When applying for an Open modules research project, please note the following: applications for an Open modules research project consist of one application for the entire research project, including the individual part-projects. An Open modules research project must include at least two part-projects.

Applications can only be electronically submitted through ISAAC. Applications that are submitted in any other way, will not be taken into consideration. Please use the ISAAC account of the main applicant to submit the proposal. Note that a PDF format is required for the application form, the budget form is submitted as an excel document. For technical questions (using ISAAC, submitting proposals, conversion of Word documents to PDF-files), please contact the ISAAC help desk. The ISAAC help desk can be reached on working days between 10.00 hours and 17.00 hours under number +31 (0)70 344 06 00. This number can only be dialled within The Netherlands. You may also contact the helpdesk by e-mail: isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl.

When submitting your application in ISAAC additional information is required. We strongly advise you to start at least one day before the application deadline. Applications that are submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. We advise applicants to submit their application as soon as possible, due to possible congestion on the server or possible technical problems.

General remarks

Deadline for submitting your letter of intent is **October 31st 2023, 14:00 Hrs CET.**
Deadline for submitting your full proposal is **December 5th 2023, 14:00 Hrs. CET.**

The criteria against which your application will be assessed, are described in the explanatory notes to the questions 8 and 9. We advise you to take these criteria into account when completing the form.

When completing the form, please note the following:
- The form must be legible
- The application must be written in English
- All questions must be answered
- The format of the form is obligatory (tables may be extended, text may be inserted)
- Do not use a separate page for each question and please use the headings mentioned in the form (see also the explanations below)
- The forms must contain all information relevant to assessing your application
- Your application will be assessed on the basis of provided information only
- Attachments will not be taken into consideration and will be ignored.

The answers to questions 7 and 8 (combined) may not exceed the total of 2,000 words for the research project and 1,000 words for each part-project. Note that text in tables, figures, graphs etc. also counts in the maximum number of words. Applications that exceed this total will not be taken into consideration. We kindly request you to mention the total number of words used at the end of question 8. The references (question 9) do not contribute to the word count, but may not exceed 2 pages A4-format, using a normal size font.

Explanatory notes to the individual questions on the form:
1. Title of the Open modules research project
Please provide a concise yet specific title of the entire research project in English and in Dutch. Please mention the titles of all part-projects as well.

2. Type(s) of Education
Please indicate the educational setting of your research.

3. Knowledge Agenda for Education
Please indicate the research theme(s) under which you are applying. These research themes are listed and described in chapter 2 of the Call for proposals. Applications can only be submitted under one or more of the listed research themes, but only one main theme may be selected.

4. Duration of the entire Open modules research project
Please indicate the (intended) starting date and final date of the research project as well. The maximum period of funding is 48 months.

5 and 6. Concise public and scientific summaries of the research project
The summary, a maximum of 100 words for the public summaries (add word count) and 250 words for the scientific summaries. The public summaries should describe the main research objectives, methodology, expected results and potential relevance of the proposed research project in English and in Dutch. In case you are eventually awarded a grant, the summaries will be used in publicity surrounding the announcement of the grant award decisions.

The five keywords will be used to search for suitable international referees to write a referee report on your proposal.

7 and 8. Research proposal
The questions 7 and 8 about the proposed research and the work plan and dissemination plan constitute the core of the application. Please provide a clear description of the project in which objectives and relevance of the project for the assessment criteria are specified in a concise way. To answer the questions, a maximum applies of 2,000 words for the research project and 1,000 words for each part-project. Words in the table are not included in the word count.

