Descartes-Huygens Prize Regulations

Article 1 General
1 The Descartes-Huygens Prize was established in 1995 by the French and Dutch governments to promote scientific cooperation between France and the Netherlands and to bring Franco-Dutch scientific relations to the attention of both scientific researchers and the general public.
2 The Descartes-Huygens Prize is awarded annually to an excellent researcher working at an institution in the Netherlands and an excellent researcher working at an institution in France.
3 These regulations describe the selection by the Academy of the scientist in France.
4 The Descartes-Huygens Prize consists of a sum of €23,000 (in words: twenty-three thousand euros), intended to cover all or part of the costs of a research stay/number of working visits of a French researcher in/to the Netherlands and, if desired, other activities within the context of Franco-Dutch scientific cooperation.

Article 2 Conditions for nomination
Nominations for the prize are intended for candidates:
   a. at the beginning or in the middle of their scientific career
   b. who are employed at a university or research institute in France
   c. who contribute to and intend to extend Franco-Dutch scientific cooperation
   d. who are prepared to spend a minimum of three months – without interruption or spread over several working visits – as a guest researcher in the Netherlands and, if desired, to develop other collaborative activities too
   e. who are prepared to inform both researchers and the general public about the Franco-Dutch research carried out with the support of this prize

Article 3 Nomination
1 The nominees for the Descartes-Huygens Prize are: researchers at a Dutch university or research institute.
2 Nominations must be submitted in Dutch or English by e-mail using the nomination form provided by the Academy and the requested attachments. A nomination is considered to have been submitted when the nominator receives confirmation of receipt from the Academy.
3 The nomination form with the requested attachments must be sent before the deadline imposed by the Academy to wetenschapsfondsen@knaw.nl. Nominations that have not been submitted by this date will not be considered.
4 Members of the Academy board and the members of the Prize jury may not submit (or co-submit) nominations and cannot be nominated as candidates.

Article 4 Tasks, composition and working methods of the jury
1 The Academy board will appoint a jury that is tasked with assessing nominations for the Prize and submitting a nomination to the Academy board for the Prize.
2 The jury will consist of four members, including the chair. The members will be appointed by the Academy board for two assessment rounds. The chair of the jury will be appointed and will be an Academy member.
3 The jury will consist of members of the Academy and members/alumni of The Young Academy.
4 All decisions of the jury will be taken by a majority of votes cast.
5 Jury members must adhere to the Academy Code of Conduct Governing Conflicts of Interest for Awards, Memberships and Funding.
6 The Academy will appoint an official secretary to assist the jury.
Article 5 Assessment criteria
1. Assessment of the candidates nominated for the Descartes-Huygens Prize will take place by the jury on the basis of the following criteria:
   a. the scientific quality of the candidate
   b. the candidate's contribution to Franco-Dutch scientific cooperation
   c. the research proposal (Franco-Dutch scientific cooperation)
   d. the purpose of the research stay/work visits
2. The jury will prepare a report of the assessment, including the grounds for the choice of the candidate. The assessment report will be submitted to the Academy board as the jury’s nomination.

Article 6 Allocation and presentation
1. The Academy board will decide on the basis of the nomination of the jury regarding the allocation of the Descartes-Huygens Prize.
2. The Descartes-Huygens Prize will be presented by the President of the Academy or by a deputy designated by the President.
3. The presentation of the Descartes-Huygens Prize takes place alternately in France and the Netherlands.

Article 7 Final provisions
1. These regulations were adopted by the Academy board on 28 March 2017 and came into force on 28 March 2017.
2. In any circumstance not provided for by these regulations, the Academy board will decide.