



Regulations - NIAS Selection Procedure

NIAS Individual Fellowships

Article 1 General

- 1 NIAS opens the Call for NIAS Fellowship applications once a year. Eligible scholars can be with or without an affiliation to a university, research institute or organisation or work as self-employed, independent researchers.
- 2 NIAS aims to grant equal freedoms and rights to all researchers. We will not exclude individual researchers based on their nationality, ethnicity, religion, or affiliation, and are dedicated to ensuring that everyone in our community feels safe among their peers. However as of March 2022, as part of the EU sanctions in response to the Ukraine crisis, NIAS is forced to deny applicants (whatever their nationality) affiliated to Russian or Belarusian universities and research institutes. Applicants with a Russian or Belarusian nationality who are independent or are affiliated to a research institution outside Russia or Belarus, are eligible.
- 3 A NIAS Fellowship consists of:
 - a. 5 or 10 months to work on a project proposal of a scholar's own choice that fits within the scope of humanities and/or social sciences;
 - b. Office with internet and ICT support;
 - c. Communal lunches (on working days, holidays excluded);
 - d. Technical and practical support;
 - e. Library services;
 - f. Participation in the weekly seminar(s) and other academic activities;
 - g. Facilities to organise an in-house Expert Workshop;
 - h. Facilities for public outreach;
 - i. Possibility to apply for a stipend covering part of the costs of a fellowship (for fellows from universities or institutes abroad or independent scholars);
 - j. Possibility to apply for a Dutch University Grant (for fellows affiliated to Dutch universities, paid to the university directly);
 - k. Possibility to apply for subsidised accommodation in Amsterdam or reimbursement of

the daily commuting travel expenses.

- 4 A NIAS fellowship does not constitute an employment relationship. During the fellowship, the fellow is and remains an employee of their own university or research institute, or – in case this applies – remains a self-employed researcher. Subsequently, NIAS is not obligated to make social-insurance contributions or to contribute to a pension or unemployment insurance.
- 5 Stipends. Fellows who are in need of financial support, can apply for a stipend of € 3.500 Euros a month (up to a maximum of € 35.000 for a full year fellowship). This applies to fellows without (sufficient) income during their fellowship, who are 1) affiliated to a university or institute outside the Netherlands; or 2) who are living in or outside the Netherlands and are (temporarily) not affiliated to a university, or who are self-employed.
- 6 Extra funding. In case a fellow who meets the requirements mentioned in *Article 1* needs extra financial compensation of another type to be able to fully commit to their fellowship, it is possible to apply for (limited) extra funding. The NIAS director will make the decision, based on additional information of the fellow's (personal) circumstances, on whether this extra funding will be granted.
- 7 NIAS Dutch University Grant. In case of a Dutch University Grant, Dutch universities or institutes receive a grant of € 3.500 per month for fellows affiliated to their university or institute during the period of the fellowship. Grants will be paid on the basis of an invoice which universities send to NIAS.
- 8 Taxation of stipends. Stipends awarded by NIAS to Dutch scholars, authors, journalists and artists are seen as '[Income from other work](#)' by the Dutch tax authorities, and should be filed as such for tax return by the recipients themselves. Fellows who do not live in the Netherlands [will not be taxed for stipends](#) which, according to the bilateral tax treaty, have been assigned to their country of residence and they pay taxes there.
- 9 Accommodation. Fellows from outside the Netherlands or fellows living in the Netherlands with more than a 1.5-hour commute (one way) from the NIAS premises can apply for a studio at the Fellows House at a highly subsidised rate of € 975 per month. Fellows who bring their children to Amsterdam may apply for a family apartment at the same subsidised rate.
- 10 Travel costs. Fellows who travel from abroad to the Netherlands can receive reimbursement of one return ticket up to a maximum of € 1.500. Fellows who commute from their home in the Netherlands to NIAS, can receive reimbursement of their travel costs up to a maximum of € 250 per month.

