



KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN

Regulations for the KNAW Early Career Partnerships 2026

Section 1 General

- 1 The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (hereafter: the KNAW) introduced the KNAW Early Career Partnerships programme in 2019 to encourage early-career researchers to enter into or develop interdisciplinary partnerships that will lead to new insights in scientific research.
- 2 An KNAW Early Career Partnership comprises of a financial contribution of a maximum of € 10,000 (ten thousand euros) for organising a meeting at the KNAW Trippenhuis complex, or at another selected location, with participants from various scientific disciplines so as to jointly explore unconventional, innovative ideas or methods for research. All research domains are eligible.
- 3 Up to ten (10) financial contributions are awarded annually.
- 4 Funding for the KNAW Early Career Partnerships comes from the Academy Fund.

Section 2 Applicants

Researchers who are eligible to apply for a financial contribution from the KNAW Early Career Partnerships programme:

- are employed at a university or research institute in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- obtained their PhD between three (3) and seven (7) years previously. This term is subject to the [Academy's extension arrangement](#).

Section 3 Meeting conditions

The meeting for which a financial contribution from the KNAW Early Career Partnerships programme can be applied, must meet the following conditions:

- 1 the meeting must take place in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- 2 it must be a meeting with participants from various scientific disciplines to jointly explore unconventional, innovative ideas or research methods;
- 3 the meeting must have an open character: at least 10% of the participants must be able to register without receiving a personal invitation;
- 4 in addition to early-career researchers, senior researchers must also be invited to the meeting.

Section 4 Submission of Applications

- 1 Applications must be submitted in Dutch or English by e-mail, using the form provided by the KNAW and accompanied by the requested attachments. An application will be considered to have been submitted when the person submitting it receives confirmation of receipt from the KNAW.
- 2 The application form with the requested attachments must be sent to wetenschapsfondsen@knaw.nl before the deadline determined by the KNAW. Applications not submitted before that date will not be considered.
- 3 Members of the Board of the KNAW and members of the KNAW Early Career Partnerships Assessment Committee may not submit/co-submit applications.
- 4 A financial contribution from the KNAW Early Career Partnerships programme may be awarded to the same researcher only once.

Section 5 Tasks, Composition, and Working Methods of the Assessment Committee

- 1 The KNAW Board will appoint an Assessment Committee with the task of assessing applications for a financial contribution from the KNAW Early Career Partnerships programme and making nominations for award to the KNAW Board.
- 2 The Assessment Committee will consist of six (6) members, including the chair. The members will be appointed by the KNAW Board for two (2) rounds of assessment. The chair of the Assessment Committee will be appointed to office and must be a member of the KNAW.



- 3 The Assessment Committee will consist of members of the KNAW and/or at least one member or alumnus of The Young Academy.
- 4 All decisions of the Assessment Committee will be by a majority vote.
- 5 Members of the Assessment Committee must adhere to the KNAW Code of Conduct Governing Conflicts of Interest for Awards, Memberships and Funding.
- 6 The KNAW will appoint a secretary to assist the Assessment Committee.

Section 6 Assessment Criteria

- 1 Assessment of applications for a financial contribution from the KNAW Early Career Partnerships programme by the Assessment Committee will be based on the following criteria:
 - the unconventional, innovative nature of the research ideas or methods to be explored;
 - (the added value of) the interdisciplinary approach;
 - the intended programme for the meeting;
 - the envisaged outcome of the meeting;
 - the way in which the proposed meeting will contribute to the further development of the applicant.
- 2 The Assessment Committee will prepare a report of its assessment, including the grounds for awarding. The assessment report will be sent to the KNAW Board and will constitute the Assessment Committee's nomination.

Section 7: Award

- 1 Based on the nominations by the Assessment Committee, the KNAW Board will decide on the award of up to ten financial contributions per year from the KNAW Early Career Partnerships programme.
- 2 After the KNAW Board has arrived at its decision, the applicants will be notified and the awards will be made public.
- 3 For the award conditions, please refer to the Appendix of these Regulations.

Section 8 Final Provisions

- 1 These Regulations were adopted by the KNAW Board on 15 October 2019 and take effect on 15 October 2019.
- 2 In any cases not provided for in these Regulations, the KNAW Board will decide.



Appendix Award conditions of the KNAW Early Career Partnerships programme

1. A maximum amount of € 10,000 can be awarded from the KNAW Early Career Partnerships programme, either for a meeting at the KNAW Building (Trippenhuis), or for a meeting at another location of choice. This amount includes any applicable VAT.
2. The meeting must take place within one year of the award decision. The KNAW would like to receive the programme two months prior to the meeting.
3. The recipient is responsible for the budget and budget management.
4. In order to implement the awarding of the financial contribution, the Academy processes the personal data of the recipient. The personal data are processed following the [General Data Protection Regulation for KNAW Science Funds](#) of the Academy.
5. Procedure and conditions for KNAW Early Career Partnerships meetings in the Trippenhuis Building or at another location:
6. The maximum awarded amount of € 10,000 can be spent on:
 - room hire, equipment, floor manager;
 - catering (coffee/tea/lunch/drinks/dinner);
 - fee for guest speaker, chair of the day, facilitator, etc.;
 - travel and hotel expenses of speakers and participants, if necessary to attend the meeting (travel expenses based on economy / second-class ticket);
 - communication costs (digital invitation, registration of participants, programme book, etc.)
7. The recipient (= applicant) will receive € 10,000. This amount will be transferred earmarked to an account number of the recipient's institution (to be specified by the recipient or via an invoice from the institution).
8. Within three months of the end of the meeting, the recipient must submit an accountability report by e-mail to wetenschapsfondsen@knaw.nl. The report will consist of a concise substantive report and a financial overview. The recipient will receive a format for this purpose from the KNAW.
9. The Academy assesses whether the accountability is adequate and can ask the recipient to further explain or supplement any ambiguities or missing data.
10. If the recipient does not submit the accountability within the specified term of three months, the Academy will send a reminder in writing. If the recipient remains in default thirty days after this reminder, the award of the financial contribution will be withdrawn by the Academy and any advance payment will be reclaimed.
11. If the expenses for the meeting are less than the amount awarded by the KNAW, the unspent amount (the amount remaining from the award after deduction of all expenses for the meeting) must be refunded to the KNAW.
12. The financial contribution from the program Early Career Partnerships is awarded on the basis of the purpose(s) and budget specified in the application form by the recipient. If after the award funding has been obtained for the same purpose(s) elsewhere, the recipient should report this in writing to the Academy, after which the Academy will assess if and to what extent the other funding will be deducted from the awarded financial contribution.
13. The Academy can request repayment of the awarded financial contribution up to five years after the award date if the Academy has sufficient reasons to believe that the recipient and/or third parties engaged by the recipient has/have violated norms of scientific practice when applying for, performing, and/or reporting on the activity(ies). These norms are set out in codes of conduct, available on [this website](#).
14. If the recipient fails to provide the requested accountability report and/or fails to refund the unspent amount to the KNAW, the KNAW will be entitled to reclaim the full amount of the award from the recipient.
15. The KNAW would greatly appreciate it if all publicity and publications resulting from the meeting will note that the meeting was (partly) funded by the KNAW Early Career Partnerships programme from the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.



16. The KNAW will state on the KNAW website that the recipient has been awarded a financial contribution from the KNAW Early Career Partnerships programme. If the recipient does not agree with the publication of these data (name, research institute and title of the meeting) on the website, the recipient must inform the KNAW accordingly within one week of receiving the award letter.
17. The recipient informs the Academy on time when the recipient goes public with the activity(ies), in order for the Academy to include this in its own reporting.