Universiteit Leiden
Rechtsgeleerdheid

External Research Funding | 16/07/2026

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There is now an official roadmap for submitting a grant application at the Leiden Law School. You can find details at Funding Support – Leiden Law School.

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→ Do you have a **specific topic** you would like to find funding opportunities for?
→ Do you know a **donor** that you think should be added to our list?
→ Do you want to receive **monthly updates** about external funding opportunities?

Let me know!

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Useful links:

- Faculty of Law | Steps for Submitting a Research Grant Proposal
- Faculty of Law | Introduction to Funding & Funding Schemes
- Faculty of Law | Funding Opportunities

- Leiden University | Research Funding Knowledge Base (Donor Overview)
- Leiden University | Research Funding Events
- Leiden University | Education Grants
- LUF | Grants

- NWO | Funding Calls
- EU | Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal
- Erasmus+ | Deadlines

- SteunLeiden | Start a crowdfunding campaign!

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1. **Events**

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026 Brokerage Event
15–16 July 2026 (online)

RVO – Horizon Europe Impact Training
23 July 2026, 09:30 (Rijkshub Leiden, Stationsplein 1, 2312 AJ Leiden)

RVO – Horizon Europe Impact Training
27 August 2026, 09:30 (Rijkshub Leiden, Stationsplein 1, 2312 AJ Leiden)

Information Webinar on the NWA ORC 2026 – NWO
28 August 2026, 10:00 (online)

UL Course: Writing an Excellent Research Grant Proposal for PhDs and Postdocs
10 September 2026 (all day, PLNT Leiden)

RVO – Juridisch-financiële basiscursus Horizon Europe: Lump Sum Funding
14 September 2026, 12:30 (online)

RVO – Juridisch-financiële basiscursus Horizon Europe: Actual Costs
16 September 2026, 12:30 (online)

EU – Talent Ecosystems: Building Sustainable Research Careers
29 September 2026, 09:00 (online & Brussels)

See more events at Leiden Research Funding Knowledge Base: Events.

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2. Individual Projects

NWO | Open Competition SSH M 2026	
What is it?	Offer researchers the opportunity to carry out research into a subject of their own choosing without any thematic constraints. Open for applicants who received their PhD at least 10 years ago.
How much?	€ 400,000
Deadline	**Expected to open in summer with deadline in autumn 2026.**
Notes	The M and L grants are merging into one funding instrument.

NWO | Veni SSH 2026	
What is it?	Funding for early-career researchers (up to 3 years after their PhD) to conduct research of their choice and develop their own line of research.
How much?	€ 320,000
Deadline	**1 September 2026, 14:00.**

NWO | Open Competition SSH XS 2026 (Round 3)	
What is it?	To encourage curiosity-driven and innovative research that involves the relatively **rapid exploration of a promising idea**.
How much?	Max. €50,000 for 6-24 months.
Deadline	**15 September 2026, 14:00.**

EC-JTM | Public Sector Loan Facility (PSLF) Lump Sum Grants	
What is it?	Research on serious social, economic and environmental challenges deriving from the transition towards the **EU's 2030 climate and energy targets** and the EU's 2050 objective of climate neutrality.
How much?	€1 million – 25 million. See call document (page 15).
Deadline	**17 September 2026, 17:00.** **16 February 2027, 17:00.**

Ammodo Foundation | Fundamental Research Grant	
What is it?	Universities can **nominate** mid-career scientists for the opportunity to conduct pioneering fundamental scientific research.
How much?	€350,000
Deadline	**25 September 2026, 11:59.**

LUF | Project Grant Round 2027	
What is it?	Funding for **research projects** and **innovative education projects**. The scheme is intended primarily to support early-career researchers at Leiden University and LUMC through a two-stage application process.
How much?	Up to **€35,000.**
Deadline	**7 October 2026** (pre-applications).

ERC | Starting Grant (StG) 2027	
What is it?	Funding for early career researchers to conduct fundamental research. The applicant must have defended their PhD no more than 10 years before 1 January 2027 (new, expanded eligibility window as per 2027: see here).
How much?	Up to €1.5 million for 5 years.
Deadline	**Expected to open in summer with deadline October 2026.**

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NWO | Vidi SSH 2026	
What is it?	Funding for mid-career researchers (up to 8 years after their PhD) to conduct research of their choice and further their line of research.
How much?	€ 850,000
Deadline	**Expected deadline November 2026.**

NWO | Take-off Phase 1 – Feasibility Studies WO 2026	
What is it?	Stimulating activity and **entrepreneurship from Dutch universities**, to investigate feasibility to commercially apply an innovative research result.
How much?	Max. €60,000 for 6 months.
Deadline	**10 December 2026, 14:00.**

