

Wageningen Graduate Schools (WGS) Postdoc Talent Programme - Call for proposals 2026

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 € 90,000 per year to be spent on salary costs for two years full-time employment for the applicant of which € 80,000 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 a minimal of 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 in June 2027 at the latest.

Submitting your application

Submit your application (application form + chair holder's recommendation letter) through this [link](#).

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 and resides outside the Netherlands and cannot reside or have resided in the Netherlands for a minimum of 2 years before the deadline of the call. This includes guest researcher arrangements or other visits of, or longer than, 1 month.'
- Has a competitive CV suitable for applying for prestigious personal grants.
- Will comply with the WUR author guidelines, the WUR rules on the use of affiliations genAI and WUR ethics regulations.
- Will comply with the Netherlands Code of Conduct and 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:
- Chair groups who were awarded a postdoc talent position cannot participate in the call for 2 years;
- The awardee's principal place of work will be Wageningen.

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

Procedure

The applications will not be sent out for review by external experts but are evaluated by members of the Wageningen Postdoc Talent programme committee. In case of a high number (> 20) of applicants not all applications will be evaluated in detail but a first selection will be made based on CV and letter of the chair holder. *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 8, 2026
Confirmation of receipt:	October 2026
Result interview selection:	November 2026
Online interviews:	(End) November/December 2026
Awarding grants:	December/January 2026

Projects can start immediately after the funding decision is communicated but should start in June 2027 at the latest.