

Translation legal policy framework Orange Knowledge Programme

This document is a translation of the policy framework of the Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP). In case of any inconsistencies of differences in interpretation between the translation and the official Dutch document, the Dutch document will prevail.

Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of 8 March 2018, No. MINBUZA–2018.385214, establishing a grant ceiling and policy rules for the awarding of grants under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Scheme 2006 (Orange Knowledge Programme 2018–2022)

The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation,

In light of Articles 6, 7 and 10 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree; and

In light of Articles 6.4 and 6.5 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Scheme 2006;

Hereby decrees:

Article 1

1. For the awarding of grants under Articles 6.4 and 6.5 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Scheme 2006 in the context of the Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP) 2018–2022, the policy rules appended to this order apply from the effective date of this order until 31 July 2022.
2. Grants will be awarded through various calls for applications, for which additional policy rules may be notified via www.nuffic.nl and published in the Government Gazette.

Article 2

1. For the awarding of grants under the OKP 2018–2022, there will be a grant limit of €53,750,000 for the period from the effective date of this order until 31 December 2018. The amount of money available for the awarding of grants for the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 will be announced in the Government Gazette by means of a subsequent order.
2. The amount available for 2018 will be distributed among the various types of grants as follows:
 - a) grants for activities aimed at providing scholarships for:
 - short courses: €8,550,000, of which €3,350,000 will be available for the initial call for applications, €1,300,000 for a second call and €3,900,000 for a third call;

- Master's programmes: €16,000,000, of which €14,500,000 will be available for the initial call for applications and €1,500,000 for a second call;
 - b) grants for activities aimed at providing the following types of training courses:
 - 1) refresher courses: €1,500,000;
 - 2) tailor-made training courses: €5,250,000, of which €2,250,000 will be available for the initial call for applications and €3,000,000 for a second call;
 - 3) tailor-made plus training courses: €2,400,000;
 - c) grants for activities aimed at organising institutional collaboration projects: €20,000,000;
 - d) grants for alumni activities: €50,000.
- 3. If any money is left unspent from the funds made available for any of the types of grants referred to in the second paragraph, that money will be made available on a pro rata basis for applications in respect of the other types of activities, insofar as these applications comply with the standards set out in this order. If any money is left unspent from the funds made available for any of the calls for applications referred to in the second paragraph, that money will be made available for applications submitted in response to the next call in the same calendar year.
- 4. The grant will be awarded on the condition that sufficient money is made available for the portion of the grant to be charged to a budget that is yet to be established.

Article 3

1. Applications for grants under the OKP 2018–2022 will be submitted in response to calls for grant applications, notice of which will be posted on www.nuffic.nl.
2. Applications under the OKP 2018–2022 will be submitted using an application form established by the Minister for that purpose and accompanied by the documents specified in the application form¹.

Article 4

1. The money available for grants as referred to in Article 2(2)(a), (b) and (c) will be allocated on the basis of an assessment in accordance with the standards set out in the Annex to this order, it being understood that, of the applications that meet the standards, the applications that meet the standards best will be eligible for a grant first, within the parameters of a balanced distribution as referred to in Article 8(3)(d) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree.
2. Grant applications as referred to in Article 2(2)(d) will be processed in the order in which they are received.

Article 5

This order will take effect on the day after the date of issue of the Government Gazette in which it is published, and will expire on 1 August 2022, with the proviso that it will remain applicable to any grants awarded before that date.

This order and its annex will be published in the Government Gazette.

*The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation,
on whose behalf,
the Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation,*

R.M. Buijs

The application form will be placed on www.nuffic.nl.

ANNEX

Section 1

1.1 OKP 2018–2022 Policy Rules

This grant policy framework provides the guidelines for assessing applications for a grant under the Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP) 2018–2022. The OKP is a knowledge development programme that offers funding options for the provision of individual scholarships, customised group training courses, collaboration projects between knowledge institutions focusing on sustainable strengthening of higher and vocational education capacity within local priority themes and alumni activities relevant to development cooperation.

