



Open Technology Programme 2024

Call for proposals

Applied and Engineering Sciences

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1 Introduction

In this Call for proposals information is provided about the application procedure for the Open Technology Programme 2024 funding round. This Call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

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

1.1 Background

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.

The NWO Domain Applied and Engineering Sciences (NWO Domain AES) is part of NWO and promotes applied and technical-scientific research in close cooperation with public and private users of knowledge in order to contribute to a sustainable and inclusive society. The scientific scope of the NWO Domain AES includes (all disciplines of) the engineering sciences and the application-oriented practice of mathematics, natural sciences, medical sciences and life sciences.

The Open Technology Programme (OTP) falls under the NWO funding line Open Competition. With the OTP, NWO funds curiosity-driven and non-programmed research within the working field of the NWO Domain AES. The research subject is chosen by the applicant and is not subject to thematic constraints. For further information about applying for funding within the OTP, please see the funding page for this Call for proposals on the NWO website.

1.1.1 Changes since the previous Call for proposals

Several changes have been implemented since the OTP 2023 Call for proposals. These are summarised below.

- The maximum NWO contribution has been increased to € 900,000 (see Section 3.2) and the ceiling above which co-funding is mandatory has been increased to € 650,000 (see Section 3.5.6);
- The letter of support has been replaced by a co-funding statement (see Section 3.5.6);
- The procedure in the case of an ex aequo situation has been changed (see Section 4.2.6);
- The criterion 'Impact' (previously 'Knowledge utilisation') has been fine-tuned (see Section 4.3.1).

1.2 Available budget

The total grant ceiling for this Call for proposals is €25,900,000 for applications submitted and considered in the period between 15 January 2024 up to and including 13 December 2024. Applications can be submitted on a continuous basis during this period. This budget is subject to the following allocation rules:

- Applications will be submitted to a jury. Each jury will consider 18 applications in order of receipt, provided they meet the conditions for submission.
- The grant application period for the first jury opens on 15 January 2024. This period will close once 18 applications eligible for the assessment procedure have been received. This cycle will be repeated until the last such period closes on 13 December 2024.

- The expectation is that there will be 7 juries. This number may change depending on the amount of funding to be allocated by each jury. Given the different amounts of funding requested in applications, it is not possible to set a sub-ceiling for each jury.
- If a jury is considering 18 applications, funding will be awarded to the six highest-ranked applications (33%) that have been qualified as at least “very good” (score of 3.4 or below, see also Section 4.2.5). The application must also receive a score of 4.0 or below for each of the separate assessment criteria.
- If procedural delays warrant this, the number of applications considered by each jury may be more than, or fewer than, 18. A procedural delay may arise, for example, when not all of the referees’ assessments accompanying an application have been received by the jury in good time. In this situation, NWO may decide to allow the relevant jury to go ahead with fewer than 18 applications. The application or applications affected by procedural delays will be carried forward to the next jury, which as a result will consider more than 18 applications. NWO can decide to subsequently increase the number of applications considered by this jury, up to a maximum of 21 applications, if the award rate of 33% results in a non-whole number of applications to be awarded funding.
- The grant ceiling of €25,900,000 is a fixed limit for applications submitted between 15 January 2024 and 13 December 2024. If the above grant ceiling of €25,900,000 is expected to be reached before 13 December 2023, no new applications will be accepted for consideration by the current jury. In this case, the jury in question may consider fewer than 18 applications. The budget for the next jury will then be set to 0 by the board.
- If the grant ceiling has not been reached by 15 December 2023 and the final jury has accepted at least 6 applications for consideration, but fewer than 18, the final jury will consider these remaining applications. If there are fewer than 6 applications eligible for consideration by the last jury, then this jury will not proceed and the applications will be equally allocated across the last two standard juries, provided that the planning of the juries makes this possible.

