

FWOS Call: call for the submission of research proposals 2021
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1. FWOS Call 2021: Diversity and Society - Understanding the sexuality of young people.

Key words: sexual development; ethnic diversity; cultural diversity; LGBTI+ youth; society; refugee youth

Deadline for letters of intent: before 20 November 2021.

Letters of intent (and the final research proposals) can be submitted by researchers who are in paid employment at universities, research institutes and/or knowledge institutes in social domains (kennisinstituten). One or more of the applicants who act as supervisor of the PhD candidate appointed to the project should be affiliated with an established PhD program at a University in the Netherlands.

2. Content of the call

Mission of the Fund

The Fund for Scientific Research of Sexuality (FWOS) promotes research into and debate about all facets of the social- and psychosexual development of children and youth in the Netherlands, from infancy to adolescence. The FWOS places this sexual development in the broad context of the entire social, socio-emotional and cognitive development of children and young people. The views and actions of young people themselves – the actor perspective – are important to the FWOS, as is the role played by parents, educators and the underlying social, cultural, historical and legal context.

The FWOS highly appreciates innovative approaches to content, theory and methods, and puts strong emphasis on the societal and practical relevance of the study and dissemination opportunities of the findings to various stakeholders. Therefore, we encourage universities and research institutes to collaborate with expert centers, societal partners, etc. In addition, we focus on funding research into topics that are hardly covered by other funding agencies.

Scientific Program Policy 2019-2023

The current call for applications is grounded in our *Scientific Program Policy 2019-2023* (see <https://www.fwos.nl/onderzoeksprogramma/2019-2023/>). The focus of the program is on diversity and society, with two key themes:

- Sexual and gender diversity, more specifically the social- and psychosexual development of LHBT+ youth and identity development, including the biological/psychological/societal determinants and consequences of factors that influence this development and the consequences of this for young LGBTI+ individuals themselves as well as for the broader society and social groups;
- Ethnic and cultural diversity, more specifically the social- and psychosexual development of young people with a migrant or refugee background growing up in various ethnic and/or cultural spheres and identity development, including the biological/psychological/societal determinants and consequences of factors that influence this development and the consequences for young individuals themselves, their families as well as for the broader society and social groups.

3. Objective of the call

With this call, the FWOS aims to draw scientific attention to social- and psychosexual development of young people with diverse experiences, feelings, identities, bodies or backgrounds. In this call FWOS deliberately does not place any other constraints on the potential topics for the proposals, which allows researchers to develop a proposal based on their view of the most relevant issues for society and developments in sexuality research today. Researchers are hence free to develop proposals regarding topics and settings of topic their choosing. We invite proposals making use of quantitative, qualitative or mixed-methods. We ask you to keep in mind that:

- Although the age of the research population can range from young children to adolescents up to their mid-twenties, most studies funded by the FWOS focus on 20-25 year olds. This leaves the group younger than 20 deprived of the potential benefits of scientific research, as a result of which the sexual development trajectory of younger children receives too little attention.
- The FWOS focusses in particular on research into topics not typically covered by other funding agencies. From the perspective of the FWOS, sexual health issues such as sexual violence, gender-based violence, STIs, young motherhood, etcetera, are well-covered by other funding agencies and not a priority for the FWOS.
- We strongly encourage academic partners to team up with professionals working in the field of young people and sexuality, to develop a research proposal that is firmly rooted in scientific expertise with respect to theoretical development and research methods, as well as firmly focused on yielding results that can be used in real life.

4. Preconditions and budget

Who can apply for a grant?

Researchers who are in paid employment at universities, research institutes and/or knowledge institutes in social domains (kennisinstituten) can submit a proposal. The proposal should be submitted by the project leader. One or more of the applicants who act as supervisor of the PhD candidate appointed to the project should be affiliated with an established PhD program at a University in the Netherlands. This thesis should be completed at the end of the funding period.

Available budget

FWOS can finance research projects with 1 PhD position. In addition to personnel costs for the PhD candidate or junior researcher position (1 FTE for four years) and personnel costs for supervision (max. 0,1 FTE for four years), the budget may also include material costs that are directly related to the research (specifications required) for the entire funding period. External costs for data collection might also be included (specification required). In addition, a bench fee of € 5000 for the entire funding period is available (no specifications needed).

Further preconditions

The duration of the project will be 48 months at the most. The project has to start within six months after funding has been awarded. FWOS can only process a proposal if sent, printed and signed, by post to the FWOS' secretariat directly after sending it by email. The address is: FWOS, P.O. Box 75842, 1070 AV Amsterdam, subject *FWOS Call 2021: Diversity and Society*. The proposal should be received not later than one week after the submission by email to secretariaat@fwos.nl.

5. Procedure and timeline

Procedure

FWOS follows a two-step application procedure: the first step is an extended Letter of Intent (pre-application), the second step is a full research proposal. Both should be written in English. The Letter of Intent will be assessed by the board of FWOS, the full proposal will also be sent out to three additional (international) peer-reviewers.

The Letter of Intent

The first step of this procedure is to send a Letter of Intent (Pre-Application). This should contain:

- The research topic and its societal and scientific relevance (max 250 words)
- The objective(s) and research question(s) (max 150 words)
- A brief indication of the methods that will be used (max 200 words)
- Partner organizations involved in the project and their roles

- An overall, realistic estimate of the budget
- A brief CV of the main applicant

Full research proposal

Applicants of selected proposals will be asked to submit a full research proposal. This proposal should adhere to the following guidelines and include the required information:

- The proposal should reflect state-of-the-art knowledge of the research literature and societal issues at stake, resulting in clearly formulated objectives and research questions.
- The proposal should include a thorough description of the research methods.
- The proposal's scientific and societal relevance need to be indicated in the application. The study's results should contribute to science as well as practice and the proposal should clarify how both these objectives (scientific and societal relevance) are achieved.
- The research proposal should be limited to a maximum of 4000 words, excluding an abstract, references, a detailed budget, and the main applicant's CV.
- The budget should specify all costs in detail.

Timeline

The Letter of Intent should be sent by mail before November 20, 2021. Based on this, the FWOS board will select applicants to write a definitive research proposal. A response will be sent on December 23, 2021.

Final proposals should be sent by mail and before March 15, 2022.

The reviews will be sent on April 15, 2022. Your rebuttal should be submitted before May 1, 2022. FWOS will decide on acceptance of the proposals on May 17, 2022.

6. Contact

For information regarding content and/or information about the procedure, please contact the FWOS at secretariaat@fwos.nl.

N.B. Please be aware that the text of this call can sometimes be slightly adjusted or supplemented. Changes will be visible in the text, so check this text, at the moment you start writing the application.