1.2 Objective

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been supporting knowledge development in low and middle-income countries for several decades. This knowledge development has been aimed at supporting the capacity-building and knowledge-development agendas of developing countries by building up the knowledge and skills of individual professionals, through stakeholder organisations focused on development issues and higher and vocational education institutions. In addition to providing grants for individual scholarships and coordinating group training courses, the OKP provides grants for short-term and multi-year collaboration projects between Dutch institutions and institutions from partner countries, as well as alumni activities. The grant funds made available through the OKP 2018–2022 will be focused on the development of the post-secondary education sector in partner countries, and are also intended to support demand for continuing education (concentrating on capacity building) related to local priorities in a wide range of government, private and non-governmental organisations (such as educational institutions, ministries and companies).

The OKP aims to contribute to the development of education systems, education policy and education programmes that do not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, ethnic origin, religion, sexuality or other characteristics. Demand orientation, ownership and alignment with the foreign policy priorities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are central to this process.

1.3 Available funds

For the awarding of grants under the OKP, a total of €185,381,751 will be available over the period 2018–2022. In the period up until 31 July 2022, this available amount will be divided between a range of calls for applications, in each of which a portion of the total available funds will be made available for applications submitted in the period in question.

The funds available for the awarding of grants through calls will be announced in corresponding orders in the Government Gazette.

1.4 Implementation and management

The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation has assigned the implementation of the OKP 2018–2022 to Nuffic. Nuffic has the organisational goal of internationalising Dutch education, and contributes to international knowledge and educational cooperation with foreign organisations. Nuffic will implement the OKP 2018–2022

on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development based on the mandate it has been given.

1.5 Policy rules for each activity type

For each type of educational activity for which a grant can be awarded, Sections 2 through 5 below set out the policy rules that will be applied in evaluating grant applications for the educational activity in question. This relates to successive grant applications for the awarding of individual scholarships (Section 2), grant applications for group training courses (Section 3), grant applications for institutional collaboration projects (Section 4) and grant applications for alumni activities (Section 5).

1.6 Country list

To be eligible for a grant under the OKP 2018–2022, grant applications must focus on educational activities for candidates and institutions in a limited number of countries. These countries are listed in the 'Country List' schedule to this Annex. The countries are divided into three categories, namely A, B and C. For each category, grants may be awarded for the following types of educational activities:

- Category A: individual scholarships, group training courses, institutional collaboration projects and alumni activities;
- Category B: individual scholarships, group training courses and alumni activities;
- Category C: individual scholarships, group training courses (with the exception of Tailor-Made Plus courses) and alumni activities.

Country Plans of Implementation (CPIs) and Annual Plans

To be eligible for a grant for the various educational activities for which OKP grant funds are available, grant applications must be relevant to sustainable development in the country and/or region in question, and must be aligned with the themes relevant to local priority development. Information on these matters can be obtained through the following channels:

For Category A countries, Nuffic will draw up a Country Plan of Implementation (CPI) for each country.² The CPI will define the capacity needs for the country concerned and contain a package of desirable and coherent activities contributing to knowledge and capacity building within the chosen themes for the country or region in question. The CPI will be in line with the multi-year strategic policy as described in the Multi-Annual Strategic Plan (MASP) or the annual plan of the Dutch Embassy.

For countries in Categories B and C, the themes relevant to local priority development will be determined using the Multi-Annual Strategic Plans or annual plans of the Dutch Embassies, and those themes will then be incorporated by Nuffic into Annual Plans.

A list of themes relevant to local priority development for each country will be published on Nuffic's website.

² CPIs will be placed on www.nuffic.nl.

Section 2 Individual scholarships

In the OKP Individual Scholarships programme, grants will be provided from which scholarships can be issued to participants for:

1. Master's degrees: post-graduate Master's programmes lasting at least one academic year and a maximum of 24 months;
2. short courses: courses not connected to a degree, such as diploma courses or modules from Bachelor's and Master's programmes. Short courses last for at least two weeks and no more than twelve months.

