



KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN

Regulations for the 2026 KNAW Early Career Award

Section 1 General

- 1 The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (referred to hereinafter as ‘the Academy’) established the KNAW Early Career Award (referred to hereinafter as ‘the Award’) in 2019 as encouragement for a diverse range of scientists and scholars who have made valuable and innovative contributions to science or scientific practice in the years following the completion of their PhD.
- 2 These contributions may relate to the themes identified in the Recognition & Rewards programme: research, education, impact, patient care (in university medical centres), or leadership.¹
- 3 A maximum of twelve Awards are presented each year, with no more than three in each of the Academy’s four domains, subject to appropriate distribution across disciplines within the domains:
 - Behavioural and Social Sciences and Law;
 - Humanities;
 - Medical, Biomedical and Health Sciences; and
 - Natural Sciences and Engineering.
- 4 The Award consists of a work of art and €15,000, which the awardee may spend at their own discretion to advance their research career.
- 5 The Awards are financed by the Academy Fund [*KNAW Akademi fondsen*].

Section 2 Conditions Applying to Candidates

Early-career scientists and scholars are considered eligible candidates for the Award if they:

- a. obtained their PhD at least three and at most seven years prior to the year in which they are nominated. This term is subject to the [Academy’s Extension Arrangement](#).
- b. do *not* hold a position as Associate Professor, Full Professor, or any other role that can be considered equivalent in terms of responsibility or seniority.
- c. are employed at a university or research institute in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Section 3 Conditions for Nomination

- 1 The following persons are authorised to submit nominations for the Award:
 - a. Academy members;
 - b. Members/alumni of The Young Academy;
 - c. full professors [*hoogleraren*] with an appointment at a university in the Kingdom of the Netherlands; and/or
 - d. directors of research institutes in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- 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.

¹ For more information about the national programme Recognition & Rewards, established in 2019 by Universities of the Netherlands (VSNU), the Netherlands Federation of University Medical Centres (NFU), the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), the Dutch Research Council (NWO), the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw), see the position paper [Room for everyone’s talent](#) [*Ruimte voor ieders talent*].



- 5 Members of the Academy Board and members of the juries for the Award may not submit (or co-submit) nominations.

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

- 1 Each Academy Domain board will appoint a jury that is tasked with assessing nominations for the Award in the relevant domain and, based on its assessment, submitting a proposal to the Academy Board for the award of the Award.
- 2 The jury will consist of three members, including the chairperson. The chairperson will be a member of the Academy. In addition, a jury will consist of one member of the Academy and one member/alumnus of The Young Academy. The members will be appointed by the Domain board for a period of two selection rounds.
- 3 All decisions of the jury will be taken by a majority of the votes cast.
- 4 Members of the juries must adhere to the Academy's [Code of Conduct Governing Conflicts of Interest for Awards, Memberships, and Funding](#) [*Gedragcode belangenverstrengeling fondsen, prijzen en lidmaatschappen*].
- 5 The Academy will appoint official secretaries to assist the juries.

Section 5 Assessment criteria

- 1 The jury will assess the candidates nominated for the Award on the basis of the following criteria:
 - a. Outstanding achievements: the value and innovative nature of the activities the candidate has undertaken after obtaining their PhD. Activities may relate to the themes identified in the Recognition & Rewards programme: research, education, impact, patient care (in university medical centres), or leadership.
 - b. Independence: the degree to which the scientist or scholar has conceived, initiated and carried out the activities on their own.
 - c. Added value for the scientist or scholar: the contribution of the KNAW Early Career Award to the candidate's academic career.
- 2 The jury will prepare a report of its assessment, including the grounds for selecting the candidate/candidates. 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 Award will not be awarded.

Section 6 Award and Presentation

- 1 The Academy Board will select the Award recipients based on the nominations submitted by the four juries.
- 2 The Award will be presented by the President of the Academy or by a deputy designated by the President.
- 3 The Award will be presented to the recipients at an event organised by the Academy.
- 4 Within twelve months of receiving the Award, each of the recipients will send the relevant Academy domain board a brief description of how they spent the award money to advance their research career.

Section 7 Final provisions

- 1 These Regulations were adopted by the Academy Board on 15 April 2025 and entered into effect on 17 April 2025.
- 2 In all cases not provided for by these Regulations, the Academy Board will decide.