should be submitted as an Excel file in ISAAC. Any annexes other than those stated above are not permitted.

You must write your application in English

Submitting an administrative submission can only be done through the web application ISAAC. Proposals not submitted through ISAAC will not be considered. Dutch co-applicants are required to submit the administrative submission through their own personal ISAAC account.

7.3.6 Formal requirements for submission

The lead agency assesses whether the proposal meets the formal conditions of the lead agency. NWO tests the administrative submission against the formal conditions below. Only if your administrative submission meets these can it be considered. Please note that NWO may approach you after the submission to make any administrative corrections. You will have one opportunity to make the corrections; you will have five working days to do so.

The conditions are:

- The Dutch co-applicant meets the conditions set out in section 3.1;
- the Weave application has been submitted to one of the selected review boards (DFG)/expert panels (FWO) (see section 7.3.12 or 7.3.13)
- the administrative submission has been submitted via the ISAAC account of the Dutch co-applicant;
- the administrative submission was received before the set deadline;
- the administrative submission has been drafted in English
- the Dutch application budget has been drawn up in accordance with the conditions of this Call for proposals;
- all required NWO attachments have been completed and submitted in full and in accordance with the instructions and conditions of this Call for proposals, after any request for additions or amendments.

7.3.7 Grant conditions

The Dutch part of the Weave application is subject to the subsidy conditions in section 3.5.

7.3.8 Assessment procedure

The lead agency assessment procedure is followed, as set out in the designated Weave funding channels for basic research at the respective lead agencies. NWO has no further role in the assessment.

7.3.9 Decision-making

The foreign lead agency submits the advice of their assessment committee to the NWO domain Science board. The domain Science board reviews the procedure followed and the advice of the assessment committee. Subsequently, the domain Science board decides whether to accept or reject the Dutch part of the proposal.

It follows from the agreed Weave principles that Weave applications submitted abroad must be among the top 20% of proposals to be eligible for funding. The lead agency may consult with NWO on awarding of proposals that finish outside the top 20%. In such cases awarding will depend on the financial space available to NWO and the lead agency. Funding a Weave proposal is only possible if the

foreign lead agency and NWO as partner agency reach the same positive granting decision. If the lead agency rejects the proposal, the domain Science board will also reject the proposal.

7.3.10 Grant obligations

For Weave proposals, in addition to the grant conditions listed in section 7.3.7, the grant obligations as described in section 5.1 apply.

7.3.11 Further information and questions on content eligibility

More information on Weave can be found [here](#). For this Call for proposals, your Weave proposal must fit within the Science domain and be submitted to one of the selected review boards (DFG)/expert panels (FWO). If in doubt about the suitability of the content, you are advised to contact the programme's contact person at NWO, DFG or FWO well before the deadline. This person can advise you on the substantive fit of your application to this call. For contact details of the contact person at NWO, see section 6.1.1.

7.3.12 DFG as lead agency

If DFG is chosen as Lead Agency, the application must be submitted to one of the following [review boards](#):

Life Sciences (selected Review Boards):

- 2.11 Basic Research in Biology and Medicine
- 2.12 Plant Sciences
- 2.13 Zoology
- 2.21 Microbiology, Virology and Immunology
- 2.22 Medicine (**only selected areas**):
 - 2.22-03 Human Genetics
 - 2.22-05 Nutritional Sciences
 - 2.22-06 Pathology
 - 2.22-09 Pharmacology
 - 2.22-17 Endocrinology, Diabetology, Metabolism
 - 2.22-32 Medical Physics, Biomedical Technology
- 2.23 Neurosciences (**only selected areas**):
 - 2.23-01 Developmental Neurobiology
 - 2.23-02 Molecular Biology and Physiology of Neurons and Glial Cells
 - 2.23-03 Experimental and Theoretical Network Neuroscience
 - 2.23-04 Cognitive, Systems and Behavioural Neurobiology
 - 2.23-05 Experimental Models for the Understanding of Nervous System Diseases
 - 2.23-06 Molecular and Cellular Neurology and Neuropathology
 - 2.23-08 Human Cognitive and Systems Neuroscience
 - 2.23-09 Biological Psychiatry
- 2.31 Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine (**only selected areas**):
 - 2.31-01 Soil Sciences
 - 2.31-02 Plant Breeding and Plant Pathology
 - 2.31-03 Plant Cultivation, Plant Nutrition, Agricultural Technology
 - 2.31-04 Ecology of Land Use
 - 2.31-07 Animal Breeding, Animal Nutrition, Animal Husbandry
 - 2.31-08 Veterinary Medical Science

