

COUNTRY: Netherlands
Dutch Research Council (NWO)

NWO has funding available for both the topic “Sustainable Food Production” and “Climate Change: adaptation and resilience”.

The [NWO Grant Rules 2017](#) and the [Agreement on the Payment of Costs for Scientific Research](#) are applicable to all grants awarded by NWO.

Eligibility

Eligible thematic area

NWO has funding available for both the topic “Sustainable Food Production” and “Climate Change: adaptation and resilience”.

Who can apply

For scientists based in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the NWO eligibility criteria apply. Full, associate and assistant professors and other researchers with a comparable appointment can submit an application if: they are employed (i.e. hold a salaried position) at one of the following organisations:

- Universities established in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- University medical centres;
- NWO and KNAW institutes;
- the Netherlands Cancer Institute;
- the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen;
- the DUBBLE Beamline at the ESRF in Grenoble;
- NCB Naturalis;
- Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL);
- Princess Máxima Center.

and also have an appointment period for at least the duration of the application procedure and the entire duration of the research for which the grant is being applied for. The exemption to this is for researchers on a tenure track. Researchers on a tenure track will have to submit a letter of confirmation from their university, in which it is confirmed that the researcher has a tenure track position financed by the university.

Personnel with a zero-hour appointment is excluded from applying.

Funding modalities

A total of €1.4 million is available from NWO for this call. Projects with researchers at the institutions mentioned above can apply for a maximum of €225,000 for 36 months from NWO.

The budget modules (including the maximum amounts) that are available from NWO within this call for proposals are stated in the table below. You should only request that which is essential for realising the research.

Budget module	Maximum amount
PhD	according to VSNU or NFU rates
Professional Doctorate in engineering (PDEng)	positions in combination with PhDs and/or postdoc(s), according to VSNU or NFU rates



Postdoc	according to VSNU or NFU rates
Non-scientific staff at (NSS) universities	€ 100.000, according to VSNU or NFU rates, in combination with PhDs and/or postdoc(s)
Other scientific staff (OSS) at universities	€100.000, in combination with PhDs and/or postdoc(s)
Research leave	5 months, 1 fte, according to VSNU or NFU rates
Personnel universities of applied sciences and other institutions (such as applied research organisations (TO2) and SMEs)	rates based on <i>Handleiding Overheidstarieven 2017</i> (HOT)
Material costs	€ 15,000 per year per scientific position
Knowledge utilisation	Max. 20% of budget requested from NWO
Internationalisation	Max. 20% of budget requested from NWO

Involvement of civilians, so-called ‘citizen science’, might have an added value to the quality of science. They could offer data and insights that would not be available for science in other set-ups. NWO wants to finance citizen science as well and offers the possibility from 2020 onwards to apply for reimbursement of citizen involvement in research projects via the budget module ‘material, project-related goods or services, work by third parties’. This module offers researchers a possibility; this is by no means an obligation. Researchers can decide whether the involvement of citizens is desirable and how the budget is used for this (e.g. reimbursement of expenses for civilians, offering skill training or technical aids for participating citizens).

For the budget modules “PhD”, “PDEng” and “Postdoc”, a one-off individual bench fee of € 5,000 is added on top of the salary costs. This bench fee is intended to encourage the scientific career of the project employee funded by NWO. Remunerations for PhD students/PhD scholarship students at a Dutch university are not eligible for funding from NWO.

When applying for a PhD funded by NWO, a PhD should get a 4-year appointment. Only the first 3 years can be funded through this programme. Financing of the fourth year should be provided by the University. A letter confirming this should be submitted to NWO.

In case of co-financing by a Dutch organisation, a letter of guarantee from the co-financing organisation confirming the amount that will be co-financed must be submitted to NWO. Letters of guarantee are unconditional and do not contain opt-out clauses.

Explanation of budget modules

Funding for the salary costs of personnel who make a substantial contribution to the research can be applied for. Funding of these salary costs depends on the type of appointment and the organisation where the personnel are or will be appointed.

- For university appointments, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the VSNU salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded
- (www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables).
- For university medical centres, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the NFU salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded
- (www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables).

- For personnel from universities of applied sciences and other institutions, the salary costs are funded on the basis of the collective labour agreement salary scale of the employee concerned, based on the *Handleiding Overheidstarieven 2017*.
- 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.
- (<https://www.rijksdienstcn.com/werken-bij-rijksdienst-caribisch-nederland/arbeidsvoorwaarden>)

The rates for all budget modules are incorporated in the budget format that accompanies the application form. For the budget modules “PhD”, “PDEng” and “Postdoc”, a one-off individual bench fee of € 5,000 is added on top of the salary costs. This bench fee is intended to encourage the scientific career of the project employee funded by NWO. Remunerations for PhD students/PhD scholarship students at a Dutch university are not eligible for funding from NWO. The available budget modules are explained below.

PhD (including MD-PhD)

A PhD 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 as long as this is properly justified, the standard time can be deviated from. However, the duration of appointment must always be at least 48 months.

N.B. only 36 months can be funded by this programme. A letter from the host institution confirming funding for the fourth year of the PhD should be submitted to NWO.