For each call for a round of applications, the applicable grant ceiling will be published in the Government Gazette. The available money will be allocated by means of a grant tendering process based on the criteria set out in this section. If additional policy rules are set for the call, notice will be given and the rules will be made available on www.nuffic.nl.

Application procedure

Notice will be given on www.nuffic.nl of the start of the period within which grant applications may be submitted for OKP Individual Scholarships, as well as the final date by which applications must be submitted (the deadline). Grant applications must be submitted electronically through Nuffic's website using a form established for that purpose³.

Grant applicants

Eligibility for grants to provide scholarships extends to the Dutch educational institutions that meet the requirements set out in this section. The educational institutions must have signed up to the International Student Code of Conduct or be included in the list of Additional Knowledge Centres participating in the Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP). Both can be found on the www.internationalstudy.nl website. These organisations must provide the course or programme to the scholarship applicant themselves; intermediary organisations are not eligible for grants. The institutions must have sufficient organisational and financial capacity.

From application to approval

Scholarship application

The scholarship applicant will apply for the OKP scholarship at an educational institution that meets the requirements mentioned above. The institution will assess whether the scholarship applicant meets the admission requirements for the course/programme in question, and whether the scholarship applicant and the course/programme comply with the criteria set out below. The institution will then determine for which scholarship applicants it will apply for a grant for the awarding of an OKP scholarship.

Grant application requirements

The Dutch educational institution will submit its application to Nuffic using the application form established for that purpose.

³ The application form will be placed on www.nuffic.nl.

To be eligible for an OKP Individual Scholarships grant, an application must meet the following criteria:

With regard to the scholarship applicant:

- The scholarship applicant works for one of the following types of national and/or local organisations: ministries, secondary or higher vocational or academic education institutions, universities, private sector, commissions or NGOs. The scholarship applicant may not work for:
 1. a bilateral or multilateral organisation;
 2. a non-governmental organisation that is internationally active and is focused on representing social interests, such as development cooperation, nature and environmental protection, health or human rights⁴.
- The scholarship applicant is a professional who, in light of his/her (1) role, (2) multiple years of relevant work experience and (3) networks within a theme relevant to local development, is in a position or through his/her employer could be put in a position to apply what he/she has learned in practice.
- The scholarship applicant holds the nationality of and is resident and working in one of the countries on the OKP Country List (see the Country List Annex).
- The scholarship applicant holds a valid identity document.
- The scholarship applicant is applying for a scholarship for a course/programme registered at studyfinder.nl⁵.
- The scholarship applicant has been admitted to the course or programme for which the institution is applying for a grant.
- The scholarship applicant has provided a government statement with the scholarship application, if this is required by the local government⁶.
- The scholarship applicant demonstrates that the requested co-funding percentage is available to fund the study⁷.
- The employer of the scholarship applicant supports the scholarship application through a positive reference, declares that it will continue to pay the salary of the scholarship recipient during the programme and after his/her return will give the scholarship recipient an opportunity to apply what he/she has learned in practice.

⁴ 'Non-governmental organisation' means: a non-profit-making organisation, not created by a government authority and not legally or operationally linked to a government authority, which has legal personality under civil law.

⁵ www.studyfinder.nl.

⁶ www.nuffic.nl.

⁷ See the additional criteria for each call, posted by Nuffic on www.nuffic.nl.

⁸ www.nuffic.nl.

⁹ www.studyfinder.nl.

With regard to the application/applicant:

- The course/programme for which the scholarship applicant is applying for a scholarship is a Master's programme or short course that meets the requirements set out above.
- The scholarship application is relevant to sustainable development in the country or region where the requesting party is located, and is relevant to the theme concerned. The scholarship application is in line with the Country Plan of Implementation or Annual Plan for the country concerned⁸.
- The course/programme for which the scholarship applicant is applying for a scholarship is registered at studyfinder.nl⁹.
- The course/programme for which the scholarship applicant is applying for a scholarship is full time, unless it is an e-learning course.
- The course/programme for which the scholarship applicant is applying for a scholarship is offered in English, French or Spanish.