Please use the following format of this form:

7.1 Scientific quality

7.1.1 Please provide information about the problem definition. Your description provides an answer to the following questions:
- Is there a central problem definition? How is this problem definition elaborated?
- Have the problems addressed in the proposal been clearly described and demarcated?
- Is there a clear coherence between the central problem definition and the underlying partprojects and between the part-projects themselves?
- Are the indication of and alignment with existing knowledge and theories, including domain-specific aspects, adequate?
- Has the problem definition been logically worked out in a model, suppositions, etc.?
7.1.2 Please provide information and motivation about the research design and the methodology. Your description provides an answer to the following questions:
- Are the proposed methods and techniques efficient and appropriate for answering the research questions?
- Is the chosen design methodically-technically consistent and is it sufficiently motivated?
- Is there a solid description of the proposed manner of data collection and data-analysis?
- What is the quality and level of innovation of the intended instrumentarium? Is it reliable and valid?
- Are the sources and data mentioned accessible and available, and are they suitable for answering the questions posed in the problem definition?
- Is the estimation for the requested staff and material resources reasonable for the proposed research and sufficiently substantiated?
- What is the quality and feasibility of the proposed data collection design?

7.1.3 Please provide information about the multidisciplinary character (if applicable), the feasibility and the organisation of the research project. Your description provides an answer to the following questions:
- Does the problem definition demand a multidisciplinary design? And if so, why?
- Is the organisation of the research project described clearly?
- Is there a well thought-out working and publication plan?

7.2 Scientific significance
The next questions concern the scientific significance of the proposal.

7.2.1 Please describe the scientific importance of the proposal. Your description provides an answer to the following questions:
- To what degree and in which way is the research project theoretically and/or methodically and/or descriptively important?
- Does the research solve a scientific problem or does it contain scientific aspects in the sense that it formulates a scientific problem in a new way and therefore brings the solution closer?

7.2.2 Please indicate in what respect your proposal is original and innovative. Your description provides an answer to the following questions:
- Can the choice and elaboration of the problem definition and/or the theoretical elaboration and/or methodology be qualified as original and innovative?
- Are existing insights from the personal or other disciplines applied originally or are existing methods applied differently?
- Does the research project contribute to methodological innovation in terms of the design used, the relationship between research and innovation and practice, and the use of new technology as research tool?

7.2.3 Please describe the scientific added value. Your description provides an answer to the following questions:
- Does the research project offer scientific added value for the programme as a whole with respect to the underlying part-projects, and if so, what is the nature of that added value?
- Does the research project offer interesting scientific perspectives?

7.2.4 Please describe the expected scientific and non-scientific output:
- Please indicate in what form the scientific output of the proposed research will be published: dissertation, scientific book(s), refereed or non-refereed article(s) in scientific journals, external report(s) or published conference presentation(s).
7.3 Quality of the applicants

7.3.1 Please describe the scientific quality of the applicants:
- What is the quality of the past performance, track record and publication record of the applicants? 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 conform the DORA Declaration.

7.3.2 Please describe the methodological expertise of the applicants:
- Does the research team have demonstrable expertise in and experience with the collection and analysis of large-scale cohort data?
- Does the research team have demonstrable expertise in and experience with developing instruments and determining standards?
- Do the applicants have demonstrable knowledge of the educational field in the Netherlands and do they have a network in this field?
- Do the applicants have knowledge about implementation issues regarding (digital) data collections and demonstrable experience with (successful) (digital) testing?
- Will the proposed research be embedded in a sufficient research infrastructure?

7.4 Significance for National Education Cohort study (NCO)
The following questions concern the proposal’s significance for the National Cohort Study (NCO)

7.4.1 What is the added value of the link with NCO data for the proposed research?
7.4.2 What is the added value of the gathered data for the NCO database?

7.5 Programme-related significance
The following questions concern the programme-related significance of the proposal.

7.5.1 Please indicate the programme-related significance of the proposal. Your description provides an answer to the following questions:
- Does the proposed research project fit within one or more of the selected themes of the knowledge agenda for education?
- What is the relevance of the proposed research project for the issues highlighted in Knowledge Agenda for Education?

7.5.2 Please describe the relevance of the research for policy and practice. Your description provides an answer to the following questions:
- Does the research add to one or more socially relevant questions?
- What could the expected results mean for policy and practice?