Natural Sciences (all review boards)

- 3.11 Molecular Chemistry
- 3.12 Chemical Solid State and Surface Research
- 3.13 Physical Chemistry
- 3.14 Analytical Chemistry
- 3.15 Biological Chemistry and Food Chemistry
- 3.16 Polymer Research
- 3.17 Theoretical Chemistry
- 3.21 Condensed Matter Physics
- 3.22 Statistical Physics, Nonlinear Dynamics, Complex Systems Soft and Fluid Matter, Biological Physics
- 3.23 Optics, Quantum Optics and Physics of Atoms, Molecules and Plasmas
- 3.24 Particles, Nuclei and Fields
- 3.25 Astrophysics and Astronomy
- 3.31 Mathematics
- 3.41 Atmospheric Science, Oceanography and Climate Research
- 3.42 Geology and Palaeontology
- 3.43 Geophysics and Geodesy
- 3.44 Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry
- 3.45 Geography (**only selected areas**):
 - 3.45-01 Physical Geography
- 3.46 Water Research

Engineering Sciences (selected Review Boards)

- 4.21 Process Engineering and Technical Chemistry (**only selected areas**):
 - 4.21-01 Chemical and Thermal Process Engineering
 - 4.21-02 Technical Chemistry
 - 4.21-03 Mechanical Process Engineering
 - 4.21-04 Biological Process Engineering
- 4.22 Fluid Mechanics, Technical Thermodynamics and Thermal Energy Engineering (**only selected areas**):
 - 4.22-03 Fluid Mechanics
- 4.31 Materials Engineering
- 4.32 Materials Science
- 4.43 Computer Science

7.3.13 FWO as Lead Agency

If FWO is chosen as Lead Agency, the application must be submitted to one of the following expert panels:

Biological Sciences (all expert panels)

- Bio1: Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Bio2: Functional Biology
- Bio3: Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution
- Bio4: Applied Biological Sciences

Medical Sciences (selected expert panels)

- Med1: Pharmaceutical Sciences and Medical Biochemistry
- Med2: Bioinformatics, Genetics and Functional Genomics, Developmental and Stem Cell Biology
- Med3: Immunology and Microbiology
- Med4: Cancer Research

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Med5: Neurology, Neuroscience, ENT medicine, Ophthalmology, Psychiatry

Med6: Respiratory System, Cardiovascular System, Haematology, Nephrology

Med7: Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Metabolism and Nutrition, Reproduction, Urogenital System

Science and Technology (**selected** expert panels)

S&T1: Mathematical Sciences

S&T2: Physics

S&T3: Condensed Matter

S&T4: Chemistry

S&T5: Computer Science & Information Technology

S&T6: Chemical and Materials Engineering

S&T8: Sciences of the Earth and Space

7.4 Glossary International cooperation

Administrative submission: the submission of the bilateral proposal to the partner agency.

Bilateral application: an application involving two research funders.

German (co-)applicant: an applicant who meets DFG's submission requirements. This term therefore does not refer to the applicant's nationality.

ENW-M-1-Weave proposal: a Weave proposal submitted to NWO as lead agency.

Lead agency: the research funder to which a bilateral application is submitted and that is responsible for assessing the application.

Money follow Cooperation (MfC): a budget module available for ENW-M-2 applications, which gives the opportunity to carry out part of the project at a knowledge institution with a public mission outside the Netherlands.

Dutch (co-)applicant: an applicant working at the institutions defined in section 3.1. This term therefore does not refer to the applicant's nationality.

Partner agency: the research funder involved in a bilateral application who is not responsible for assessing the bilateral application.

Flemish (co-)applicant: an applicant who meets FWO's submission requirements. This term therefore does not refer to the applicant's nationality.

Weave: Weave is a bottom-up cross-European initiative set up by European research funders - and embedded in Science Europe - within which 12 European research funders currently fund cross-border research with partner countries, see <https://Weave-research.net/>.

Weave proposal: a bilateral proposal submitted to NWO, FWO or DFG under the Weave principle.

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