

Application Criteria for NOSTER Funding of Workgroups

In harmony with earlier correspondence about the Gravitation application, NOSTER aims to elaborate on the three main topics identified in the application in separate NOSTER workgroups: (1) the role of religion in our imaginaries of climate change and relation to the natural world; (2) the role of religion in our imaginaries of political communities and relationships between different forms of governance; and (3) the role of religion in imaginaries around work, both paid and unpaid. In three subsequent years (2022, 2023, 2024) NOSTER will facilitate one workgroup by providing funding for collaborative work leading to a research proposal on one of these topics, or another future-oriented topic in relation to the concept of religious imaginaries.

Applications should meet the following criteria:

1. The workgroup aims at a national or international research application. The application for NOSTER funding mentions the funding agency to be approached (e.g. NWO, ERC) and long-term results in terms of research cooperation.
2. The applicants justify in what way the application contributes to the conceptual actualisation of the field of theology and religious studies in the Netherlands, in harmony with the proposed Gravitation programme (which can be requested from the NOSTER office).
3. The applicants show a realistic planning that leads to the application, and argue why they think the application can be successful.
4. The application includes an estimate budget and mentions the amount of funding requested from NOSTER with a maximum of 10.000 euro.
5. The application includes a list of all researchers involved, mentioning their names, institutions, relations to NOSTER (ReMa student, PhD candidate, senior member) and roles in the project.
6. The workgroup includes senior researchers affiliated to at least three institutions that participate in NOSTER, and at least two MA students who are potential PhD candidates.
7. The application should explain to what extent diversity in terms of gender, ethnicity and religion, among others, has been pursued and achieved in the composition of the project group.
8. The funding can be used to cover material costs and/or hiring student assistants or doctoral/postdoctoral researchers. Involved institutions are expected to contribute in kind. If funding is requested for replacement of senior staff (assistant/associate/extraordinary/full professors) there must be proper reasoning.
9. The application mentions one (main) applicant, with whom NOSTER communicates. The invoice to NOSTER to receive the funding is sent by the institution with which the applicant is affiliated.
10. The NOSTER grant must be spent before the end of the year that follows after the year in which NOSTER granted funding. If the workgroup does not submit any application to a national or international funding agency, NOSTER has the right to reclaim (a reasonable part of) the funding granted to the workgroup.

If NOSTER decides to fund the workgroup, NOSTER should be mentioned in any output (publications, conference programmes, websites etc.) and receive a brief report.

Funding applications can be sent to noster@ru.nl. Application deadlines will be announced on the NOSTER website. Applications that do not comply with these conditions and/or do not contain all requested elements, will not be considered. The Academic Director of NOSTER will seek the advice of the Executive Board (*Dagelijks Bestuur*) of NOSTER before making a motivated decision.