Assessment and evaluation of the scholarship application (selection)

The Dutch embassies will assess whether the scholarship applicants listed by the grant applicant in its application meet the criteria in this section that apply to the scholarship applicants, and will advise Nuffic accordingly. Applications that do not meet the criteria will be rejected by Nuffic and not evaluated any further.

The embassies will then evaluate the scholarship applicants based on the following evaluation criteria:

- the motivation of the scholarship applicant;
- the extent to which the scholarship applicant can implement the acquired knowledge in his/her organisation and country;
- the extent to which, after completion or with the aid of the course or programme, the scholarship applicant can contribute to the themes relevant to local priority development specified on www.nuffic.nl at the time of the call for applications.

If they prove suitable, scholarship applicants from marginalised groups deserve to be shown preference. The result of the evaluation will be expressed as a score; all scores combined will result in a ranking of scholarship applicants.

Selection and grant approval

Nuffic will make the decisions on the grant applications from educational institutions. These decisions and therefore the selection of the scholarship applicants for each call will derive from the ranking of the scholarship applicants by the embassies. The scholarship applicants with the highest scores within a grant application will be given first priority for a scholarship, within the associated budget for each country category (see the Country List Annex) and

bearing in mind the need for a balanced distribution across target groups, countries and/or regions and themes. In its decision on the grant application, Nuffic will specify for which scholarship applicants the grant is being awarded. The grant may be used to pay for only one scholarship per scholarship applicant. Scholarship applicants cannot be eligible for multiple OKP study scholarships. However, after completing a programme in the Netherlands, a scholarship recipient will be eligible to participate in other OKP activities.

A maximum number of scholarships per application round will be applied for the institutions. Nuffic will determine that maximum number of scholarships based on the following criteria:

- the grant budget available for each round of applications;
- the grant budget available for each country category (see the Country List Annex for the country categories);
- the average costs of a scholarship;
- the number of scholarships per institution for which grants were awarded (where applicable) in earlier rounds of this programme (or its predecessor, NFP II);
- the number of grants awarded per country in relation to the total number of grants awarded per call.

For each application round, the method of calculating the maximum number of scholarships for which a grant may be received will be posted on www.nuffic.nl.

Section 3 Tailor Made group training courses

Range of programmes

In the context of OKP Group Training Courses, offering the following types of courses will give rise to eligibility for a grant:

1. Tailor-Made Training courses (TMT): customised group training courses with a maximum budget of €75,000 and a maximum duration of twelve months; the focus is on training courses in countries in categories A, B and C (see the Country List Annex);
2. Tailor-Made Training Plus courses (TMT+): customised group training courses with a maximum budget of €400,000 and a maximum duration of 24 months; the focus is on training courses in countries in categories A and B (see the Country List Annex);
3. Refresher Courses (RC: refresher courses with a maximum budget of €75,000 and a maximum duration of twelve months; the focus is on training courses in countries in categories A, B and C (see the Country List Annex).

For each call for a round of applications, the applicable grant ceiling will be published in the Government Gazette. The available money will be allocated by means of a grant tendering process based on the criteria set out in this section. If additional policy rules are set for the call, notice will be given and the rules will be made available on www.nuffic.nl.

Application procedure

Notice will be given on www.nuffic.nl of the start of the period within which grant applications may be submitted for OKP Group Training Courses, as well as the final date by which applications must be submitted (the deadline). Grant applications must be submitted electronically through Nuffic's website using a form established for that purpose¹⁰.

Grant applicants

Eligibility for OKP Group Training Courses grants extends to Dutch institutions providing secondary and higher vocational and academic education or other types of organisations that provide educational training courses and that also contribute to strengthening of the priority themes in the countries on the Country List (see the Country List Annex). These institutions must deliver the training themselves; intermediary organisations are not eligible. The institutions must have sufficient organisational and financial capacity to run a training course. This can be demonstrated using a COCA¹¹ that is assessed as positive by Nuffic. The organisations must also have demonstrable experience in providing the desired training course.