In the above cases, where a jury considers more than or fewer than 18 applications, a 33% award rate may result in a non-whole number. In this case, the number of applications to be awarded funding will be rounded up to the nearest whole number in favor of the applicants.

If, after the ranking of the proposals, it transpires that there is an *ex aequo* situation, this may, in certain cases, entail a departure from the aforementioned funding award rate (see section 4.2.6: *Ex aequo*).

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

The opening of this Call for Proposals is valid from January 15 2024, until December 13 2024, as long as the grant ceiling has not been reached. Applications can be submitted on a continuous basis subject to the conditions for grant applications set out in Section 3, as long as the grant ceiling has not been reached.

If the grant ceiling is expected to be reached before 13 December 2024, the period open at that time will be closed.

2 Aim

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

2.1 Aim of the programme

The Open Technology Programme (OTP) is intended to carry out applied and technical-scientific research and is characterised by the absence of disciplinary boundaries. Research proposals are assessed for scientific quality as well as impact. The term impact is defined as both scientific¹ and societal impact². In this programme, you can opt to achieve a scientific impact, societal impact or a combination of both (see also Section 2.2.1 Tailor-made impact and Section 4.3.1 Substantive assessment criteria). To achieve impact, you are expected to involve relevant users in the intended research (see also Section 5.1.5 User committee). An application should contain a substantial amount of research activities. The OTP is not intended for applications that mainly consist of, for example, investments or activities other than research.

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 (scientific impact, societal impact or a combination of both), 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](#).

¹ Scientific impact is the impact of research on the applicant's own research field, related fields or the broader scientific field.

² Societal impact can be broadly defined as any cultural, economic, industrial, environmental and/or social change that is (partly) the result of the knowledge and skills gained through the proposed research.

2.2.2 Impact Outlook approach for the OTP

Applicants can explain which type of impact will be leading in the research by means of a motivation in the application form. A strategy and phased plan will also be requested that describe how the intended impact will be integrated into the research design and which role the involved users will play in that (see also section 5.1.5 User committee). Besides a choice for a combination of both societal and scientific impact, the applicant can also choose to primarily focus on either societal impact alone, or solely on scientific impact. Nevertheless, NWO expects the applicant to have thought about how opportunities can be used for the type of impact that is not the primary focus. This can mean that the applicant indicates in the proposal that the opportunities with respect to impact will be addressed by other parties, and/or, for example, describes what their own role is in making this possible (see also Section 4.3.1 Substantive assessment criteria).

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

The following applies to both the main applicant and co-applicant(s):

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.

*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 zero-hour employment agreement or with a contract for a limited period of time (other than a tenure track appointment) 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 (applicable to co-applicants):

If an application includes the budget module Money follows Cooperation (MfC), the foreign knowledge institution of the co-applicant must meet the requirements set out in Article 1.1, third paragraph, of the NWO Grant Rules 2017, except for the condition that the co-applicant must be established within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

3.1.1 Main and co-applicants

The main applicant submits the proposal via the NWO web application ISAAC. During the assessment process, NWO will communicate with the main applicant.

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the main applicant will become the project leader and point of contact for NWO. The knowledge institution of the main applicant is the main beneficiary and will become the official secretary.

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

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

3.2 What can be applied for

For an application in this Call for Proposals, a total NWO contribution of up to € 900,000 can be requested. For projects with an investment character (minimum of € 150,000 in investments), the NWO contribution is a maximum of € 1,000,000. If the total project costs exceed € 650,000, a contribution to the project costs (co-funding) by user(s) is required, specifically 25% of the excess of € 650,000 (see also Section 3.5.6. Co-funding).

The Open Technology Programme is intended for applied and technical-scientific research as described in Section 2.1. Funding for clinical trials cannot be requested.

The maximum duration of the proposed project is 6 years. The 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 annex to this Call for proposals (7.1).