11 Conditions. When signing a fellowship agreement at NIAS, you agree to live by the requirements and responsibilities listed below:

Requirements

- NIAS fellows are required to be physically present at NIAS at least four days per week.
- For the complete duration of the Fellowship Agreement every fellow needs to be released from teaching, supervision, and administrative obligations. An exception is made for the supervision of PhD-candidates. By signing the Fellowship Agreement, both fellows and Dutch universities or institutes are committing to meet these basic conditions of a NIAS fellowship.
- With the exception of those taking place during vacation weeks, fellows attend all weekly seminars during their fellowship period.
- During the academic year of their fellowship at NIAS, fellows are required to conduct a minimum of two peer reviews of fellowship applications on behalf of NIAS.
- Fellows may take up to two weeks of vacation per semester.
- Fellows can attend a maximum of two external research related events of more than one weekday per semester, so long as these do not intervene with their seminar attendance. The costs involved will be at the expense of the fellows.

Responsibilities

- Fellows commit to making a constructive social and intellectual contribution to the NIAS community during their stay.
- NIAS fellows are required to respect and honour the [NIAS Code of Conduct](#).
- NIAS fellows generally collaborate in the case of interview requests, videos, photography and other ways in which NIAS wishes to present the institute to the outside world.
- For the duration of their fellowship, NIAS fellows commit to identifying themselves as 'fellow at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (NIAS-KNAW)'.
- Fellows selected within the context of a partnered fellowship, also commit to the fellowship requirements of that partner.

12 Research Integrity. NIAS fellows are required to adhere to the [Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) and observe this code when carrying out their research at NIAS. This document speaks of five general principles: 1) Honesty, 2) Scrupulousness, 3) Transparency, 4) Independence and 5) Responsibility.

13 Each academic year between twenty and forty fellowships (in sum a maximum of two hundred forty fellow months) are granted to NIAS Fellowship applicants. The exact number of fellowships granted is a decision made by the NIAS Directorate in line with *Article 7* in these *Regulations*, taking into account for instance the available office spaces, accommodation and resources.

Article 2 Formal requirements for a NIAS Individual Fellowship application

1 The formal requirements for a NIAS Individual Fellowship application are:

- a) On the date that the Call closes, the applicant must have at least three years academic experience since the date they were awarded a PhD – or the equivalent experience NIAS has formulated for journalistic, literary and artistic researchers;
- b) The project proposal must broadly fit within the scope of humanities and/or social sciences;
- c) The project proposal should consist of no more than a maximum of fifteen hundred words including footnotes, excluding references and abstract;
- d) The project proposal should contain at least a research question, a clear description of the project that will be conducted during a stay at NIAS, as well as the methodological and theoretical contribution the project aims at;
- e) Project descriptions that are not embedded in the existing literature and do not contain a short list of references will not be eligible for selection;
- f) The applicant should submit an updated C.V. including a list of core publications (maximum of 10 publications). The CV begins with a narrative section addressing the following items (in no more than 300 words):
 - o How does your proposed project relate to your academic trajectory to date?
 - o Why is this fellowship timely for your current academic context?The CV including the narrative part and the list of publications is no longer than a maximum of 3 pages;
- g) Applicants can only apply once per call;
- h) Applicants cannot apply for a fellowship while they already have an application under review with NIAS;
- i) An applicant who previously held a NIAS fellowship may only apply for a NIAS Individual Fellowship if there are at least 10 years between the application date of the previous fellowship and the current application deadline date;
- j) The NIAS director reserves the right to extend invitations for Guest of Director-

Fellowships independently from any NIAS selection procedures to any candidate or alumni regardless of selection status or previously held fellowships at NIAS in deviation from *Article 2i* of these *Regulations*;

- k) Applicants provide the names of three international experts in their field who would be suitable to approach as referees. Conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to, the categories described in the “KNAW code of conduct for boards, juries and committees that assess and decide on the conferral of awards memberships and funding” (See the [KNAW website](#));
- l) Project descriptions may not be generated by AI;
- m) The application must be completed correctly and contain all the requested information and required documentation. In case an application is not complete or correct, the application will automatically be rejected.