Group training target group

To be eligible for an OKP Group Training Courses grant, an application must relate to running a training course for candidates who meet the following criteria:

- The candidates work for one of the following types of national and/or local organisations: ministries, secondary or higher vocational or academic education institutions, universities, private sector, commissions or NGOs. The candidates may not work for:
 1. a bilateral or multilateral organisation;
 2. a non-governmental organisation that is internationally active and is focused on representing social interests, such as development cooperation, nature and environmental protection, health or human rights¹².
- The candidates must have the nationality of or be resident and working in one of the OKP countries for which grant applications for providing the type of group training courses concerned can be awarded (see the Country List Annex).
- The candidates must be in a position to apply the acquired knowledge and skills in practice.

¹⁰ The application form will be placed on www.nuffic.nl.

¹¹ A COCA (Checklist for Organisational Capacity Assessment) is an evaluation of whether an organisation has sufficient financial and organisational capacity to carry out a project or training course. An approved COCA assessment is valid for a maximum of one year and may be requested/updated during the year. The documents required for the COCA assessment can also be submitted at the same time as the grant application.

¹² 'Non-governmental organisation' means: a non-profit-making organisation, not created by a government authority and not legally or operationally linked to a government authority, which has legal personality under civil law.

Additional criteria for refresher course candidates:

- Candidates for a refresher course must have completed an OKP, NFP11 or NICHE11-funded course within the past five years.
- Candidates for a refresher course must not have already accepted a scholarship for a refresher course in the year preceding the OKP Refresher Course application in question, at any time in the course of the OKP 2018–2022.

From application to approval

1. The Dutch institution (see **Grant applicants**) submits a grant application using the application form established for that purpose.
2. The grant application is assessed against the minimum criteria (see **Minimum criteria**).
3. The grant application is evaluated against the evaluation criteria (see **Evaluation criteria**).
4. To be eligible for a grant, applications must obtain a minimum evaluation score on the evaluation criteria. Applications that do not obtain the minimum evaluation score will be rejected.
5. The grant applications with the highest scores will be given first priority for a grant, within the available budget and bearing in mind the need for a balanced distribution across target groups, countries and/or regions and themes.
6. Nuffic will award a grant to the selected grant applicant and reject the applications that it is unable to accept.

Criteria

Minimum criteria:

- The grant applicant meets the requirements listed under **Grant applicants**.
- The group training course candidates meet the requirements listed under **Group training course target group**.
- The group training course meets the requirements listed under **Range of programmes**.
- The group training course is relevant to sustainable development in the country or region where the requesting party is located, and is relevant to the theme concerned. The group training course is in line with the Country Plan of Implementation for the country concerned or the Annual Plan of the embassy in that country¹³.
- Any required co-funding is guaranteed¹⁴.

If an application or request does not meet these minimum criteria, it will be rejected and not evaluated any further.

Evaluation criteria:

Next, the grant applications that meet the minimum criteria will be evaluated against the following evaluation criteria:

- the extent to which the grant application builds on earlier or existing activities funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including activities funded by the Dutch embassies in those countries¹⁵;
- the extent to which a clear link exists between the proposed activities (the group training course) and the expected results;
- the extent to which the group training course contributes to sustainable development of the priority sectors in the countries concerned¹⁶;
- the extent to which the group training course aligns with the CPI or Annual Plan¹⁷ of the country concerned;
- the extent to which the group training course makes a contribution to the development of marginalised groups as identified in the CPI for the country concerned;
- the extent to which there is local ownership.

Section 4 Institutional collaboration projects

Grants for OKP Institutional Collaboration Projects will be awarded to collaboration projects between knowledge institutions focusing on sustainable strengthening of higher and vocational education capacity within local priority themes relevant to development cooperation. Projects must have a minimum duration of one year and a maximum duration of four years. Support for vocational education and connection to the labour market are important principles. The projects consist of various activities that contribute to institutional development of organisations in developing countries on three levels: individual, organisational and institutional.

