RSM Fellowship Instrument

Background
Applying for research funding is a demanding and time consuming activity in a highly competitive environment. In order to buy research time or to secure a permanent position at RSM, researchers try to obtain a prestigious grant, such as a NWO VENI or VIDI grant or an H2020 ERC starting/consolidator grant. Other researchers focus on large H2020 cooperation projects that allow them to carry out research in their specific area of expertise.

Due to a lack of budget and steadily growing competition, it has become increasingly difficult for researchers to successfully acquire funding. Moreover, writing a competitive funding application takes time and researchers are often obliged to do this in their spare time in between research and teaching obligations.

The RSM Executive Board (EB) is fully aware of the painstaking effort and time needed by RSM researchers to prepare a proposal that stands out and more and more funding schemes suffer from oversubmission, resulting in success rates of 10% or lower.

To show their appreciation and to reward the time and effort invested in a high quality funding proposal, the EB would like to introduce a new internal funding scheme, called the RSM Fellowship instrument.

The RSM fellowship initiative targets two types of research projects: the individual fellowship applications and the collaborative fellowship applications.

Both instruments, their procedures and their criteria will be explained hereunder:

RSM individual fellowships

The RSM individual fellowship scheme is meant for excellent researchers that submitted a VENI, VIDI or ERC starting or consolidator grant and failed to obtain funding for budgetary reasons, in spite of an excellent evaluation report. In order to be eligible for an individual HCD incentive, the applicant should also have tried to obtain an EUR fellowship, but failed due to oversubmission. Detailed information about the EUR fellowship scheme and its criteria is available on the following EUR webpage:
https://www.eur.nl/researchmatters/grantsupport/services/eur_incentives/eur_fellowships/

Eligible candidates

• Veni applicants that received a final overall NWO score between 1 and 2,5.¹ The VENI applicant also tried to obtain an EUR fellowship, but did not obtain it due to oversubmission.

¹ Note that the NWO evaluation scale goes from 1 (being excellent) to 9 (being insufficient)
• **Vidi applicants** that received a final overall NWO score between 1 and 2.5\(^2\). The VIDI applicant also tried to obtain an EUR fellowship, but did not obtain it due to oversubmission.

• **ERC Starting / Consolidator Grant** applicants who were invited to the interview round (step 2 of the evaluation procedure) and obtain a final score not lower than A\(^3\). The ERC applicant also tried to obtain an EUR fellowship, but did not obtain it due to oversubmission.

**Procedure**

The Individual fellowship scheme is open once a year and the deadline for submission is the 15\(^{th}\) of April. Applicants submit the following documents:

- EUR fellowship application
- Letter from funding body indicating the final evaluation score
- A revised HCD budget with a clear starting date and project duration. A template for the revised budget is attached as Annex 1

The documents are sent electronically to Veerle van Laere no later than the 15\(^{th}\) of April at 5pm. (vlaere@rsm.nl)

Applicants that received an EUR fellowship are not eligible for the RSM fellowship instrument.

**Eligible costs**

The maximum funding from the HCD instrument is **135,000 euro** and the maximum duration of an individual fellowship project is 5 years. The costs are explained in the revised budget.

If the project costs exceed 135,000 euro, the project budget should make clear how the additional costs will be matched by the respective department.

Once the RSM fellowship is granted, the money will be paid in equal instalments, depending on the start date and duration of the project.

**RSM collaborative fellowships**

The RSM collaborative fellowship scheme targets researchers who have been the initiator and **coordinator** of a large Erasmus + or H2020 cooperation project. A project is defined large, if RSM is involved for 300,000 euro or more. The proposal has been submitted in the Erasmus + programme (Key Action 2) or in H2020 pillar 1 (scientific excellence) or H2020 pillar 3 (Grand societal challenges), received a high evaluation score, but did not obtain funding due to budget limitations.

**Eligible candidates**

- Coordinators of a H2020 project in pillar 1 (research excellence), who received an overall score of 85% or higher on their Evaluation Summary Report.

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\(^2\) Note that the NWO evaluation scale goes from 1 (being excellent) to 9 (being insufficient)

\(^3\) A score A in the ERC scheme means that the applicant fully meets the ERC excellence criterion and is recommended for funding if sufficient funds are available
• Coordinators of a H2020 project in pillar 3 (grand societal challenges), who received an overall evaluation score of 12.5/15 or higher. Furthermore, the proposal should have a score above the indicated threshold on all three evaluation criteria (scientific excellence, impact and implementation).

• Coordinators of an Erasmus + project, submitted in calls under Key Action 2 (Higher Education), who received an overall evaluation score of 80/100 or higher.

Procedure
The RSM collaborative fellowship scheme is open once a year and the deadline for submission is the 15th of April.

Applicants submit the following documents:
• the original Erasmus + or H2020 application
• the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR)
• A revised project plan (max. 2 pages) in which they describe the specific work packages and / or activities they wish to carry out in the HCD project
• A revised budget to Veerle van Laere no later than the 15th of April at 5pm. (vlaere@rsm.nl). A template for the revised budget is attached as Annex 1.

Eligible costs
The funding amounts to 135,000 euro and the maximum duration of a RSM collaborative fellowship project is 4 years. The costs are explained in the revised budget.

If the project costs exceed 135,000 euro, the project budget should make clear how the additional costs will be matched by the respective department. Once a RSM collaborative fellowship is granted, the money will be paid in equal instalments, depending on the start date and duration of the project.

Financial rules and procedures

The RSM fellowship schemes allows for a maximum of three projects to be funded per year. In case there are more than 3 applications in one calendar year, a RSM review board will be established to evaluate the applications and to select the 3 applications to be awarded.

The RSM review board will operate in the same way as the EUR fellowship review board and the board will consist of one senior representative from each department. The representative from a department will not evaluate applications originating form his/her department.

For each granted RSM fellowship project a separate project number will be made in the department of the respective applicant. The project number follows the budget, as provided in the application. RSM fellowship money is transferred to the project number in instalments, based on the duration of the project and up to a maximum of 135,000 euro. If the total project costs exceed the 135,000 euro, the department needs to demonstrate that it is capable to match the costs exceeding the fellowship maximum.