Budget module	Maximum amount
PhD student	No limit on number of positions, according to UNL or UNF rates ³
Engineering Doctorate degree (EngD)	No limit on number of positions, in combination with PhD student(s) and or postdoc(s), according to UNL or NFU rates ¹
Postdoc	No limit on number of positions, 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 Maximum deployment of 2 times per project.
Other Scientific personnel (OSS) at universities	€100,000, in combination with PhD student and/or postdoc ¹
Material costs	€30,000 per year per FTE scientific position, excluding any cleanroom costs, to which the cleanroom regulations apply. See also: clean room regulation NWO domain AES .
Investments (up to €150,000)	Up to €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
Knowledge utilisation	Up to €25,000
Internationalisation	Up to €25,000
Money follows Cooperation	Less than 50% of the total budget applied for

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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](#).

3.3 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 annexes:

- Completed budget form as an Excel file;
- Completed and signed form 'Declaration and signature of main applicant' as a PDF file
- If applicable: completed and signed form 'Declaration of co-funding' as confirmation of the co-funding as a PDF file (see Section 3.5.6);
- If applicable: written and signed employer's declaration concerning the tenure track position of the main and/or co-applicant(s) as a PDF file. The university's template may be used for this (see Section 3.1);
- If applicable: on resubmission after a previous application has been rejected: Statement in English as a PDF file, explaining the revisions (see Section 3.5.7).

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 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. The application has a maximum of 13 pages in A4 format (minimum Calibri point 10 or similar font), excluding bibliography and compulsory annexes. Additional documentation is not permitted.

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

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

It is important to start with your application in ISAAC on time:

- If you do not yet have an ISAAC account, then you should create this on time to prevent any possible registration problems;
- Any new organisations must also be added to ISAAC by NWO;
- You also need to submit other details online.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration by NWO.

For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see contact (Chapter 6).

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.

3.4 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 co-applicant(s) 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;
- in the application form, at least four users must be included who will serve on the user committee as described in Section 5.1.5. At least two non-academic parties must be represented on the user committee;
- the application is submitted via the main applicant's ISAAC account;
- 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;
- all of the required annexes are, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled out according to the instructions and conditions presented in this Call for proposals.

3.5 Conditions on granting

The [NWO Grant Rules 2017](#), the Agreement on the Payment of Costs for Scientific Research and the [cleanroom regulation NWO domain AES](#) 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.

3.5.6 Co-funding

Co-funding requirement

If the total project costs exceed € 650,000, a contribution to the project costs (co-funding) by user(s) is required, specifically 25% of the excess of € 650,000.

Definitions:

- Total project costs: necessary financial resources plus in-kind contributions;
- Co-funding: financial (in-cash) and/or in-kind contribution(s);
- Financial contributions are used to cover part of the total project costs and so, together with the contribution from NWO, constitute the necessary financial resources;
- In-kind contributions: capitalised personnel and/or material contributions from users;
- Users are defined as natural or legal persons (at national or international level) who are able to apply the results of the research and can contribute to achieving scientific and/or societal impact (see Section 5.1.5);
- Co-funder: an organisation who contributes co-funding to the project.

The following principles apply to co-funding:

- NWO is the main funder of the projects. Project applications where the co-funding from users exceeds 49% of the total project cost will not be considered;
- NWO assumes that providers of co-funding have a vested interest as users. Co-funders and users always participate in the user committee (see Section 5.1.5);
- The co-funding provided may not be subject to any conditions. The provision of the co-funding does not depend on whether a certain stage in the research plan is achieved (e.g. go/no-go moment).

Invoicing in-cash co-funding

NWO uses the cash co-funding to cover part of the project costs. After the proposal has been awarded funding, NWO will invoice the private or public party that has pledged an in-cash contribution to the main applicant/ project leader. After these funds have been received, NWO will allocate the funding to the project (budget).

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

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

Determining the value of in-kind co-funding:

- The value of personnel used is determined based on hours x rate using the Handleiding Overheidstarieven (HOT) [Manual Dutch Government Rates (HOT)]. Co-funding organisations are expected to choose the rate that best aligns with the actual salary costs from this manual. The HOT rates also apply as a maximum in the event that the actual salary costs are higher. For the determination of the hourly rate, a standard of 1400 productive hours per year is assumed. The rates can be found in Table 2 in Section 2.2, under the column 'Hourly rate productive hours, excl. Dutch VAT' of the most recent edition of HOT on the NWO website (www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables);
- The value for material in-kind contributions is determined on the basis of the cost price of consumables. The value of investments/equipment is determined based on standard depreciation costs bearing in mind the intensity of use and any existing depreciations according to applicable reporting principles;
- For in-kind contributions in the form of services or know-how (knowledge, software, access to databases or cell lines) the economic value must be established and only the actual costs that can be directly attributed to the project may be counted as co-funding. This is always without a profit

- margin. Furthermore, the service or know how must not already be present at or available to the applicant;
- Co-funders should justify the structure and size of the in-kind contributions provided (including hourly rates) in the declaration co-funding. If questions arise, NWO can request substantiation and documented evidence of the rates used and can also request their adjustment.

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

- funding awarded by NWO;⁴
- co-funding may not come from parties that on the basis of this Call for proposals can submit a funding proposal to NWO;
- discounts on commercial rates, e.g. on materials, equipment and services;
- costs related to overheads, supervision, consultancy and/or participation in the user committee (see Section 5.1.5);
- costs of services that are conditional;
- costs that are not reimbursed according to the Call for proposals (e.g. clinical trials, equipment service charges);
- costs of equipment if one of the (main) objectives of the proposal is the improvement or creation of added value for this equipment.

Accounting for in-kind co-funding

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

Declaration co-funding from participating co-funders

In a declaration co-funding, the co-funder declares both substantive and financial support for the project and confirms the co-funding pledged. The co-funder also states in this declaration whether the contribution is a private or public contribution. Declarations co-funding from co-funders involved in the proposal are compulsory annexes to the full proposal. These must be signed by an authorised signatory of the co-funder. NWO will make a standard template available for the declaration co-funding.

In the event that the project is awarded funding, the co-funder should confirm its contribution(s) in the consortium agreement (for example, for invoicing in the case of in-cash contributions). In this agreement, further agreements are also made between the co-funder(s), applicant(s) and NWO (see Section 5.1.3).

3.5.7 Resubmitting research applications

Research applications that were rejected in a previous NWO Domain AES selection procedure cannot be resubmitted until at least six months have passed since the date of the rejection decision.

If an application is resubmitted after that period, the criteria 1) 'Scientific quality' and/or criteria 2) 'Impact' must have been revised. The previous referees' commentary can serve as a guideline for the revision. When submitting the research application, the applicant should attach a statement, in English explaining the revisions. The main applicant's declaration should state that the application is a resubmission.

⁴ Funding awarded by NWO is understood to be funding obtained through a proposal submitted to NWO that is granted funding. In this regard it does not matter from which programme this funding was obtained or who the recipient of the funding is.

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 a jury to be actively aware of implicit associations and to try to minimise these. NWO will provide them with information about concrete ways of improving the assessment of an application.

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 jury 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;
- Jury and decision-making;
- Decision-making.

An external, independent jury will be assigned for this Call for proposals, consisting of representatives from science and practice with knowledge of the field.

The task of the jury is to assess the applications and the relevant documents submitted on each application's own merit, on the basis of the selection criteria given 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.

After submitting the proposal, the main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt.

4.2.2 Admissibility of the proposal

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

Please bear in mind that within two weeks after the submission deadline, NWO may approach you with any possible administrative corrections that need to be made so that your proposal can (still) meet the conditions for submission. You will be given one opportunity to make the corrections, and you will be given four weeks to do this. If the required information is incomplete or is not provided by the deadline, the research application will not be taken into consideration by NWO Domain AES.