NWO | Vici SSH 2027	
What is it?	Funding for senior researchers (up to 15 years after their PhD) to conduct research of their choice and consolidate their line of research.
How much?	€ 1.5 million
Deadline	**Expected deadline March 2027.**

KNAW | Statesman Thorbecke Fund Programme	
What is it?	Research projects that have a strong connection with the Dutch statesman Johan Rudolf Thorbecke and that are carried out by a postdoctoral researcher.
How much?	Up to €200,000
Deadline	**Opening September 2027.**

BREN Zuid-Holland | Research & Innovation Funding for Youth Care	
What is it?	BREN Zuid-Holland is a network of youth care professionals committed to sustainable and structural transformation. See application process and guidelines for submitting a proposal (in Dutch).
How much?	Depends on research study.
Deadline	**Continuous (rolling).**

WODC (Scientific Research and Data Centre) | Research Programming 2026	
What is it?	WODC publishes its programme of intended research annually.
How much?	Depends on research study.
Deadline	**Contact the WODC for more details.**

ERC | Consolidator Grant (CoG) 2027	
What is it?	Funding for researchers consolidating their independent research and establishing or strengthening their own research team. Applicants must normally have defended their PhD between 5-15 years before 1 January 2027.
How much?	Up to €2 million for a period of up to 5 years.
Deadline	**Expected to open in autumn 2026 with a deadline in early 2027.**

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3. Collaborative Projects

UZH | Global Funding Scheme 2026	
What is it?	Funding for joint initiatives between Leiden University and the University of Zurich (UZH). • **Global Outreach Fund** – up to CHF 5,000 to increase international visibility and showcase research strengths related to global challenges. • **Global Seed Fund** – up to CHF 5,000 to support early-stage collaboration, networking, and proposal development for future external funding. • **Global Champion Fund** – CHF 20,000–60,000 for larger collaborations with strong institutional support and long-term strategic impact.
How much?	See amounts above.
Deadline	**31 July 2026, 17:00.**
Notes	**Applications must be submitted by a UZH partner.**

NWA | Research along Routes by Consortia (NWA-ORC) 2026	
What is it?	Funding for large-scale interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary consortia addressing societal challenges based on themes from the Dutch Research Agenda (NWA). Research is carried out jointly with societal partners and may involve citizens.
How much?	Up to **€7.25 million** per consortium project.
Deadline	**6 October 2026, 14:00**. Participation in the mandatory consortium-building workshops is required.
Notes	**Information Webinar** 28 August 2026, 10:00 (online)

COST | European Cooperation in Science and Technology	
What is it?	Networking-based funding contributing to the scientific, technological, economic, cultural or societal knowledge development of Europe. Develop your own network or find out how to join an existing COST Action here.
How much?	Approx. € 690,000 total for 4 years (€150,000 for first year and €180,000 per year for the other three years)
Deadline	**Opening 31 July with deadline 28 October 2026, 12:00.**

Volkswagen Stiftung | Transformational Knowledge on Democracies under Change	
What is it?	Task Forces: up to two researchers plus civil-society partners work for one year on an urgent question affecting democracy in the EU, producing concrete policy recommendations.
How much?	Up to €180,000
Deadline	**Next Task Force call expected to be published in autumn 2026.**

ERC | Synergy Grant 2027	
What is it?	Funding for a group of two to four Principal Investigators working together on a research problem that cannot be addressed by individual researchers alone. Supports highly ambitious and interdisciplinary research.
How much?	Up to **€10 million** for 6 years
Deadline	**Opening 17 February 2027 with deadline 11 May 2027.**

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For a full list of Horizon Europe 2026-27 calls, see the work programmes below. If you have any questions about consortium building or applying for Horizon, please contact Jekaterina Savicka.

- Cluster 1: Health
- Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society
- Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space
- Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment
- European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE)
- Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area

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4. Organizing Events & Workshops

LUF | Organising a Conference or Workshop	
What is it?	Funding to organise a scientific conference, workshop, symposium, or other academic meeting that contributes to research and knowledge exchange at Leiden University.
How much?	One-day event: € 1,500 Multi-day event: € 3,000
Deadline	**22 October 2026.**

Lorentz Center for Scientific Workshops | Organize a Workshop	
What is it?	The Lorentz Center is a workshop center that hosts international scientific meetings of typically one week. Apply now for a workshop May-Dec 2026.
How much?	In-kind support, roughly €25,000-30,000: venue, social events, coffee breaks, organizational support (developing program).
Deadline	**Continuous (rolling). Next deadline: 24 September 2026.**

KNVIR | Support for Seminars and Expert Meetings	
What is it?	Support for seminars and meetings (e.g. networking activities or a 'meet and greet' with a prominent international lawyer).
How much?	€ 2,000 per event.
Deadline	**Continuous (rolling).**