Professional Doctorate in Engineering (PDEng)

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

The appointment for a PDEng position is a maximum of 1.0 fte for 24 months. The PDEng trainee is employed by the institution applying for funding and can realise activities within 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” should be described in the funding proposal.

Postdoc

The size of the appointment of a postdoc 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 a postdoc.

Non-scientific staff (NSS) at universities

Funding for the appointment of non-scientific personnel necessary for the realisation of the research project can only be applied for if funding for a PhD 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 non-scientific staff 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 non-scientific personnel.

Other scientific personnel (OSS) at universities

Budget for other scientific personnel such as AIOS (doctor training to be a specialist), ANIOS (doctor not training to be a specialist), scientific programmers or employees with a master's degree can only be applied for if funding for a PhD 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 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.

Research leave for applicants

With this budget module, funding can be requested for the research leave costs of the main and/or co-applicant(s). The employer of the applicant concerned can use this to cover the costs of relinquishing him or her from educational, supervisory, administrative or management tasks (not research tasks). The time that is released through the research leave grant can only be used by the applicant(s) for activities in the context of the project. The proposal must describe which activities in the context of the project the applicant(s) will carry out in the time relinquished.

The maximum amount of research leave that can be applied for is the equivalent of five full-time months. NWO funds the research leave in accordance with the salary tables for a senior scientific employee (scale 11) at the time the grant is awarded (www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables).

Personnel universities of applied sciences and other institutions

For the funding of salary costs of personnel employed at a university of applied sciences or other type of institution (such as TO2 or SMEs), the following maximum rates (hours/day) are used in accordance with the Handleiding Overheidstarieven 2017 (HOT). For the Taskforce for Applied Research (NPRO SIA), the HOT table kostendekkend is used, and for the Netherlands Initiative for Education Research (NRO) and other institutions, it is the HOT table kostenplus.

Explanation of budget module Material

For each fte scientific position (PhD, postdoc, PDEng) 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 accordingly¹.

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 (glassware, chemicals, cryogenic fluids, etc.)
- measurement and calculation time (e.g. access to supercomputer, etc.)

¹ Per 0.2 fte scientific employee at a university of applied sciences (junior, medior and senior level, with a minimum appointment of 0.2 fte for a period of 12 months), a maximum of € 15,000 material budget can be applied for each year of the appointment.

- costs for acquiring or using data collections (e.g. from Statistics Netherlands), 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 post-doc and/or non-scientific personnel for a smaller appointment size than those offered in the personnel budget modules

Travel and accommodation costs for the personal 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 within the research project
- costs for Open Access publishing (solely in full gold Open Access journals, registered in the “Directory of Open Access Journals” <https://doaj.org/>)
- data management costs
- costs involved in applying for licences (e.g. for animal experiments)
- 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, desks, etc.);
- maintenance and insurance costs.

If the maximum amount of € 15,000 per year per full-time scientific position is not sufficient for realising the research, then it may be deviated from if a clear justification is provided in the proposal.

Explanation of budget module Knowledge utilisation

The aim of this budget module is to facilitate the use of the knowledge that emerges from the research². The budget applied for may not exceed 20% of the budget requested from NWO. Because knowledge utilisation takes many different forms in different scientific fields, it is up to the applicant to specify the costs required, 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 20% of the budget requested from NWO. The amount requested must be specified. If the maximum amount is not sufficient for realising the research, then it may be deviated from if a clear justification is provided in the proposal.

Funding can be requested for:

² In this budget module, the definition for “knowledge transfer” used by the European Commission in the Framework for State Aid for research and development and innovation applies (PbEU, 2014, C198).

- 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.

Additional regulations

Dutch researchers in an awarded project will be required to submit an annual report. If awarded, Dutch researchers will furthermore be required to submit the following documents prior to starting:

- A project notification form with information of project staff financed by NWO;
- A data management plan;
- A consortium agreement, signed by all consortium organisations;
- (If applicable) approval of relevant ethics committees;
- (If applicable) receipt by NWO of the first tranche of in-cash co-financing

More information on the requirements for annual and final reporting will be included in the award letter. Projects awarded by NWO will also be invited to participate in workshops organised for Merian Fund projects.

Do not hesitate to contact the national contact person in case of questions.

NWO will not issue any funding to research that falls under national or international sanction legislation and rules. The EU Sanctions Map (www.sanctionsmap.eu) is guiding in this respect.

Under the Dutch General Administrative Law Act, any interested party has the right to lodge an objection to the decision taken by NWO within six weeks of the date of the decision letter. Further information about the objections procedure can be found on the NWO website:

<https://www.nwo.nl/en/funding/funding+process+explained/lodging+an+objection>.

Submission

Letters of guarantee for co-financing, financing of the fourth year of a PhD, and letters confirming the Dutch applicant has an appointment for duration of the application procedure and research or a tenure track position should be submitted before the deadline to sea-eujfs@nwo.nl.

If your project is awarded, the applicant from the Dutch research organisation will have to submit the project in the NWO submission system ISAAC for administrative purposes.

For more information, please contact:

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