

Synergy Grant 2018

Call for Proposals



LANGUAGE
in **INTERACTION**



NWO
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research

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Synergy Grant



LANGUAGE
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1 Introduction

Interdisciplinary, joint research has the potential to provide insights synergistically that go beyond independent individual projects. Therefore, the [Language in Interaction](#) (LiI) consortium offers two 4-year Synergy Grants to teams of two researchers at an early or more advanced phase after finishing a PhD program.

The two available Synergy Grants include the salaries of the two submitting postdoctoral researchers at early or more senior stages of their career. In addition to their own positions, for each grant LiI will finance up to two PhD positions, one RA position, and accompanying measurement costs / consumables.

A match-making platform is available for searching your team member, if you don't have one identified before. If you would like to make use of this option, please send an email to s.berends@donders.ru.nl stating clearly the purpose and email address with which you would like to be added to this match-making platform.

2. Proposal description

A complete research proposal for a 4-year collaborative research project will be provided in English and shall consist of the following elements:

1. Part A - Administrative part
2. Part B1 - Background information on Applicants
 - Curriculum Vitae
 - Two letters of reference for each individual postdoctoral applicant
3. Part B2 - Joint Scientific Research Proposal
 - Research Proposal: max. 2.000 words
4. Part C - Overview of Requested Personnel and Lab Hours
 - Including possible matching contributions and preferred host institution for the requested positions

Part A - Administrative part

In Part A, applicants are asked to provide administrative data that will be used in the evaluation and further processing of the proposal. Part A is an integral part of the proposal and concerns information about the applicants and the research proposal, including title and abstract of the project proposal, and a maximum of 6 keywords.

Part B1 - Information on Applicants

Curriculum Vitae

The CV should include the standard academic and research record as well as a succinct "funding ID" which must specify any current research grants and their subject, and any on-going application for work related to the proposal. Any research career gaps and/or unconventional paths should be clearly explained so that they can be fairly assessed by the evaluation panel.

Letters of recommendation (2 letters per postdoctoral applicant)

Each of the two applying researchers should provide two letters of recommendation, drafted and duly signed by the respective referent. The panel committee will take liberty in contacting the referents if gathering additional information is deemed necessary for full and proper evaluation.

Part B2 - Joint Scientific Research Proposal

Research Proposal: Description (max. 2.000 words) of the scientific and technical aspects of the 4-year collaborative research project, demonstrating the ground-breaking nature of the research, its potential impact and research methodology.

All applications should be provided within the constraint that the interdisciplinary research topic should be related to one or more of the five [Big Questions](#) that are the core of the LiI research programme.



Part C - Overview of Requested Personnel and Lab hours

The proposal will include an overview of the requested personnel and number of lab hours needed to elaborate the proposal as defined under in part B2. The total requested number of lab hours should reflect a realistic estimation of the project needs.

Also, for each requested position it has to be indicated which [partner institution\(s\)](#) of the Language in Interaction consortium would provide the optimal environment for elaborating the proposed research (position).

The evaluation panel will review the requested grant and recommend the total amount to be granted on the basis of the needs of the project.

3. Specific conditions

Availability and start within 6 months

The applicants are both expected to be available for fulltime embedding in one of the partner institutes of the LiI consortium to fully execute the research proposal over the four-year period.

LiI has an official end-date of June 30, 2023. Therefore, the start-date of the postdoctoral applicants' appointments should be within six months of receiving a granting letter from the LiI consortium. I.e. Ultimate start-date is April 30, 2019.

4 Evaluation and selection of grant proposals

4.1 Procedure

A single submission of the full proposal will be followed by a two-step evaluation, including interviews. The evaluation will be conducted by a dedicated panel of which the members will be appointed under the responsibility of the LiI Scientific Board. The composition of the panel is not predefined but will be decided dynamically in relation to the proposals received. The panel may be assisted by independent experts working remotely.

Step 1: The complete version of all submitted proposals will be assessed and the most competitive proposals will be identified.

Step 2: The applicants of the selected proposals will be invited to present their proposal to the LiI consortium Board in Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

4.2 Criteria

The evaluation panel will look at these distinct features:

- 1) Scientific quality of the proposal,
- 2) Synergistic elements
- 3) Fit with and added diversity to the existing research efforts within LiI

The main criterion of 'Scientific Quality' will be applied in conjunction to the evaluation of both: (1) the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of the research project; and (2) the intellectual capacity and creativity of, and the collaborative working arrangements between the two applying researchers.

'Synergy' must not be perceived as similar to mere cooperation or networking. Each proposal must make clear its synergetic effect, complementarities and added value that will make the 'whole' greater than the sum of the individual parts.

The proposed four-year collaborative research project should be related to one or more of the five [Big Questions](#) that are the core of the LiI research programme.

