



Open Access Books

Call for proposals

Content

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Background	1
1.2	Available budget	1
1.3	Submission deadline(s)	1
2	Aim	2
2.1	Aim of the programme	2
3	Conditions for applicants	3
3.1	Who can apply	3
3.2	What can be applied for	4
3.3	Preparing an application	4
3.4	Conditions for submission	5
3.5	Conditions on granting	5
4	Assessment procedure	7
4.1	The San Francisco Declaration (DORA)	7
4.2	Procedure	7
4.3	Criteria	8
5	Contact and other information	9
5.1	Contact	9
5.2	Other information	9

1 Introduction

In this Call for proposals information is provided about the application procedure for the “Open Access Books” 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 contains the contact details.

1.1 Background

The Dutch government aims for 100% of publicly funded research to be available in Open Access. To date, policy measures and interventions have mainly focused on making journal articles available in Open Access. Open Access for academic books has lagged behind. This can be explained by the fact that the transition to Open Access for books has been slower, both nationally and internationally.

However, for certain disciplines, academic books represent an equally important if not more prominent means of scholarly communication than (only) articles. This is especially true for the humanities and social sciences. More than half of the scientific output from these research areas is published in academic books, such as monographs, edited collections and book chapters.

NWO believes that publicly funded research should be available as freely and openly as possible. [NWO therefore mandates](#) that all publications resulting from NWO-funded research projects must be available in Open Access. This also applies to books resulting from NWO funding.

1.2 Available budget

The available budget for this Call for proposals is €300,000 per year.

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

You can submit your proposal at any moment during the year. There are no deadlines. You can apply as long as budget for this Call for proposals is available.

2 Aim

This chapter describes the aim of the programme.

2.1 Aim of the programme

The aim of this funding instrument is to stimulate the Open Access publication of academic books that result from NWO funding by providing funds for the payment of Book Processing Charges (BPCs).

NWO's policy states that all publications arising from NWO funding be made available in Open Access. This applies not only to (international) journal articles, but also to academic books. The costs for Open Access publication of scholarly articles must be budgeted as part of the grant application. This is not feasible for books because the writing and subsequent publication of books is a lengthy process that usually exceeds the formal duration of the NWO project. This instrument aims to provide a solution to this problem by providing post-project funding for Open Access book publication. The project's end date can be no more than 5 years before the application date in this Call for proposals.

3 Conditions for applicants

This chapter contains the conditions that are applicable to your grant application. Firstly it describes who can apply for funding (Section 3.1) and what you can request funding for (Section 3.2). Subsequently, you will find the conditions for preparing and submitting the application (Sections 3.3 and 3.4) and the specific funding conditions (Section 3.5).

3.1 Who can apply

Applications for the Open Access book publication fund can only be submitted by project leaders or co-applicants of awarded NWO research projects.

Researchers 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 research organisations:

- universities and universities of applied sciences (UAS) as referred to in Article 1.8 paragraph 1 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act and universities listed in the [Policy Rules for Universities located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands](#);
- university medical centres by which is meant academic hospitals as referred to in Article 1.13 paragraph 1 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act;
- 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.

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 research 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.

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 research organisation of the main applicant is the main beneficiary and will become the official secretary.

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

3.2 What can be applied for

Per application, a grant amount of at most €10,000 can be applied for to cover the Book Publishing Charge of a peer-reviewed academic book that is the result of a research project funded by NWO . Following Crossick (2015)¹, NWO defines an academic book or monograph as: a long-form academic work or book on a single research topic, typically written by one or sometimes two authors. This includes (peer-reviewed) edited collections with multiple contributing authors, as well as critical (text)editions.

Ineligible for funding are:

- Article Processing Charges for journal articles: these costs can be included in the grant application of the research project (note: NWO only reimburses APCs for full Open Access journals);
- individual book chapters;
- conference proceedings;
- dissertations;
- textbooks;
- translations.

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:

- A copy of the publishing contract, signed by both author and publisher and with specification of the (Open Access) publication fee
- The table of contents and summary of the book

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 of the annexes 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.

¹ Crossick, G (2015). Monographs and Open Access. A report to HEFCE, https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/id/eprint/21921/1/2014_monographs.pdf

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 research organisations must also be added to ISAAC by NWO;
- you also need to submit other details online.

Applications submitted after the annual budget is depleted will not be taken into consideration by NWO.

For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see contact (Chapter 5).

Applicants are expected to have informed the research organisation where they work about submitting the application and that the research 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 all the conditions set out in this Call for proposals, including 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 meets the conditions stated in Section 3.1;
- the application complies with the DORA guidelines as described in Section 4.1;
- the application is submitted via the main applicant's ISAAC account;
- the application is written in English;
- all required annexes, after a possible request for additions or changes, have been completed and submitted completely and according to the instructions and in accordance with the terms of this Call for proposals.

3.5 Conditions on granting

The [NWO Grant Rules 2024](#) 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 Scientific integrity

In accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2024, 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](#).

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 those involved in the assessment procedure 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;
- assessment of the proposal;
- decision-making.

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.

4.2.2 Admissibility of the proposal

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

Please bear in mind that within two weeks after the submission deadline, NWO may approach you with any possible administrative corrections that need to be made so that your proposal can (still) meet the conditions for submission. You will be given one opportunity to make the corrections, and you will be given five working days to do this.

4.2.3 Assessment of the proposal

Applications within this programme are not in competition with each other, and NWO intends to fund all applications that meet the conditions and criteria set out in Section 4.2 as long as the annual budget is sufficient.

4.2.4 Decision-making

Finally, the NWO Executive Board will determine which applications will be granted and which will not be granted. NWO will inform the applicant of the decision in writing.

4.2.5 Timetable

The aim is to reach a decision within six (6) weeks of submission.

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. The publication concerns an academic book, monograph or collected volume which is demonstrably the result of a research project funded by NWO that ended no longer than five years from the time of submission (to the Open Book Fund application).
2. The publication has been subjected to a full, independent, external peer-review process and the manuscript is unconditionally accepted by the publisher.
3. The publication mentions the support for research by NWO.
4. The publication will be published under a [Creative Commons license](#)
5. The publication will be provided with a Digital Object Identifier (DOI).
6. The publication will be made available Open Access in the [OAPEN library](#).
7. NWO will not contribute more than €10,000 towards the publication fee, including Dutch VAT (if applicable).

5 Contact and other information

5.1 Contact

5.1.1 Specific questions

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

NWO Secretariat Open Access – Publications, open-access@nwo.nl

Mirjam Teunissen, phone +31 (0) 70 349 42 43

5.1.2 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.

5.2 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 for proposals in accordance with the NWO Privacy Statement, [Privacy Statement | NWO](#).

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

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