If the period of four weeks is insufficient, the main applicant may choose to withdraw the application via ISAAC before the end of this period. If the application is withdrawn in time, the main applicant can submit a new application at any time once the requested revisions to the documents are complete and have been implemented.

Research applications that were submitted in this Call for proposals but were not considered cannot be resubmitted until at least three months have passed since the date of the decision.

4.2.3 Peer review by referees

Prior to the assessment committee considering your proposal, NWO will request input from at least three 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 ten 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 Jury

After this, your proposal, the referees' reports and your rebuttal will be submitted to the jury members. Jury members come from different sectors of society: universities, large knowledge institutions, industry and other societal sectors. The jury members will comment on the proposal in writing and state their reasons. They formulate these comments on the basis of the substantive assessment criteria and they give the proposal a numerical score for each assessment criterion (see Section 4.3.1).

For this, the NWO score table will be used (on a scale of 1 to 9, where “1” is excellent and “9” unsatisfactory). The procedure is done entirely in writing. NWO ranks the proposals based on the scores given. For each jury, funding will be awarded to the highest-ranked proposals that were qualified as at least “very good” (score 3.4 or lower) up to an award rate of 33% of the number of proposals (see also Section 1.2). The proposal must also receive a score of 4.0 or lower for each of the separate assessment criteria.

For more information about the qualifications, see www.nwo.nl/en/apply-funding-how-does-it-work.

Scorebereik	Kwalificatie
1,0-1,4	Excellent
1,5-3,4	Zeer goed
3,5-5,4	Goed
5,5-9,0	Ontoereikend

If, after the ranking of the proposals, it transpires that two or more of the proposals, based on their weighted total score cannot be distinguished from each other, then there is an ex aequo situation (see Section 4.2.6: Ex aequo).

4.2.6 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 in this process is the ranking drawn up by the assessment committee, with the final scores rounded down to two decimal points. The reference score here is the score of the lowest-ranked proposal within the boundary of the available budget or the selection boundaries. All proposals with a score that is within 0.05 or less of the reference score will be considered. In this way, the proposals that are equal within a score of 0.1 will be selected. If an ex aequo situation occurs at the boundary of the available budget or the selection boundary, then the proposal with a higher score pertaining to the criterion 2 ‘Impact’ will end as the highest. If the proposals subsequently still remain tied, then the ex aequo situation will be sent onto the decision-making body. The decision-making body may then choose to award funding to all of the proposals that ended in an ex aequo situation, or to reject all of the proposals that ended in an ex aequo situation. Where appropriate, this may entail a departure from the funding award rates stated in Section 1.2.

4.2.7 Decision-making

Finally, the NWO Domain AES Board will assess the procedure followed as well as the advice from the jury. They will subsequently determine the final qualifications and make a decision over awarding or rejecting the proposals.

4.3 Criteria

4.3.1 Substantive assessment criteria

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

1. Scientific quality (50%)

This includes:

- Originality and scientifically innovative elements;
- Design of the project (clarity, objectives, hypotheses, research methods and scientific feasibility);
- Coherence and planning of the research lines;

- Competence of the research group (position in science, available infrastructure);
- The research capacity that can be deployed for the project (requested personnel positions, budget, and resources);
- The fit within the Open Technology Programme: the proposal is focused on applied and technical-scientific research.

2. Impact (50%)

The applicant has the choice whether to focus in the research proposal on achieving scientific impact, societal impact, or a combination of both.

This includes:

- The motivation for the focus on scientific and/or societal impact;
- A strategy and phased plan for how the proposed research can contribute to scientific and/or societal impact. If you opted to focus on achieving just one form of impact, then please state whether, and if so, to what extent a contribution can be made to the other type of impact;
- The competence and reputation of the research group(s) in terms of knowledge transfer and application of their own research results;
- The composition and level of involvement of the involved users in achieving scientific and/or societal impact.