7.5.3 Please describe the communication and dissemination:
- Are enough activities proposed to inform stakeholders and other interested people before, during and after the project?
- What are the activities benefitting the dissemination of the results?

8. Knowledge utilisation and results

8.1 Plan for knowledge utilisation
Please specify and phase the proposed activities for the entire duration of the interlinked research project. This question gains insight into the feasibility. Your description provides an answer to the following question:

- Is the work plan well thought-out? Does it have a logical set-up? Is it phased and provided with interim points of measurement?

8.2 Intended output and dissemination
Dissemination is understood to be: activities during the project and towards the end of the project, geared to make the results and conclusions of the research as accessible as possible to all relevant target groups.

- Please provide information on the target group, the possibilities, nature and use of the expected results, when you expect the results to be available and describe how you will disseminate the outcomes of your research. Please specify in detail your dissemination activities, including publications that will be produced during the duration of the research.

At the end of question 8 please mention the total number of words used to answer questions 7 and 8. Word count excludes words in the table 8.

9. Literature references
Please give an overview of references. The references do not contribute to the word count, but do not exceed 2 pages size A4, using a normal size font.

10. Past performance and quality of the applicants
Past performance provides information on the quality and experience of the main applicant and co-applicants as researchers.

10.1 Please list a maximum of five publications by the main applicant.

10.2 Please list a maximum of five publications by each co-applicant.

10.3 Curriculum vitae
Give a short CV for main applicant and each co-applicant. Each CV has a maximum of 150 words.

11. Track record main applicant and co-applicant(s)
Please provide information on the relevant funded research projects.

12. Motivation of the requested financial support
Please fill in the attached budget format (excel file) and include the requested items and an explanation of the amounts plus a substantiation of the amounts. Please answer the questions and include the (substantive) justification for the requested posts. Use a maximum of 500 words.

13. Non referees
NRO asks international researchers to review your proposal. If there are any researchers (max. of three) you do not wish to be consulted as referees, please indicate their names.

14. Data management
For the collection/generation of data and the analysis of this data timely measures need to be taken to ensure the storage and later reuse of the data. For the completion of the section please contact the university library/intended repository/ICT Department of your institute or university. They can help you with the completion of the data section. The data management section focuses on FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) data during and after the research (archiving). In this section, NWO understands `data’ to be both collected, unprocessed data as well as analysed, generated data. Under this all forms are conceivable; digital and non-digital (for example samples, completed questionnaires, sound recordings, etc.). NWO only requests
storage of reusable relevant data. NWO assumes, in principle, that within different disciplines there is a widely held view about which data are relevant to store for reuse.

The RDNL checklist provides a guide for the selection of data that can be eligible for archiving. The importance and the value of reuse on the one hand and the costs and feasibility of data storage on the other should be in reasonable balance with each other and have a bearing on the volume of the data to be stored.

The data should preferably be archived at a national or international data repository. If that is not possible, the data should be archived by the institutional repository. Confidential, privacy-sensitive or competition-sensitive data might require special forms of storage or limited access. Solely storing the data on computers or external media (e.g. USB flash drive, CD, DVD or hard disks) is in general too risky and will therefore, in principle, not be approved by NWO. An overview of existing repositories with Data Seal of Approval can be found on this list of repositories.


15 and 16. Applicants
Applicants are required to only fill in their initials, surname, titles of the applicants, including the full address for correspondence and the telephone number under which you can be usually reached, and the name of your university and/or research school. Because of NWO's inclusive assessment initiative the applicants are required to only fill in their initials, not their first name in this form.

The main applicant is a researcher who has obtained a doctorate and has an appointment at a Dutch (para-)university institution for at least the duration of the project. Those who meet the above mentioned requirements can act as co-applicant. In addition to the same conditions that apply to main applicants, co-applicants who are appointed as professors at universities of applied sciences in the field of education research can act as co-applicant.

Applicants cannot submit an application for themselves (except for a replacement grant). The envisaged researchers cannot act as applicants.