For each call for grant tenders, the applicable grant ceiling will be published in the Government Gazette. The available money will be allocated by means of a grant tendering process based on the criteria set out in this section. If additional policy rules are set for the call, notice will be given and the rules will be made available on www.nuffic.nl.

Application procedure

Notice will be given on www.nuffic.nl of the opening of a grant tendering process, from which time grant applications may be submitted for OKP Institutional Collaboration Projects, as well as the final date by which applications must be submitted (the deadline). Grant applications must be submitted electronically through Nuffic's website using a form established for that purpose¹⁸.

¹³ www.nuffic.nl.

¹⁴ See the additional criteria for each call, posted by Nuffic on www.nuffic.nl.

¹⁵ www.nuffic.nl.

¹⁶ www.nuffic.nl.

¹⁷ www.nuffic.nl.

¹⁸ The application form will be placed on www.nuffic.nl.

Target group

Institutional collaboration projects are aimed at strengthening national and/or local knowledge institutions and organisations in developing countries (knowledge institutions and, if desirable, also ministries, national commissions and non-governmental organisations) that contribute to capacity building in the area of higher and vocational education within the local priorities as set out in the CPIs¹⁹. This relates to knowledge institutions and organisations in Category A countries (see the Country List Annex).

Grant applicants

A grant application may be submitted by Dutch institutions for secondary and higher vocational or academic education, or by knowledge institutions or organisations in developing countries as specified above under Target group, potentially on behalf of a consortium. The knowledge institutions and organisations must have sufficient organisational and financial capacity to lead an institutional collaboration project. This can be demonstrated using a COCA²⁰ that is assessed as positive by Nuffic.

From application to approval

The awarding of a grant for an institutional collaboration project will be done through a grant tendering process. Where appropriate, the grant tendering process may be preceded by a partner identification round. Partner identification rounds are described below under (A), after which the grant tendering process is described under (B).

(A) Partner identification rounds

If a grant tendering process is to be preceded by a partner identification round, Nuffic will identify a national and/or local knowledge institution or organisation in a developing country with specific capacity demand that can play a key role in achieving the objectives in the Theory of Change/CPI, and will do so before opening a call for grant tenders²¹

Nuffic will give notice of the partner identification round on its website, www.nuffic.nl. The partner identification round is aimed at national and/or local knowledge institutions and organisations as described under 'Target group'. The notice will indicate the start and closing dates of the period in which requests for partner identification can be submitted. A format is available for the partner identification round, which will be published on www.nuffic.nl.

Based on the following points, Nuffic will select the knowledge institutions or organisations which it will invite to submit a grant tender.

¹⁹ www.nuffic.nl.

²⁰ A COCA (Checklist for Organisational Capacity Assessment) is an evaluation of whether an organisation has sufficient financial and organisational capacity to carry out a project or training course. An approved COCA assessment is valid for a maximum of one year and may be requested/updated during the year. The documents required for the COCA assessment can also be submitted at the same time as the grant application.

²¹ For more information, see www.nuffic.nl.

The partner identification process will be based on the following criteria:

- The developing-country party is based in a Category A country (see the Country List Annex);
- The developing-country party is in the Target group (see definition above);
- The request meets the following requirements:
 1. The request is complete.
 2. The request contains a brief description of the mission, nature and structure of the developing-country institution or organisation.
 3. The request contains an organisation analysis.
 4. The request contains a completed COCA for the developing-country party.
 5. The request contains a brief description of the capacity needs.
 6. The request is relevant to sustainable development in the country or region where the requesting party is located, and is relevant to the theme concerned. The request is in line with the CPI.
 7. The request is signed by a legal representative of the developing-country party.
- The information supplied is clear;
- Selection will depend on the extent to which the capacity needs in question are relevant to sustainable development in the country concerned and to the theme in question, which in turn is aligned with the CPI for the country concerned;
- Selection will depend on the extent to which the capacity needs are aligned with the needs of the labour market in the country concerned;
- Selection will depend on the extent to which a future institutional collaboration project may contribute to the development of the developing-country party;
- Selection will depend on the extent to which the request will make a contribution to the development of marginalised groups;
- Selection will depend on the degree to which the request builds on earlier or existing activities funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including activities funded by the Dutch embassies in those priority sectors²²;
- Selection will depend on the extent to which there is local ownership;
- The COCA of the developing-country party meets the specified requirements;
- The general quality of the presentation of the request.