4.3 Timeline

May 24, 2018	Publication of the call
September 09, 2018	Submission deadline for proposals
End of September, 2018	Selection of most competitive proposals
October 2018	Interview and Presentation of retained proposals
End of October 2018	Final Selection
before April 30, 2019	Start of both postdoctoral applicants



5. Submission

Deadline

The applicable single submission deadline is: September 09, 2018, 23:59.00 (CET)
Please submit this application to j.verhoef@donders.ru.nl in electronic form.

Up to the call deadline, it is possible to modify a proposal simply by submitting a new version. As long as the call has not yet closed, the new submission will overwrite the old one. The last version of your proposal submitted before the deadline is the one which will be evaluated; no later version can be substituted and no earlier version can be recovered. Once the deadline has passed, the LiI consortium cannot accept any further additions, corrections or re-submissions.

Further Information

For queries please contact:

Sander Berends

Programme Manager - Language in Interaction Consortium

T. +31 (0)24 36 19838

E. s.berends@donders.ru.nl

Guiding principles of the LiI Synergy Grants

- Teams of 2 researchers at an early or more advanced phase after finishing a PhD programme can apply for funding.
- Scientific excellence is the main criterion on the basis of which LiI Synergy Grants are awarded. Synergistic aspects and fit with and added diversity to the existing research efforts within LiI are also relevant.
- Applications must demonstrate that the proposed research cannot be carried out by a single researcher working alone.
- LiI Synergy Grants aim to tackle truly bold scientific challenges through a unique combination of skills and knowledge of the researchers.
- Researchers from anywhere in the world can apply for a LiI Synergy Grant.
- Grants are awarded to the embedding partner institution(s) that engage(s) and host(s) the applying researchers. The two applying researchers may be embedded by different partner institutions of the LiI consortium.
- Grants are awarded for maximum of 4 years.



6. Application Form

Submission deadline: September 09, 2018, 23:59.00 (CET)

PART A: ADMINISTRATIVE PART

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Details of the applicants

Applicant 1

Name, first name, title(s)	
Telephone	E-mail

Applicant 2

Name, first name, title(s)	
Telephone	E-mail

2. Title of the proposal

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3. Key words

Max. 6 keywords that characterize your proposal.

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4. Scientific summary of research proposal

This should be a concise presentation of max. 300 words of the full scientific proposal, with particular attention to the ground-breaking nature of the proposed research project

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5. Anticipated starting date

YYYY/MM/DD

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PART B1: INFORMATION ON APPLICANTS

1. Curriculum Vitae

The CV should include the standard academic and research record as well as a succinct "funding ID" which must specify any current research grants and their subject, and any on-going application for work related to the proposal. Any research career gaps and/or unconventional paths should be clearly explained so that they can be fairly assessed by the evaluation panel.

2. Letters of recommendation 2 letters for each postdoctoral researcher

Each of the two applying researchers should provide two letters of recommendation, drafted and duly signed by the respective referent. The panel committee will take liberty in contacting the referents if gathering additional information is deemed necessary for full and proper evaluation.

PART B2: JOINT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Description of the proposed research within the Big Questions (max. 2.000 words)

Description of the overall aim, key objectives, and research plan for the requested position including:

- Scientific relevance and challenges
- Originality and innovative character
- Connection with and contribution to answering currently elaborated Lil Big Question research plans
- Interdisciplinary collaborations and integration of expertise from researchers
- Methods and techniques

Please also include a practical timetable/timeline over the requested grant period.



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PART C: OVERVIEW REQUESTED PERSONNEL AND LAB-HOURS

1. Overview of requested personnel

Please update the white cells in the table below such that it represents the type of position(s) requested in Part B2.

What may be applied for

The two available Lil Synergy Grants include the salaries of the two submitting postdoctoral researchers at early or more senior stages of their career. In addition to their own positions, for each grant Lil will finance up to two PhD positions, one RA position, and accompanying measurement costs / consumables.

Staff	#	FTE	Months
Applicant #1 (postdoc)	1	1.0	48
Applicant #2 (postdoc)	1	1.0	48
PhD		1.0	48
RA			
Total staff			

2. Overview of requested lab-hours

Please indicate amount of hours / samples per year needed for the described methods.

Lab Hour budget (in hours or samples ³)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
(f)MRI					
MEG					
EEG					
TMS					
Behavioural					
Sequencing					
Other lab hours – <i>Specify</i>					
Total					

3. Specification of the requested lab-hours:



4. Matching contributions

Please describe for any matching contributions from outside the Lil research consortium (e.g. additional funding, matching in kind, own resources, etc)

5. Preferred host institution for the requested positions

Host institution(s) should be committed to the Gravitation Programme - Language in Interaction consortium.

Staff	Preferred host institution
Applicant #1	
Applicant #2	
PhD #1	
(if applicable) PhD #2	
(if applicable) RA	

STATEMENT

Statement by the Applicants

The Applicants declare that all parts of this proposal comply with and will meet all applicable ethic codes (of conduct) and ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity and data management).

The Applicants declare that the information contained in this proposal is correct, complete and completed truthfully.

Applicant 1

Name:

Place:

Date:

Signature:

Applicant 2

Name:

Place:

Date:

Signature: