

Young Visiting Scientist Stipend

Brochure 2011

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1. Introduction

The Netherlands Genomics Initiative (NGI) attaches a great deal of value to international cooperation and therefore launched a stipend programme in 2009: the Distinguished Visiting Scientist Stipend. It offered top researchers associated with one of the NGI Genomics Centres an opportunity to perform research at a foreign top Institute and foreign top researchers to come to the Netherlands for a project at one of the NGI Genomics Centres. In two rounds a total of eleven scientists were granted a stipend, six from NGI centres and five from abroad. In these rounds an H-index higher than 25 was required to participate, which proved a threshold for most young scientists. For 2011 NGI has therefore created the Young Visiting Scientist Stipends to provide a younger generation of excellent scientists with the possibility to perform research abroad or come to the Netherlands.

Purpose of this programme is to advance the international image of the NGI Genomics Centres, to invest in the scientific careers of young researchers and, through the exchange of researchers, raise the scientific and economic output of the NGI Genomics Centres.

The total budget for the Young Visiting Scientist Stipends is € 400,000. This brochure applies to the application round in 2011.

2. Application procedure

2.1 Who may apply?

The directors of the NGI Genomics Centres (see list under point 4.) can submit one proposal per Centre and per round for a young top researcher associated to the Centre or a young top researcher working abroad. Young top researchers are defined as scientists with an excellent track record and an H-index¹ higher than 15 (or demonstrably comparable scientific productivity and impact – at the discretion of NGI) who obtained their PhD degree no more than 15 years ago. Interested researchers (m/f) cannot apply directly but are advised to timely contact the directors of the NGI Genomics Centres.

¹ The H-index (or Hirsch index) is an index that quantifies both the actual scientific productivity and the apparent scientific impact of a scientist. The index is based on the set of the scientist's most cited papers and the number of citations that they have received in other people's publications. The H-index can be manually determined using Google Scholar or Web of Knowledge (www.webofknowledge.com).

2.2 What can be applied for?

In case of researchers associated with NGI Centres, an application can be submitted for a stay ranging from a minimum of 1 month to a maximum of 12 months with a foreign institute, spread over a maximum period of two years (starting from 1 September 2011). A minimum stay of one month (unbroken) per year applies.

In case of researchers employed abroad, an application can be submitted for a stay ranging from a minimum of 1 month to a maximum of 12 months with one of the NGI Genomics Centres, spread over a maximum period of two years (starting from 1 September 2011). A minimum stay of one month (unbroken) per year applies.

The total amount made available by NGI is maximised at € 10,000 per month. Travelling and accommodation expenses of the applicant will be reimbursed, in addition to, if appropriate, salary or replacement costs (maximised at € 6,000 per month for scientists from abroad), as well as research costs. This scheme does not involve an employment relationship or contract.

2.3 When can applications be submitted?

The closing date for applying for a Distinguished Visiting Scientist Stipend is **1 April 2011**. For more information on submitting applications, see 2.5 and 3.1.

2.4 Drawing up the application

The application must be drawn up in English, typeface Verdana (font size 10) and include the information below.

- Name director and NGI Genomics Centre
- Contact details candidate (visiting scientist)
- Justification/Motivation (max 0.5 A4)
- Research plan (max 2 A4)
- Planning (in principle within the period from 1 Sep 2011 – 1 Sep 2013)
- Added value to NGI Genomics Centre (science, utilisation of results; 0.5 A4)
- Visibility of the scientist at the host institution (e.g., interaction with research staff, guest lectures; 0.5 A4)
- Detailed budget estimates covering travel and accommodation and, if appropriate, salary or replacement costs, as well as research costs.
- Detailed CV candidate, including date of PhD, H-index and list of publications.
- The application will be signed by both the candidate and the director of the NGI Genomics Centre.
- For visits to Institutes outside the Netherlands: A brief description of the proposed host institute, together with a letter of support from this Institute.

2.5 Submitting the application

Applications must be submitted by e-mail to NGI (addressed to donselaar@genomics.nl). The closing date is **1 April 2011**. Only applications that are complete and submitted on time will be taken into consideration.

3. Evaluation procedure

3.1 Procedure

The first step involves testing the submitting applications against the conditions referred to in Chapter 2. Applications that fail to meet these conditions are not processed further.

This concerns an open competition between NGI Genomics Centres. Evaluation of the applications will be carried out by the NGI Management Team (Laane, van Donselaar, Diderich, Herben & Rijkers). No reviews are requested from referees. The applications are prioritised on the basis of the criteria and awarded on the basis of the available budget. Only assessments that receive the evaluation 'very good' are eligible for the stipend. The decision is taken by the NGI director.

Handling time of applications is approx. 1 month. Results will be communicated to the candidates and directors in early May 2011. The earliest possible starting date is September 2011 (or sooner at the candidate's request).

3.2 Criteria

Applications are evaluated on the basis of quality criteria.

Quality criteria

- Quality of applicant:
Important indications are the H-index, the CV including research publications, and the 'letter of support' from the host Institute
- Quality of proposal:
Quality, suitability and significance of the research for the host Genomics Centre (science, utilisation of results), visibility of the scientist, and feasibility of the work plan (the term of stay must be appropriate to the planned activities)
- Quality of host Institute:
(only for applications for a stay abroad)
International reputation, quality of scientific facilities.

4. Further information

4.1 Contact NGI

Coordinator Young Visiting Scientist programme

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4.2 Principals/directors NGI Genomics Centres

- Cancer Genomics Centre
Prof. Dr Hans Bos
- Centre for Medical Systems Biology
Prof. Dr Gert-Jan van Ommen
- Forensic Genomics Consortium Netherlands
Prof. Dr Peter de Knijff
- Netherlands Consortium for Healthy Ageing
Prof. Dr André Uitterlinden
- VIRGO Consortium
Prof. Dr Ab Osterhaus
- Celiac Disease Consortium
Prof. Dr Frits Koning
- Centre for BioSystems Genomics
Dr Robert Hall
- Netherlands Nutrigenomics Consortium
Prof. Dr Michael Müller
- Ecogenomics Innovation Centre
Prof. Dr Bram Brouwer
- Kluyver Centre for Genomics of Industrial Fermentation
Prof. Dr Jack Pronk
- Netherlands Bioinformatics Centre
Dr. Ruben Kok
- Netherlands Consortium for Systems Biology
Prof. Dr Roel van Driel
- Netherlands Metabolomics Centre
Prof. Dr Thomas Hankemeier
- Netherlands Proteomics Centre
Prof. Dr Albert Heck
- Netherlands Toxicogenomics Centre
Prof. Dr Jos Kleinjans
- Centre for Society and Genomics
Prof. Dr Hub Zwart