The identification round will result in a prioritisation, by country, of knowledge institutions or organisations in developing countries, on the basis of which a call for grant tenders may be made.

²² www.nuffic.nl.

(B) Grant tendering process

Grant tendering process preceded by a partner identification round

For the eligible developing-country parties, Nuffic will run a grant tendering process with the goal of selecting a Dutch institution for secondary or higher vocational education that wishes to engage in an institutional collaboration with the identified requesting organisation. For each selected developing-country party, Nuffic will give notice via www.nuffic.nl of a call for grant applications, specifying the start and closing dates of the period in which grant applications may be submitted.

Grant tendering process not preceded by partner identification round

Nuffic will give notice via www.nuffic.nl of a call for grant applications for a specific priority area and/or region, specifying the start and closing dates of the period in which grant applications may be submitted. This relates to applications from Dutch grant applicants, together with a knowledge institution or organisation in a developing country. One of these will be the primary applicant for the grant (lead partner). If a grant is awarded, the primary applicant will be the grant recipient, which as such will be responsible for implementing the activities for which the grant was obtained and complying with the requirements connected to the grant.

Process steps

1. The Dutch institution, or the knowledge institution or organisation in the developing country (the latter is possible in the case of a grant tendering process not preceded by a partner identification round; see **Grant applicants** for more details) submits a grant application for an institutional collaboration project using an online application form established for that purpose²³.
2. The grant application is assessed against the minimum criteria (see **Minimum criteria**). To be eligible for a grant, an application must meet the minimum criteria.
3. The grant application is evaluated against the evaluation criteria (see **Evaluation criteria**).
4. To be eligible for a grant, applications must obtain a minimum evaluation score on the evaluation criteria. Applications that do not obtain the minimum evaluation score will be rejected.
5. The grant applications with the highest scores will be given first priority for a grant, within the available budget.
6. Nuffic will award a grant to the selected grant applicant and reject the applications that it is unable to accept.

Grant application – Minimum criteria

- The grant application must be submitted by a Dutch institution for secondary or higher vocational or academic education, or a knowledge institution or organisation in a developing country (the latter is possible in the case of a grant tendering process not preceded by a partner identification round), potentially on behalf of a consortium;

²³ www.nuffic.nl.

- The grant applicant can function and operate appropriately within the legislation passed by the government in the country or countries in question;
- The project proposal has a minimum duration of one year and a maximum duration of four years, and must be implemented and established by no later than 31 July 2022;
- The grant applied for does not exceed the maximum amount specified in the call for grant tenders²⁴;
- Any required co-funding is guaranteed²⁵;
- The grant application meets any specific financial requirements set out in future policy rules relating to the grant tendering process²⁶.

Evaluation criteria:

Grant applications will be evaluated and scored based on the following aspects:

- the substantive quality of the project proposal;
- the extent to which the project proposal is in line with the priorities as defined in the CPI²⁷;
- the capacity and quality of the grant applicant and/or consortium;
- the extent to which the project proposal builds on existing collaboration or has a goal of establishing new long-term partnerships;
- the extent to which the project proposal contributes to the systematic development of the developing-country party and makes it possible for that party to act as the 'owner' of the project;
- the extent to which the project proposal takes account of marginalised groups in the project implementation;
- the extent to which the project proposal is aligned with other programmes, projects and scholarships in the country and/or region in question;
- the technical quality of the project proposal.

