

CRITERIA & REGISTRATION MARINA VAN DAMME SCHOLARSHIP 2026

Our society faces enormous challenges and profound transitions in areas such as climate and energy transition, climate adaptation, the transition to a circular economy, circular agriculture, housing and healthcare. These transitions require innovative solutions and new perspectives. The female engineer plays a crucial role in shaping these changes, with her unique perspective on technology and ability to approach complex issues from multiple angles.

The Marina van Damme scholarship aims to support and equip women with the knowledge and skills needed to lead these transitions and play their role in shaping a sustainable future.

With the Marina van Damme Scholarship Ms. Van Damme, the Delft University Fund, Eindhoven University Fund, University Fund Wageningen and the Twente University Fund aim to support talented female alumnae who have completed their master's or doctoral studies at one of these four technical universities in the Netherlands. The scholarship is aimed at women who have already established a career and provides valuable support for making a groundbreaking and/or cross-disciplinary step or new direction in their career. The scholarship consists of a cash prize of € 9,000 and a sculpture. This prize is intended for broadening or deepening knowledge in the form of, for example, a training program, module or courses at an accredited institution.

As a winner, you are welcomed into the Marina van Damme Network, an active network of former winners. These women support the scholarship awards by serving on the juries and strengthen one another through their ambitious personalities. With their varied but shared technological backgrounds and interests, they seek ways to help each other move forward and serve as role models for ambitious women. The members of the Marina van Damme Network meet several times a year, including every spring under the apple tree in Mrs. Van Damme's garden.

Candidates

When applying for the scholarship, the candidate herself should prepare a plan showing the developments she has made since graduation. In addition, the plan describes her ambition, motivation and what steps she wants to take to realize her dream. She describes how she plans to use the scholarship to do so. In addition, she describes how she thinks the Marina van Damme Network can help her and what value she brings to the network. Application for this scholarship should be made by the candidate herself to the university fund of the 4TU university where she obtained her degree.

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1

Criteria

The jury applies the following assessment criteria:

1. Candidates must have obtained a master's degree or a PhD from Wageningen University & Research. Preference is given to alumnae from technical fields of study working in a technological environment.
2. The application is important for your personal development. It must concern:
 - a. a groundbreaking and/or cross-discipline step,
 - b. or new direction in her career.
3. You preferably have already established a career (at least 4 years of work experience outside the home university, a completed PhD trajectory will only be considered if a career in academia is pursued).
4. Preferably, your parents have a non-academic educational background;
5. The application is demonstrably feasible within 4 years.
6. The application will be implemented at a certified educational or research institution or company, in the Netherlands or abroad.
7. The application should clearly demonstrate why the scholarship is essential for achieving the step or turn in your career and how you intend to apply the acquired knowledge and skills in your professional career.
8. The application must demonstrate the way in which you are building on your previous education.
9. The application clearly shows the added value the Marina van Damme Network offers for your career development and the contribution you would be able and willing to make to the network.
10. It is allowed, and may even support your candidacy, to also apply for additional funding from other sources. Therefore it is desirable and advisable that candidates explicitly mention any additional applications in your candidacy.
11. A candidate can apply to one university per year (if she is an alumna of several technical universities).
12. The scholarship is explicitly not intended to (co-)finance a PhD trajectory, project, or startup. Goods, travel, or accommodation costs may be partially eligible for reimbursement, provided they are balanced with the overall plan. The financial explanation and plan should demonstrate how the scholarship contributes to your personal development and career.

Action Plan

A Plan of Action (a maximum of three A4 pages, excluding the CV and attachments) must be attached to the candidature, including:

- A brief description of:
 - relevant highlights and projects from your education and career to date;
 - the intended step or new direction in your career (see criterion 2) and its importance for your personal development;
 - any applications for funding from other sources for your plan
- A brief explanation of:
 - how the scholarship will be used to achieve the intended step or new direction;
 - how you plan to apply the acquired knowledge and skills in your future professional career;
 - the feasibility of your plan, including the extent to which your current role allows you the necessary time to pursue the training/course, preferably supported by a letter of recommendation/admission from the institute where the training will be received;
 - the added value of the Marina van Damme network for your career, as well as the contribution you can/wish to make to the network;

In addition, we would like to receive as attachments:

- A budget and a timeline.
- Your CV (maximum 2 A4 pages).

Selection

The plans are reviewed by a jury. The jury may make a pre-selection of nominees who will be asked to further explain their plan via an interview or presentation. The award of the scholarship will be announced through the University Fund Wageningen.

Accountability

After the scholarship is awarded, the winner may begin executing her plan. The awarded amount can be claimed, potentially in parts, from the University Fund Wageningen by submitting invoices that justify the expenses. If necessary, the winner can consult with the University Fund Wageningen regarding the payment of an advance.

The winner has four years to accomplish her plan. The University Fund Wageningen will follow the winner in the progress of her plan. Exceptional situations will be assessed by the University Fund Wageningen in consultation with Ms. Van Damme, or a representative of the Marina van Damme Foundation and the jury. The end result must be established by means of a qualification, certificate or diploma. In addition, the winner is expected to share a final report reflecting on the application of the scholarship and the impact on her career.

April 2026