



Starter and incentive grants

Starter grants

Who qualifies for a starter grant?

The starter grants are for researchers who receive a permanent contract as a lecturer (Universitair Docent, UD) in and after 2022 of at least 0.7 FTE with a minimum of 0.2 FTE for teaching.

I was appointed as a lecturer (Universitair Docent, UD) at Leiden University in 2022. Before that I was already employed as a teacher (docent). Am I entitled to a starter grant?

Yes.

Are lecturers (Universitair Docent, UD) with a temporary contract and the prospect of a permanent appointment also eligible for a starter grant?

Yes.

Do you have to apply for a starter grant within a certain time?

No specific period has been decided yet but you don't have to submit your application immediately after your appointment.

Are new lecturers (Universitair Docent, UD) also allowed to apply for/receive a starter grant that a team of colleagues will benefit from?

Yes. If there is one main applicant, they can use the grant for several lecturers (Universitair Docent, UD), also ones who already have a permanent contract. This grant could then also be used to fund extra research time for them, for example, if this fits within the Faculty's framework for the starter grants.

Are tenure-track researchers eligible for a starter grant?

Yes, if they have the prospect of a permanent appointment as a lecturer (Universitair Docent, UD).

Are the starter grants structural and will the sum that the Faculty receives in the period 2023 - 2029 remain the same?

The funds for the starters grants are structural. As the funds are allocated according to student numbers, their distribution could change, however. It is not yet known if this distribution will be recalculated each year. In addition, the Administrative Agreement stipulates that the starter and incentive grants will be evaluated after two years. The minister may then decide to provide the funds through a grant scheme (e.g. through the Dutch Research Council (NWO)). The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has indicated that there would then be a transitional arrangement.

How much time is a junior lecturer/PhD candidate with a fixed-term contract allowed to spend on teaching? And how long should does their contract have to be?

The PhD candidate is expected to spend 20-25% of their time teaching within a four-year

PhD track. Added up, this amounts to one year of teaching. This is normally over the entire contract period. If they have a six-year contract (combination of Teacher and PhD Candidate profiles), the four years are supplemented by two years of teaching. This creates a split of 50% research and 50% teaching over the six years.

Are top-ups/supplementary grants possible?

Not for the time being. This may change in the future based on the advice of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science's incentive grants working group.

If you receive a starter grant, can you also apply for a Dutch Research Council (NWO) grant?

For now, there are no restrictions. A national committee is looking at the relationship between the new starter and incentive grants and existing research funding. More information [can be found here](#).

Incentive grants

Are tenure-track researchers eligible for an incentive grant?

Yes, if they have the prospect of a permanent appointment as a lecturer (Universitair Docent, UD).

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The University will receive funding for incentive grants until 2031. Does this funding have to be spent by a certain date?

The duration of an awarded grant is six years maximum. Grants awarded in the last year (2030) can therefore be spent until 2037.

Incentive grants are awarded for ten years. Do this mean they run till 31-12-2031?

Yes.

For the 2023 incentive grants, 50% has been set aside. This does not apply to the 2022 grants. Is this correct?

Yes, this is correct: 2022 is a short period without 50% having been set aside. As of 2023, Leiden University will set aside 50% because a national working group is still coming up with advice. Pending this advice, we want to use 50% but not all of the funding. This policy decision is at a faculty and not a staff level.

Reporting and monitoring

What about reporting during and after the grant period?

Reporting should be done via the faculty and centrally and should tie in with the reporting to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. More information will follow.

Contact person per faculty/department

If you have any questions about the allocation of funds or the implementation of the SSB plans, please contact the contact person at your faculty or department:

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General

Will the Executive Board discuss this topic with the University Council?

The Executive Board will discuss the shape this will take with the University Council in the context of the budget.

These FAQs are a living document and will be regularly updated and supplemented.