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5. Mobility Funding

NIAS | Safe Haven Fellowship 2026	
What is it?	Supports scholars at risk. 5-month fellowship to pursue individual research.
How much?	€3,500 per month (February-June 2027)
Deadline	**20 July 2026.**

EU-WIDERA | European Research Area (ERA) Fellowships	
What is it?	MSCA research fellowships taking place in a Widening country (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia).
How much?	Living, mobility, and family allowance based on person-months. See page 78 of the MSCA Work Programme for the contribution amounts.
Deadline	**9 September 2026, 17:00.**

EU-MSCA | MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026	
What is it?	MSCA mobility research fellowships.
How much?	Living, mobility, and family allowance based on person-months. See page 78 of the MSCA Work Programme for the contribution amounts. **Make sure you contact your financial controller before deciding to apply for this grant.**
Deadline	**9 September 2026, 17:00.**

EU-MSCA | Doctoral Networks 2026	
What is it?	Funding for international consortia to recruit and train PhD candidates through interdisciplinary and intersectoral doctoral programmes.
How much?	Covers doctoral candidate salaries, mobility allowances, training, networking, management, and institutional costs.
Deadline	**24 November 2026, 17:00**
Notes	**MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026 Brokerage Event** 15–16 July 2026 (online)

Erasmus+ | Staff Training Abroad	
What is it?	Participate in training such as a course, job-shadowing, an observation period or a language course, in any Erasmus+ country (EU member states, Serbia, North Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Turkey). Covers 2-14 days excluding travel. Conferences not eligible.
How much?	- Daily allowance and travel allowance calculated based on travel distance, number of days, and country cost of living. See here.
Who can apply?	PhD students and staff.
Deadline	**Continuous (rolling)**, but you must apply min. 1 month before the start date of your Erasmus+ period.

Erasmus+ | Teaching Assignments Abroad	
What is it?	Carry out a teaching assignment in any of the Erasmus+ programme countries (EU member states, North Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Turkey). Duration 2-60 days excluding travel, teaching min. 8 hours/week.
How much?	Daily allowance and travel allowance calculated based on travel distance, number of days, and country cost of living. See here.
Who can apply?	PhD students and staff.
Deadline	**Continuous (rolling)**, but you must apply min. 1 month before the start date of your Erasmus+ period.

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6. Small Grants

KNAW | Meetings with Nobel Prize Laureates	
What is it?	Opportunity for young researchers to meet peers from almost 100 countries and to speak with Nobel laureates.
How much?	KNAW contributes to participation costs.
Deadline	**Opening 15 August 2026.**

KNAW | Early Career Partnerships 2026	
What is it?	Funding to organise interdisciplinary meetings for early-career researchers (obtained their PhD 3-7 years ago).
How much?	Up to €10,000
Deadline	**Opening 1 November 2026.**

NWO | Open Access Books	
What is it?	Main applicants or co-applicants of awarded NWO research projects can apply for funding of the costs of **Open Access publishing** of academic books that result from NWO funding.
How much?	Max. € 10.000.
Who can apply?	Main applicants or co-applicants of awarded NWO research projects.
Deadline	**Continuous (rolling).**

SIDN Fonds | Pioneer Projects for a Stronger Internet	
What is it?	Supports projects with added societal value for a strong internet, strong internet users, or the internet's significance for public values and society.
How much?	Up to € 10,000 (to develop your idea into a demo, pilot or experimental design)
Deadline	**Continuous (rolling).**

Juynboll Stichting | Grants for Publications	
What is it?	Grants for publications that promote the study of Arabic and Islam.
How much?	Max. €5000
Deadline	**Continuous (rolling).**

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7. Awards and Prizes

NWO | Arete Award 2026	
What is it?	Award for initiatives or individuals that make an outstanding contribution to a healthy research culture, for example through collaboration, inclusion, integrity, leadership, or researcher wellbeing. Candidates must be nominated by eligible nominators; self-nominations are not permitted.
How much?	€50,000
Deadline	**10 September 2026, 14:00.**

NWO | Stevin Prize	
What is it?	Prestigious prize for researchers who have achieved exceptional societal impact through knowledge utilization. It recognizes outstanding contributions to society arising from academic research.
How much?	€1.5 million
Deadline	**29 October 2026, 14.00.**

NWO | Spinoza Prize	
What is it?	The highest award in Dutch academia for researchers who belong to the international top of their field. It recognizes outstanding and groundbreaking scientific achievements.
How much?	€1.5 million
Deadline	**29 October 2026, 14.00.**

KNAW | Dr. Hendrik Muller Prize	
What is it?	Mid-career prize for outstanding contributions to humanities/social sciences.
How much?	€25,000
Deadline	**Opens 15 March 2027.**

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