



KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN

Regulations for the 2026 De la Court Prize

Section 1 General

- 1 The De la Court Prize (referred to hereinafter as ‘the Prize’) was established by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1998 to recognise independent scholarly research in the social sciences or humanities without financial reward.
- 2 The Prize is awarded every two years to an individual scholar.
- 3 The Prize consists of a sum of EUR 7,500 and a silver medal.

Section 2 Conditions Applying to Candidates

Scholars are considered eligible candidates for the Prize if they:

- a. engage in independent scholarly research in the social sciences or humanities without financial reward and outside the established academic institutions;
- b. have demonstrated exceptional scholarly achievement in the five years preceding the year in which the Prize is awarded, or have produced a body of scholarly work over a longer period;
- c. reside in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Section 3 Conditions for Nomination

- 1 The following persons are authorised to submit nominations for the Prize:
 - a. academics or researchers employed at a university or research institute in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
 - b. management boards of institutions in the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the fields of behavioural and social sciences, law, language and literature, history, philosophy and theology;
 - c. management boards of academic publishers, museums and cultural heritage institutions in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
 - d. members of the Academy and The Young Academy.
- 2 Each nominator may nominate no more than one candidate per nomination round.
- 3 Nominations must be submitted in Dutch or English using the nomination portal made available by the Academy (<https://portal.sciencefunds.knaw.nl/>) and accompanied by the requested attachment(s). A nomination is considered submitted as soon as it has been declared admissible by the Academy.
- 4 The nomination form with the requested documents must be submitted to the nomination portal before the deadline set by the Academy. Nominations that have not been submitted before the deadline will not be considered.
- 5 Members of the Academy Board and members of the jury for the Prize may not submit (or co-submit) nominations, nor may they themselves be nominated as a candidate.

Section 4 Tasks, Composition, and Working Methods of the Jury

- 1 The Academy Board will appoint a jury that is tasked with assessing nominations for the Prize and submitting a proposal to the Academy Board for award of the Prize.
- 2 The jury will consist of three members, including the chairperson. The chairperson will be a member of the Academy. The members will be appointed by the Academy Board for a period of two selection rounds, with the possibility of reappointment.
- 3 All decisions of the jury will be taken by a majority of the votes cast.
- 4 Members of the jury must adhere to the Academy's [Code of Conduct Governing Conflicts of Interest for Awards, Memberships, and Funding](#) [*Gedragscode belangenverstrengeling fondsen, prijzen en lidmaatschappen*].
- 5 The Academy will appoint an official secretary to assist the jury.

Section 5 Assessment Criteria



- 1 The jury will assess the candidates nominated for award of the Prize on the basis of the following criteria:
 - a. the candidate has engaged in demonstrably outstanding, independent scholarly research in the social sciences or humanities without financial reward and outside the established academic institutions;
 - b. the candidate has demonstrated exceptional scholarly achievement in the five years preceding the year in which the Prize is awarded, or has produced a body of scholarly work over a longer period;
 - c. the quality of the scholarly work, based on the following assessment criteria: 'originality, innovation, and representing a significant contribution to a field of study';
 - d. the impact of the scholarly work, based on the assessment criteria: 'value to scholarship, scholarly and other dissemination, and relevance to society'.
- 2 The jury will prepare a report of its assessment stating the grounds for selecting the candidate. The assessment report will be submitted to the Academy Board as the jury's nomination.
- 3 Should there be an unsatisfactory number of quality nominations, the jury may propose that the Prize will not be awarded.

Section 6 Award and Presentation

- 1 The Academy Board will select the Prize recipient based on the nomination submitted by the jury.
- 2 The Prize will be presented by the Academy's president or by a deputy designated by the president.

Section 7 Final Provisions

- 1 These Regulations were adopted by the Academy Board on 10 March 2020 and entered into effect on 10 March 2020.
- 2 In any cases not provided for in these Regulations, the Academy Board will decide.