Guidelines for the Academy Ecology Fund Grants

Article 1 General

1 The Academy Ecology Fund was set up by the Academy in 2013 to support ecological fieldwork in the Netherlands and abroad and ecological research at a university/institute outside of the Netherlands performed by young researchers working in the Netherlands.
2 The assets of the Academy Ecology Fund consist of the estates of Ms G. Beijerinck-Popping and Ms P.S.J. Schure.
3 The Academy Ecology Fund Grants are awarded annually.
4 An annual maximum of € 80,000 is available for the Academy Ecology Fund Grants.
5 An Academy Ecology Fund Grant amounts to between € 3,000 and € 7,000.

Article 2 Application conditions

Researchers who are eligible to apply for Academy Ecology Fund Grants are:
1 PhD candidates at a university or research institute in the Netherlands;
2 researchers who were awarded a PhD no more than four years ago. This period is subject to the Academy extension regulation;
3 researchers who are employed at a university or research institute in the Netherlands.

Article 3 Funding conditions

1 An Academy Ecology Fund Grant can be requested for a fundamental research question. Research projects seeking a fundamental solution to practical problems are also eligible.
2 The Academy Ecology Fund Grant can be spent on:
   - collecting ecological data in the field in the Netherlands and abroad;
   - carrying out ecological research at a university/institute outside of the Netherlands.
3 An Academy Ecology Fund Grant cannot be spent on:
   - salary;
   - conference visits;
   - standard equipment or work programme of the intended researcher or the institute in question.

Article 4 Submission conditions

1 Applications must be submitted in Dutch or English by e-mail using the application form provided by the Academy and accompanied by the requested attachments. An application is considered to have been submitted when the applicant receives confirmation of receipt from the Academy.
2 The application form with the requested attachments must be sent to wetenschapsfondsen@knaw.nl before the deadline imposed by the Academy. Applications that have not been submitted by this date will not be considered.
3 Members of the Academy board and members of the Academy Ecology Fund Grant assessment committee may not submit (or co-submit) requests.
Article 5 Tasks, composition and working methods of the assessment committee

1 The Academy board sets up an assessment committee whose task is to assess the applications for the Academy Ecology Fund Grant and to allocate the grants on behalf of the Academy board. The assessment committee may decide to allocate part of the requested amount.

2 The assessment committee will consist of a maximum of four members, including the chair. The members will be appointed by the Academy board for four years. The chair of the assessment committee will be appointed and will be an Academy member.

3 The assessment committee will consist of at least one Academy member and three professors in the field of Ecology.

4 All decisions of the assessment committee will be taken by a majority of votes cast.

5 Assessment committee members must adhere to the Academy Conflicts of Interest Code of Conduct relating to Prizes, Memberships and Subsidies.

6 The Academy will appoint an official secretary to assist the assessment committee.

Article 6 Assessment criteria

The assessment of the applications for an Academy Ecology Fund Grant will take place on the basis of the following assessment criteria:

a. the scientific merits of the applicant;

b. the scientific quality of the research proposal;

c. a clear research question and plan of approach;

d. the added value of the research proposal compared with existing research;

e. the added value of the research proposal for the scientific development of the applicant;

f. a clear budget including the distribution of the costs among the various items and an explanation of why the project cannot be financed from the institution's standard resources.

Article 7 Allocation

Within three months of the deadline for submitting applications, the applicant will be informed about the results of the application assessment.

Article 8 Final provisions

In all cases not provided for by these guidelines, the Academy board will decide.