LUCIE TIMMERMANS FUND

Guidelines for application – travel grant or grant for writing a PhD-research proposal

October 26, 2026

The Lucie Timmermans Fund supports talented Wageningen University students and researchers in the field of Animal Biology, including experimental zoology, entomology, animal physiology, and animal cell biology. Eligible candidates include MSc students, recent MSc graduates, PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers, with a particular focus on women and people from underrepresented groups within the field.

Lucie Timmermans was appointed in 1980 as chair of the Developmental Biology group at Wageningen University. She made a major contribution to the establishment of teaching and research in animal biology and thus to the foundation for the current powerful position of animal biology at Wageningen University. Lucie had a big heart for stimulating scientific careers of young female animal biologists.
She was very generous and she eventually set up her own fund that talented female animal biologists can still apply to for supporting their next step in science. In 2024, the scope of the fund was broadened to also support individuals from groups traditionally underrepresented in Animal Biology or who face social disadvantages, ensuring a more inclusive approach to advancing scientific talent.
Lucie passed away in October 2021 at the age of 89 years. Her legacy lives on through the Lucie Timmermans Fund, which continues to open doors for aspiring young scientists and promote diversity and excellence in Animal Biology.

The fund provides support for two types of activities. Applications for both types of grants can be submitted throughout the year and must be sent **minimum two months** before the travel or research starts via SURFfilesender to University Fund Wageningen (ufw@wur.nl).

The first type of activity supported by the fund is a travel grant of up to a maximum of €2,500. This grant can be used for:

- an international networking trip to a foreign university or research institute;
- attending a conference (submitting an abstract and receiving an invitation for an oral or poster presentation is mandatory for attending conferences abroad);
- MSc-thesis research abroad;
- a MSc-internship abroad – if your internship takes place at a university or a research institute.

In line with Lucie's vision, the travel grant is primarily intended for female MSc students, recent MSc graduates, PhD candidates, and postdoctoral researchers under the age of 35. Applicants who are not female but belong to groups traditionally underrepresented in science or who face social disadvantages are also welcome to apply. In such cases, please provide a clear motivation and explain the group or context you represent.

The aim of this support is to give young researchers the opportunity to expand their network, increase their substantive knowledge and thus encourage them to continue their scientific career and advance to higher positions.

The second type of grant is intended for MSc graduates who aspire to pursue a PhD and wish to use the fund to develop and write their PhD-research proposal. This grant provides up to €5,000 in support.

The grant is intended to increase the likelihood that your research proposal will be successfully funded by other funding organizations. Supported activities may include, for example, collecting pilot data to strengthen the proposal, or developing prototypes of your idea.

In line with Lucie's vision, the research grant is aimed in the first place at female MSc-graduates. Applicants who are not female but belong to groups traditionally underrepresented in science or who face social disadvantages are also welcome to apply. In such cases, please provide a clear motivation and explain the group or context you represent.

Criteria and guidelines for an application for a travel grant (max. €2,500):

- Applicants must be either female or belong to a group traditionally underrepresented in science or who face social disadvantages.
- MSc-graduates can apply no later than 6 months after graduation.
- Applicants must apply for the grant not later than two months before the travel or research starts.
- Applicants need to let us know if they have applied for funding for the same visit/conference at other UFW-funds or co-funding from other sources has been awarded. If so and their application is granted by multiple UFW funds or other funders please include these in the financial overview. Please note that the same expenses cannot be claimed twice. Please contact ufw@wur.nl if a clarification is needed.
- Eligible costs that can be reimbursed are travel and accommodation costs and, if applicable, a conference fee incl. conference dinner.
- Not reimbursed are personal expenses (e.g., food and beverage costs, unless explicitly included in the event, such as a conference dinner), personnel costs (hourly rates), purchase costs of materials and equipment and publication costs. Furthermore, travel expenses already covered are excluded (e.g., as stipulated in the TSP).
- We assume for MSc-students/PhD candidates/postdocs reasonable travel (economy) and accommodation costs (capped at the daily amounts set by WUR).

Travel grant applications must contain the following elements:

  - A short description and goal of the visit, the intended date of the visit, the overall budgeted costs (in max 1 A4).
  - If you are not female but part of an underrepresented group with a social disadvantage, please motivate your application and explain what type of group you are part of.
  - Attachments:
    - Copy of thesis report or draft of thesis plan.
    - For attending a conference: Invitation letter to the conference including decision on poster or oral presentation (for a conference abroad) or a proof of registration
    - A budget (please be aware that only costs actually incurred can be reimbursed - for example your conference fee, travel and/or lodging costs. You need to forward copies of invoices in your report).
    - Supporting letter of the chair group or institute who will host the applicant.

- Applicants will be informed within 4-6 weeks about their application status; delays may occur during the summer holiday months.
- When a grant is awarded by the Lucie Timmermans Fund, the fund has to be mentioned in "acknowledgements" of publications and/or your conference presentation.

- At the end of the project, the candidate must submit a short report to the evaluation committee on your travel and your experiences, including justification of the costs. You will receive a the template for the evaluation and expenses report as annex to the award letter.
  The final funding amount you receive will be based on actual expenses and cannot exceed the awarded amount.

Criteria and guidelines for an application for a grant to prepare a research proposal (max. €5,000):

In order to qualify applications must meet the following criteria and guidelines:

- Applicants must
  - be either female or belong to a group traditionally underrepresented in science or who face social disadvantages;
  - have either received an **8** or higher for their MSc thesis or supply a support letter from their supervisor;
  - apply within 6 months after graduation.
- Reimbursable expenses are:
  - costs for the collecting of pilot data;
  - travel costs;
  - laboratory or materials costs;
  - part of the grant can be awarded as living allowance, up to a maximum of 2,750 euro. This amount can be transferred as lump sum to the researcher directly.
- The application must contain the following elements:
  - A short description of the proposal and the budgeted costs in max 2 A4's, with a summary (max. 200 words), the goals and a workplan.
  - If you are not female but part of an underrepresented group with a social disadvantage, please motivate your application and explain what type of group you are part of.
  - Attachments:
    - CV of the applicant
    - Transcript of the applicant
    - Copies of thesis and internship reports.
    - If a lower grade than 8 is achieved for the thesis, a support letter from the supervisor with a motivation explaining why the candidate should receive the scholarship
    - A budget overview
    - Supporting letter of the chair group who will host the applicant.
- Applicants will be informed within 4-6 weeks about their application status; delays may occur during the summer holiday months.
- When a grant is awarded by the Lucie Timmermans Fund, this fund has to be mentioned in presentations, "acknowledgements" of dissertations, scientific journals and press releases.
- At the end of the project, the candidate must submit a short report to the evaluation committee on the work that has been done and the results, including justification of the costs. You will receive a the template for the evaluation and expenses report together with an award letter.
  The final funding amount you receive will be based on actual expenses and cannot exceed the awarded amount.

Applications for both types of grants can be submitted throughout the year and must be sent **minimum two months** before the travel or research starts via SURFfilesender to University Fund Wageningen (ufw@wur.nl).

Evaluation committee (curatorium)

- Prof.dr.ir. Florian Muijres , Prof.dr. Mangala Srinivas and Prof.dr. Bregje Wertheim