Article 3 Application procedure

- 1 The annual Call for Applications for NIAS Individual Fellowships is open from the 15th of January to the 15th of March (or the following Monday, in case this date is a Saturday or Sunday).
- 2 Applications are written in English and submitted via the application module on the NIAS website by 12.00 noon CET on the 15th of March (or the following Monday, in case this date is a Saturday or Sunday) and they must comply with all the formal requirements stated above in *Article 2* of these *Regulations*.
- 3 NIAS caps the number of applications admitted to the NIAS Open Call for Fellowships at two hundred and sixteen (216). This means that no more than 72 applications will be admitted in each of the following categories: 1.Dutch-affiliated or -based applicants; 2.Applicants affiliated with or based in other EU countries, or in Andorra, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Israel, Monaco, Norway, Liechtenstein, San Marino, Vatican City, Switzerland, the UK, the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand; 3.Applicants affiliated with or based in all countries not listed above. NIAS will announce when the limit for any of these sub-caps has been reached. If the maximum of 72 eligible applications is not reached in one category, the remaining capacity will be distributed equally among the other categories. The *numerus clausus* does not apply to applications for the Theme Groups .
- 4 An application is only considered as being submitted once an automatic confirmation of receipt has been sent. Applications that have not been submitted before the deadline of

12.00 noon CET on the 15th of March (or the following Monday, in case this date is a Saturday or Sunday) will not be taken into consideration.

- 5 Employees of NIAS and the KNAW Academy Bureau, and members of the NIAS Academic Advisory Board (AAB) may not apply. External referees, as determined in *Article 4* of these regulations, may apply on the condition that they do not act as referees in the selection procedure for that year.
- 6 The Selection Officer at NIAS checks whether the application complies with all the eligibility criteria as stated in *Article 2* of these Regulations. If the application does not meet the formal requirements the application will be rejected and the applicant will be informed by email before 1 May.
- 7 A NIAS Staff Committee, composed of members not otherwise involved in the selection procedure, assesses the applicants' commitment - NIAS's core value. They review the candidates' statements on interdisciplinary and community engagement and propose up to 150 candidates for the reviewing phase, taking into account the level of dedication and care evident in the applications. Candidates not proposed for review will be notified by email before 15 May.

Article 4 Evaluation by external referees

- 1 Applications that meet all formal requirements as stated in *Article 2 and 3* of these *Regulations* will be sent to a total of two selected external referees taken either from the panel of referees compiled by NIAS for the selection procedure, and/or from the three referees put forward by applicant as described in *Article 2j*. The range of specialties of the NIAS panel of referees is broad which ensures that a wide variety of expertise and backgrounds is represented.
- 2 The external referees evaluate the project proposal, with the applicant's C.V. serving as background information. The referees evaluate the project description and give each proposal a score of A+, A, B, C or D, where D indicates 'very poor' and A+ indicates 'excellent'. The scores are based on review of the following criteria:
 - a) Research topic and research question
 - b) Relation of the project to existing literature in the field
 - c) Relevance of the research project (i.e. academic; may also include societal, cultural or artistic relevance)
 - d) Identification of the problems involved and methodology
 - e) Fit with candidate's academic trajectory

- f) Feasibility of the time schedule
 - g) Intended research output
 - h) How do you assess the applicant will benefit from carrying out the work in the interdisciplinary environment of NIAS.
- 3 The seventy-five applications with the highest scores from the referees' evaluations will be presented to the NIAS Academic Advisory Board as described in *Article 5* of these *Regulations*.