*Although applicants can choose to focus on societal and/or scientific impact, NWO expects applicants to have thought about how opportunities can be exploited for the form of impact that is not the primary focus. This may mean that the research proposal indicates that the opportunities related to impact will be taken up by others, and describes the applicant's own role in enabling this.

The score for this criterion is independent of the focus chosen; one form of impact is not better or worse than the other.

5 Obligations for grant recipients

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

5.1.1 Inhoudelijke monitoring

Start of the project

The project commences after the necessary signed documents have been received by NWO Domain AES and all relevant award conditions have been fulfilled. The starting date of the project is the date on which the project leader undertook an initial expenditure of allocated funding for the project or the date of the first appointment of personnel to the project.

Accountability during the project

During the project, the main applicant will be responsible for providing semi-annual reports on the project's substantive and financial progress, which will be shared with the user committee. Afterwards, the user committee will convene to discuss the progress of the project (see Section 5.1.5). In exceptional circumstances – to be decided by NWO Domain AES – the user committee may meet less frequently.

Completion of the project

Upon completion of a project, final reports will be requested on both the content and finances of the project. The final amount of funding will be determined after these final reports have been approved (see Article 3.5.2 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017).

5.1.2 Data management

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the researcher should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. For this, applicants can make use of the advice from the referees and committee. The applicant 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](#).

5.1.3 Intellectual property and consortium agreement

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.

NWO's ambition is that research results can be applied by partners involved in the project. NWO aims that all research results from projects it funds are made publicly accessible while at the same time encouraging parties to further develop the research results by giving them the possibility to exploit these. For the exploitation of results, it can be desirable to transfer intellectual property rights or to license the use of these to (one of) the private parties involved in the project. The basic premise is that all research results can be published with due consideration for agreements made about publication procedures.

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the conclusion of a consortium agreement is one of the conditions for starting the project. In this agreement, arrangements are made about intellectual property and publication, knowledge transfer, confidentiality, co-financing payments, progress and final reports and the role and organisation of the user committee. Uploading in ISAAC is required before the project can start.

The responsibility for arranging the consortium agreement lies with the applicant. The (model) agreement, that NWO makes available must be used and can be found on the funding page of this Call for proposals. This model agreement has been drawn up in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017. NWO is not part of the consortium agreement and therefore does not sign the agreement.

Parties can choose to use the standard text from NWO in the model agreement but they may also choose to make their own agreement or to apply existing agreements for the component parts intellectual property and publication procedure. The model agreement provides for this.

5.1.4 Socially responsible licensing

The knowledge that emerges from the project could be suitable for use in society. When agreements about licensing and/or the transfer of research results developed under this Call for proposals are made, due consideration should be given to the ten principles for socially responsible licensing, as stated in the NFU factsheet "[Ten principles for Socially Responsible Licensing](#)".

5.1.5 User committee

After the project has been awarded funding, a user committee will be appointed in accordance with Article 3.3.2.a of the NWO Grant Rules 2017. The committee will follow the execution of the project and advise on its the progress. More information about this committee will be provided in the award letter.

To promote the effective transfer to users of knowledge generated by the research, NWO Domain AES sets up a user committee for each research project in consultation with the project leader, based on the users proposed in the project plan.

Definitions:

- **Users** are defined as natural or legal persons (at national or international level) who are able to apply the results of the research and can contribute to achieving scientific and/or societal impact;
- **Academic users** may include, but are not confined to, (associate/assistant/full) professors and other researchers with a comparable position, who are interested in the intended research and who do not actively participate in the execution of the research;
- **Non-academic parties** include, amongst others, companies, clinics, patient associations, foundations, and civil society or public organisations and government agencies*.

*Government agencies can play various roles in NWO projects, namely: (1) as a research partner (without entitlement to NWO funding), (2) as a performer of a specific assignment (at market rates) or (3) as a user. Government agencies may act as users under the same conditions as private users.

