

Wageningen Graduate Schools (WGS) Postdoc Talent Programme - Call for proposals 2024

The Postdoc Talent Programme offers talented researchers from abroad the opportunity to start a career at Wageningen University & Research. Applications should demonstrate the added value of the grant for the applicant's career and the value of the applicant's expertise for the hosting research group.

What can be applied for?

Talented eligible researchers can apply for a two-year position within one of the Wageningen University research groups. The position may result in an application for personal funding. The budget consists of € 86,000 per year to be spent on salary costs for two years full-time employment for the applicant of which € 76,000 is covered by the awarded grant and € 10,000 per year must be covered by the research group involved. In addition, the grant will cover overhead on top of the awarded budget.

Applications should include a recommendation letter from the chair holder at Wageningen University. This letter should explain:

- i. the quality of the candidate weighed against peers within the research field (and what is considered excellent in this research field);
- ii. the opportunities to continue a career in the group with a permanent position or extended funding;
- iii. how the applicant's expertise will be of value to the research group and how the applicant will benefit from the project.
- iv. The letter must also show the commitment of the group to co-fund the project.

Wageningen Graduate Schools will select the best 4 applications on the basis of the selection criteria. Because of the limited number of fellowships available, there is a maximum of one application per chair group/chair holder. Applicants should start their projects within 6 months after awarding. For this year's call this is June 2025. Should the candidate not be available from June 2025 onwards, the applicants should wait for the 2025 call. The deadline for the 2025 WGS Postdoc Talent Programme call will be in October 2025.

Submitting your application

Submit your application (application form + chair holder's recommendation letter) electronically to Ingrid.Vleghels@wur.nl with a copy to the host chair holder and the Executive Secretary of the chair holder's graduate school. *The subject of the e-mail should read 'Wageningen Postdoc Talent Programme 2024 - 'name applicant'.*

Requirements

The applicant is a postgraduate who:

- Has a PhD degree from a Dutch university, followed by a minimum of two years of international - not in the Netherlands - postdoc experience.
- Or has a PhD degree from a non-Dutch university, the PhD degree must be awarded before the deadline of the call;
- The postgraduate currently works outside the Netherlands;
- Has a competitive CV suitable for applying for prestigious personal grants;
- Will comply with the law and legal requirements with respect to the proposed activities, such as 'Code Openness Animal Experiments', and/or 'Code of conduct on Biosecurity' (if applicable)

NB! Applicants can participate in this call no more than two times.

Please contact Ingrid Vleghels (ingrid.vleghels@wur.nl) to check eligibility before writing the proposal.

Procedure

The applications will not be sent out for review by external experts but evaluated by members of the Wageningen Postdoc Talent programme committee. Applicants should take care that the description of the research aims are understandable and enthusing also for non-expert committee members.

Selection criteria:

1. Quality of the applicant
2. Quality and (scientific and societal) impact of the proposal
3. Added value of applicant's expertise to chair group/WUR and career possibilities within the chair group

Criteria will be weighed equally.

Timeline

Deadline for application:	October 3, 2024
Confirmation of receipt:	October 2024
Result interview selection:	Half November 2024
Online interviews:	End November 2024
Awarding grants:	December 2024

Projects can start immediately after the funding decision is communicated but should start in June 2025 at the latest.