SECTION 5 ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

OKP Alumni Activities grants will be awarded for activities that provide alumni of the OKP or its predecessors with opportunities to strengthen links with other alumni, Dutch knowledge institutions, embassies and other parties and to share knowledge and experience. The activities should preferably be linked with activities at Dutch embassies, such as hosting or co-hosting meetings, providing support for incoming delegations, programme or project presentations, visits to businesses, round-table discussions about development cooperation themes, etc. If necessary, the embassies concerned will be asked for advice about the applications received. A grant for OKP Alumni Activities may be up to a maximum of €5,000 per application.

²⁴ See the additional criteria for each call, posted by Nuffic on www.nuffic.nl

²⁵ See the additional criteria for each call, posted by Nuffic on www.nuffic.nl

²⁶ See the additional criteria for each call, posted by Nuffic on www.nuffic.nl

²⁷ www.nuffic.nl

Target group

Alumni from the OKP, NICHE, NFP and MSP and the predecessors to these programmes.

Grant applicants

Associations in OKP countries for alumni of educational activities for which a grant was previously obtained under the OKP, NICHE, NFP or MSP or a predecessor to these programmes, as well as Dutch educational institutions.

Allocation process

The funds available for providing OKP Alumni Activities grants will be distributed based on applications being processed in the order in which they were received (first come, first served). A budget will be made available each year and published in the Government Gazette; applications for funds from that budget may be submitted throughout the year.

From grant application to approval

A local alumni association or a Dutch educational institution (see under Grant applicants) submits a grant application using the online application form²⁸ established for that purpose. Nuffic evaluates the applications against the criteria set out below. Nuffic awards grants to applications that meet the criteria, unless the available funds are exhausted, in which case the applications will be rejected.

Criteria

To be eligible for an OKP Alumni Activities grant, applications must meet the following criteria:

- The grant applied for must be no more than €5,000.
- No grant has already been awarded for the activity.
- A grant applicant may be eligible for a grant no more than twice per year.
- At least 60% of participants in the activity are alumni of educational activities for which an OKP, NFP, MSP or NICHE/NPT grant was previously obtained.
- If the applicant is an alumni association, it must have originated in an OKP country (see the Country List Annex).
- A clear link exists between the application and the embassy and its activities, such as incoming delegations, preparations for new programmes and/or projects, round-table discussions, meetings in collaboration with the embassy, etc.
- The grant applicant has the required co-funding percentage available to cover the alumni activities (see the Country List Annex)²⁹.
- The activity is an initiative for and carried out on behalf of alumni of educational activities for which an OKP, NFP, MSP or NICHE/NPT grant was previously obtained.

²⁸ Available on www.nuffic.nl

²⁹ See the addition criteria for each call, posted on www.nuffic.nl

- The activity is related to:
 1. the knowledge and expertise previously acquired by the alumni through the OKP, NFP, MSP or NICHE/NPT;
 2. education in general
 3. strengthening of the alumni association, if such an association is involved
- the application does not relate to a social activity.

ANNEX ORANGE KNOWLEDGE PROGRAMME (OKP) COUNTRY LIST

#	Category A	Category B	Category C
1	Bangladesh	Afghanistan	Albania
2	Benin	Burkina Faso	Armenia
3	Burundi	DR Congo	Bhutan
4	Colombia	Guinea	Bolivia
5	Egypt	Guatemala	Cambodia
6	Ethiopia	Yemen	Cuba
7	Ghana	Jordan	Philippines
8	Indonesia	Lebanon	Georgia
9	Kenya	Liberia	India
10	Mali	Nigeria	Macedonia
11	Mozambique	Senegal	Nepal
12	Myanmar	Sierra Leone	Nicaragua
13	Uganda	Sudan	Pakistan
14	Palestinian Territories	Somalia	Peru
15	Rwanda	South Sudan	Sri Lanka
16	Tanzania	Zambia	Suriname
17	Vietnam		Thailand
18	South Africa		Zimbabwe