



K O N I N K L I J K E N E D E R L A N D S E
A K A D E M I E V A N W E T E N S C H A P P E N

Regulations De Boer-van Staveren Fund (2026)

Section 1 General

- 1 The De Boer-van Staveren Fund (referred to hereinafter as ‘the Fund’) was set up in 2023 by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW, ‘the Academy’) with the aim to support innovative basic research on autoimmune diseases by researchers at an early stage of their scientific career, who are enabled by the contribution from the fund to set up or develop independent research. The Fund forms part of the Academy’s Medical Sciences Fund.
- 2 The assets of the Fund comprise the estate of Dr. Wilhelmus P.H. de Boer.
- 3 A financial contribution is awarded once a year to three scientific researchers.
- 4 The financial contribution amounts to a maximum of € 50.000.

Section 2 Conditions applying to Applicants

Applications can be submitted by researchers:

- a. who conduct basic research in the medical/biomedical sciences or related disciplines;
- b. who obtained their PhD no more than four years previous to the calendar year in which they are applying (this term is subject to the [KNAW’s extension arrangement](#)) or are in the final phase of their PhD program and can start the intended research within three months of being awarded the contribution;
- c. who will independently set up an innovative research line with the proposed project;
- d. and who are affiliated with a university or research institute in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Section 3 Conditions for Projects

Applicants can request a financial contribution for research projects:

- a. that involve innovative basic scientific research on autoimmune diseases;
- b. that involve a budget of up to a maximum of € 50,000 (excluding university or research institute overheads);
- c. that will commence within three months of the award of the contribution and be completed within two years of the award.

Section 4 Conditions for Funding

- 1 A financial contribution from the Fund can only be used for activities that cannot be funded by the university or research institute with which the applicant is affiliated. Use of Academy funding must not lead to a shift in the use of existing funds for a project.
- 2 The financial contribution from the Fund is intended solely for the applicant.
- 3 The financial contribution from the Fund can only be awarded once to a particular researcher.

Section 5 Conditions for Submission



- 1 Applications must be submitted in Dutch or English using the application portal made available by the Academy (<https://portal.sciencefunds.knaw.nl/>) and accompanied by the requested attachment(s). An application is considered submitted as soon as it has been declared admissible by the Academy.
- 2 The application form with the requested attachment(s) must be submitted before the deadline set by the Academy. Applications that have not been submitted by that date will not be considered.
- 3 Members of the Academy Board and members of the Fund's Assessment Committee may not submit/co-submit applications.

Section 6 Tasks, Composition, and Working Methods of the Assessment Committee

- 1 The Academy Board will appoint an Assessment Committee for the Fund, whose task will be to assess applications for a financial contribution and to decide on its awarding on behalf of the Board.
- 2 The Assessment Committee 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 three selection rounds, with the possibility of reappointment.
- 3 All decisions of the Assessment Committee will be by a majority vote.
- 4 Members of the Assessment Committee 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 an official secretary to assist the Assessment Committee.

Article 7 Assessment Criteria

- 1 Assessment of applications for a financial contribution by the Assessment Committee will take place on the basis of the following assessment criteria:
 - a. the quality and innovative nature of the research proposal;
 - b. a clear budget and timeline (showing the achievability of the research project with the available resources and in the time available for it);
 - c. the scientific merits of the applicant, as evidenced by their CV.
- 2 When selecting applications, the Assessment Committee is authorized, in cases of equal suitability or quality, to take into account factors that promote diversity and equal opportunity among the financial contributions awarded, such as fields of study, universities/institutes, and researchers with different backgrounds, talents, and experiences.

Section 8 Grant

- 1 Applicants will be notified of the Assessment Committee's decision within three months from the application deadline.
- 2 In the event of a financial contribution being awarded, the terms and conditions in the appendix to these Regulations will apply.

Artikel 9 Final Provisions

- 1 These Regulations were adopted by the Academy Board on 24 January 2023 and take effect on 1 February 2023.
- 2 In any cases not provided for in these Regulations, the Academy Board will decide.



Appendix.

Conditions for Financing via the De Boer-van Staveren Fund (2026)

- 1 The research project must be carried out during the period specified in the award letter.
- 2 If the recipient (i.e. the applicant) wishes to deviate from the approved budget or spending period for which funding has been awarded, the recipient must submit a change request to the Academy.
- 3 A maximum of one change request can be submitted.
- 4 The Academy may approve or reject the change request. If the change request is rejected, the KNAW will decide what the consequences will be for the award of the funding. This includes the possibility of the funding being withdrawn.
- 5 The recipient is responsible for the budget and for budget control.
- 6 In order to implement the award of funding, the Academy processes the personal data of the recipient (i.e. the applicant). This personal data is processed in accordance with the Academy's [General Data Protection Regulations for Academy Science Funds](#) [*Algemene Verordening Gegevensbescherming Academy Wetenschapsfondsen*].
- 7 The recipient (or the recipient's university/research institute) may submit an invoice to the Academy for payment of an advance of 100% in the case of an award of up to €15,000 or 80% for an award exceeding €15,000.
- 8 The funding (earmarked) will be transferred to the recipient's university/research institute.
- 9 Within three months of the end of the activity/activities (the date/duration stated in the application form), the recipient must e-mail a report to the Academy accounting for the activity. The report must consist of a brief account of the activity/activities that has/have been carried out and an overview of expenses in accordance with the accountability form available on [this webpage](#).
- 10 The Academy will determine whether the accountability report is satisfactory and may request the recipient to clarify any ambiguities or missing information or provide additional information.
- 11 The Academy will determine the final amount of the funding based on the accountability report. If the final amount is less than the advance that may have been paid, the recipient must repay the difference to the Academy. If the final amount exceeds the advance that may have been paid, the recipient's university/research institute must submit an invoice to the Academy for payment of the remainder.
- 12 If the recipient fails to submit the accountability report within the specified period of three months, the Academy will send a written reminder. If the recipient has still failed to submit the report thirty days after said reminder, the Academy will withdraw the award of funding and reclaim any advance payment.
- 13 Funding from the De Boer-van Staveren Fund is awarded on the basis of the purpose(s) and budget specified by the recipient in the application. The recipient must notify the Academy, in writing, if funding has been obtained elsewhere for the same purpose after the award of a grant from the Fund. The Academy will then assess whether and to what extent that funding will be deducted from the amount awarded.
- 14 If the Academy has sufficient reason to believe that the recipient and/or third parties engaged by the recipient has/have violated standards of scientific integrity when applying for, performing and/or reporting on the activity/activities, it may require repayment of the financing. This right to repayment will remain valid for up to five



years after the funding was awarded. The relevant standards are laid down in codes of conduct that are available on [this website](#).

- 15 The Academy will appreciate it if the following is stated in publicity and publications related to the activity: "This project/publication was made possible (in part) by the De Boer-van Staveren Fund, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts & Sciences."
- 16 The Academy will state on its website that the recipient has been awarded funding from the Fund. If the recipient does not agree to publication of these details (name, research institute, and title, and perhaps a brief summary of the activity/activities), the recipient must inform the Academy accordingly, in writing, within ten (10) days of the date of the award letter.
- 17 The recipient should notify the Academy in good time when they publicise the activity/activities, so that the Academy can also include this in its own communications.