The following principles apply to the user committee:

- A **minimum of four users** must sit on the user committee and should be included in the application;
- **At least two non-academic parties** must be represented on the user committee. These users are not required to contribute financially, but they should participate in the user committee;
- Users may include Dutch as well as foreign citizens and may work at a Dutch or foreign organisation, institute, knowledge institution, university and/or company. Foreign universities and knowledge institutions may provide co-funding as long as they are not applicants via Money follows Cooperation (see Annex 7.1.6);
- It is the explicit intention that potential technology users and end users outside the immediate circle and outside the research field of the researchers submitting the application should be involved in the project from beginning to end. Users should be able to apply the knowledge generated by the research in the medium to long term;
- Knowledge utilization of research results is a standing item on the user committee meetings. This includes collaboration with users, knowledge protection, and knowledge commercialization.

5.1.6 Open Access

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

Scientific articles

Scientific articles must be made available in Open Access form immediately at the time of publication (without embargo) via one of the following routes:

- publication in a fully Open Access journal or platform registered in the DOAJ;
- publication in a subscription journal and the immediate deposition of at least the author accepted manuscript of the article in an Open Access repository registered in Open DOAR;
- publication in a journal for which a transformative Open Access agreement exists between UNL and a publisher. For further information, see [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 Remco Fijneman
Dr Marije Behet
Dr Steef de Valk
Elvin 't Hart

e-mail: ttw-otp@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](#).

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

7 Annexe(s):

7.1 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 salary⁵ 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.

7.1.1 Explanation of budget module Personnel

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.

⁵ 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.

Engeneering Doctorate degree (EngD)

Funding for the appointment of a EngD can only be applied for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for.

The appointment for a EngD position is a maximum of 1.0 FTE for 24 months. The EngD trainee is employed by the institution applying for funding and can realise activities that are part of the research at an industrial partner for a specified time. If the research proposal is awarded funding, then an agreement must be concluded with the industrial partner(s) concerned. The underlying “Technological Designer Programme” must be described in the proposal.

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.

Other Scientific personnel (OSS) at universities

Budget for OSS such as AIOS (doctor training to be a specialist), ANIOS (doctor not training to be a specialist), doctor/researcher, scientific programmers or employees with a master’s degree can only be applied for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for. For this category, a maximum of €100,000 can be applied for.

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.

7.1.2 Explanation of budget module Material

For each FTE scientific position (PhD student, postdoc, EngD) applied for, a maximum of €30,000 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. In addition, a budget can be requested for the use of cleanrooms in accordance with the clean room regulation NWO domain AES.

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 four 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.

Cleanroom costs (€ 10,000 up to € 150,000)

Budget can be requested for the use of cleanrooms in accordance with the cleanroom Regulations. See also: [clean room regulation NWO domain AES](#).

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 for material costs is not sufficient for realising the research, then it may be deviated from if an adequate justification is provided in the proposal. The only exception that can be made is for conducting large-scale experiments requiring the use of specific, costly infrastructure and/or facilities. This includes, for example, the use of wind turbines or wind tunnels (delta technology).

Additional conditions applying to this exception are:

- The use of the infrastructure and/or facilities should not already be funded in advance through NWO grants or other grants.
- The use of the infrastructure and/or facilities should actually be charged to the research group.

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).

7.1.3 Explanation of budget module Investments

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).

Investments (€150,000 to €500,000)

In this budget module, funding can be requested for project-related investments in scientifically innovative equipment and/or data collections of national and international importance. The costs for these project-related investments should be adequately specified and justified in the proposal. The minimum amount that can be applied for is €150,000. The maximum amount that can be applied for is €500,000.

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

7.1.4 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.⁶ 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.

7.1.5 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:

⁶ 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.

- 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.

7.1.6 Explanation of 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.

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.

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Dutch Research Council

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