Article 5 Academic Advisory Board, responsibilities, composition and work procedures

- 1 NIAS (the Director and the Head of Curriculum) installs an Academic Advisory Board (AAB) which has the task of advising NIAS on the selection procedure and of ranking applicants, taking into account the internal balance of the proposed year group, in terms of discipline, gender, seniority and regional diversity. On the basis of the advice of the AAB the NIAS directorate takes the final decisions about the allocation of fellowships.
- 2 The Academic Advisory Board consists of a maximum of seven members including the chair. Members are appointed by the Director of NIAS for a term of four years, which can be extended for one more term of four years.
- 3 The Academic Advisory Board consists of the chair and members of the Scientific Advisory Board (WECO) plus three additional members. In appointing the Academic Advisory Board members, care is taken to maintain a balance with respect to discipline, gender, seniority and regional diversity.
- 4 All decisions made by the Academic Advisory Board are by majority vote.
- 5 The members of the Academic Advisory Board are bound by the "KNAW code of conduct for the boards, juries and committees that assess and decide on the conferral of awards, memberships and funding" (See the [KNAW website](#)).
- 6 NIAS staff provide the necessary administrative support and facilities to the Academic Advisory Board.

Article 6 Evaluation by the Academic Advisory Board

- 1 The Academic Advisory Board (AAB) evaluates the quality of the best seventy five applications that received the highest scores from external referees with respect to the criteria stated in *Article 4. 2* of these *Regulations*.
- 2 Subsequently, the (AAB) ranks candidates and compiles a list of the best applications up to a total maximum of two hundred fellowship months (twenty to forty applicants). The AAB then compiles a reserve list up to a total maximum of fifty fellowship months (five to ten applicants). The remaining applicants will be rejected. The Academic Advisory Board presents its findings and advises the Director by the 1st of December at the very latest.

Article 7 Final selection by the Director of NIAS

- 1 The Director of NIAS decides on the final selection of candidates and the composition of the year group on the basis of the Academic Advisory Board's advice, with a focus on the following additional criteria:
 - a. Diversity of disciplines;
 - b. Balance of Dutch and international scholars;
 - c. Gender balance;
 - d. Regional diversity;
 - e. Balance between early, mid and late career scholars;
 - f. Availability of office spaces, accommodation and resources.
- 2 The Director of NIAS also finalises the reserve list of candidates on the basis of the Academic Advisory Board's advice. This list will be used to augment the year group if candidates from the first list refuse (or are unable to accept) the fellowship offer. Candidates on the reserve list are then approached according to their ranking scores and the additional criteria stated in *Article 7.1*.
- 3 The Director of NIAS informs all candidates in writing of his decision no later than the 15th of December in the year that the application was submitted i.e. candidates who have been selected, candidates who have not been selected and candidates who have been placed on the reserve list.
- 4 Once all selected candidates have been informed by the Director, NIAS will discuss with the successful candidates the details of their Fellowship Agreement. If NIAS and the candidate have not come to mutual agreement by the 15th of April of the year following selection, the Director's decision (as stated in *Article 7.3*) expires. If that is the case, the

candidate will be notified and the Director of NIAS will select the following candidate from the reserve list. Offers cannot be deferred to a future year.

- 5 All fellowship offers to selected candidates are made for a specific semester in a specific academic year. If a selected candidate is not able to conduct the fellowship at NIAS for the full duration of the semester in question, the offer will be revoked. Fellowship offers cannot be deferred to a future semester or future academic year.

Article 8 Events beyond the parties' control

- 1 In case of an event beyond the parties' control which makes it (temporarily) impossible for NIAS and/or the successful candidates to comply with obligations set forth in their Fellowship Agreement after the fellowship has already commenced, an amended agreement may be drafted by NIAS and signed by both parties at the discretion of the NIAS director;
- 2 Such events include for instance (further) shutdown, work stoppage or work delay of a governmental entity, service provider or other business indispensable for the performance of the terms of the Fellowship Agreement; (further) national or local government orders, including but not limited to (further) travel restrictions; or required lockdown or quarantine of either NIAS-KNAW or the Fellow;
- 3 Successful candidates who hold a fellowship during such an event, are exempt from *Article 2, section 1i*.

Final Provisions

- 1 These *Regulations* are finalised by the Directorate of NIAS on 02-12-2025.
- 2 In any situations not mentioned or covered by these *Regulations*, the Director of NIAS will take the final decision.

Regulations - NIAS Selection Procedure effective from 1 January 2026

Jan Willem Duyvendak
Director of NIAS