

# Project Grants for Literary Creators

Writers, artists and illustrators in all phases of their career can apply for a grant under these regulations for the creation of a new literary work in book form (prose, nonfiction, poetry, children's and young adult literature and graphic novels) that is published by a regular literary publisher. From now on, the regulations also cover grants for debutants and creators from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. With these revised regulations, the Dutch Foundation for Literature focuses its efforts on a fair reward for professional literary creators and by doing so stimulates the quality and diversity of the literature available.

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## **For whom**

Writers in Dutch, Frisian and Papiamentu/u, and image makers

## **For what**

Creation of new literary work in book form

## **Deadline**

January 15, March 2 (graphic novelists and illustrators), April 15 and September 1

## **How much?**

€15,000 or €30,000, depending on the duration of the project

## **Budget ceiling**

€3,620,000

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## **For what?**

For the creation of a new literary work in book form. All literary genres qualify (prose, nonfiction, poetry, children's and young adult literature, and graphic novels). The work must be published by a regular literary publisher.

## **Who can apply?**

All literary creators, irrespective of the phase of their career or the genre in which they write or illustrate, can apply for a grant for a book. The regulations are open to, for example, debutants, writers of fiction, poetry or biographies, illustrators of picture books and graphic novels, and authors from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, including those writing in Papiamentu/u. The specific conditions for each group of applicants are given below under 'Conditions for application'.

## **How much?**

The size of the grant depends on the expected investment of time in the project from the moment of application onwards.

- For projects of up to two years in duration you can apply for €15,000,
- for projects of more than two years €30,000.
- If you make application for a graphic novel on which two or more creators will be working, other sums apply: €20,000 for projects of up to two years and €40,000 for projects of more than two years.

It is also possible to apply for a grant of €15,000 for longer projects.

## **How are applications assessed?**

The advisors assess applications according to the following criteria:

- The quality of earlier work, with as sub-criteria:
  - the quality of the most recent book publication or of an extract from the publication to be written (if it is a debut).
  - the quality of other earlier work
- The quality of the project plan, with as sub-criteria:
  - literary persuasiveness and realism of the project plan
  - the degree to which the book contributes to modernization or broadening of the literature available
  - artistic development
  - social or cultural relevance

For writers of literary biographies, extra points can be scored if a number of additional criteria are satisfied:

- the subject consists of one or more central characters who have been groundbreaking in Dutch literature
- there is sufficient archive material, or there are sufficient written or oral sources
- the applicant is capable of using the sources convincingly
- the applicant has sufficient critical distance in relation to the subject
- the biography is not being written as part of the author's scholarly employment.

In the explanatory notes that accompany the regulations, these criteria are explained in more detail.

## **Assessment process**

After the deadline passes, all the applications that have been received are checked. The applications that comply with the formal requirements are assessed by an advisory committee. Within each funding round the applications are divided into three different categories. Your application is therefore assessed and ranked within your category. Each category has its own budget ceiling. The categories are:

1. Applications for the writing of a debut
2. Applicants who have published one book

3. Applicants who have published two or more books.

## Conditions for application

- Writers in all genres and at any stage in their careers can submit an application within one of the **three general application rounds**. In addition there is one time each year when image makers working on graphic novels, or on illustrated children's and young adult books, can apply.
- Only applications that are **complete** when the application round ends will be considered. You can still add attachments to your application, but if you do so after the deadline has passed, your application will be considered only in the subsequent round. The work to be assessed must also be submitted before the deadline. Applications can be made only for literary projects that have not yet been realized at the time when the grant is awarded.
- It is not possible to receive a grant for **more than one project at a time**. This means that you can apply for a grant again only after your previous subsidized book has been published. An exception is made here for literary biographies, since they are generally projects with a longer duration. If you are still working on a subsidized literary biography, then you can submit an application for a book in a different genre, and vice versa. You can however submit only one application for a biography within any given application round.
- Titles for which writers **themselves contribute** to the costs of production, promotion or distribution, or purchase a certain number of copies for a fee, do not qualify for a grant based on these regulations.
- In the years in which the writing of the subsidized project takes place, the applicant's total **gross taxable income** must be no greater than €47,500. The definitive assessment of income tax from the Dutch Tax Authorities serves as evidence of the total taxable income. If the duration of the writing project is greater than one year, the total taxable income can be higher than €47,500 for one year, as long as the average income for the years in which the project takes place (with a maximum of three years) is no greater than €47,500 per year. Should this sum be exceeded, the Foundation must be informed of this as quickly as possible and supplied with copies of the relevant tax assessments. For applicants for literary biographies there is no income limit.

In addition, various conditions apply to certain applicants:

- In the case of applicants by whom **one or more books have been published**, this earlier work must have been published by a publisher with which a contract was concluded that conforms, as a minimum, to the terms laid down in the Model Contract of the GAU/Auteursbond. For the writing of the book for which the application is made, at **the very least a declaration of intent** from the publisher must be submitted with the application.

- In the case of applicants by whom **no book has yet been published**, and who are applying for a grant for their debut, the condition is that for this debut a publishing agreement has been concluded that conforms to the terms laid down in the **Model Contract** of the GAU/Auteursbond. This contract must be submitted with the application.
- For **graphic novels** there is as yet no Model Contract, so the conditions are different for creators of graphic novels on this point. In Article 5 of the regulations you can read exactly what this departure from the usual conditions involves.
- In the case of writers and image makers of **illustrated children's books and picture books**, they must have a contractual right to at least 30 per cent of the royalties in order to qualify for support under these regulations. These regulations are not intended for creators who make a relatively minor contribution to a book. Furthermore, writers of graphic narratives who are not also the image maker can submit an application only if the written element of the book consists of at least 2,000 words.
- Because the literary infrastructure in the **Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands** is different from that of the European Netherlands, the Foundation has broader entry requirements for Caribbean applicants. The lack of publishers who support and publish writers at their own expense necessitates modified conditions. So for applicants who are resident in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom and write in Dutch, English or Papiamentu/u, the following apply:
  - At least one other organization is involved in the project, taking care of the editing, production or promotion of the work to be written. This might for example be a library or a literary festival, or an organization dedicated to reading promotion or talent development.
  - In the contract with this organization, agreements must be made about royalties, payment, advances, fees and copyright.
  - The minimum print run is 150 copies.
  - If the application scores at least 12 points on criterium 1, the application will be honoured.

## Checklist for your application

A complete application consists of the following components. Check whether you have all the necessary documents before submitting your application:

- a project plan compiled according to the model made available on the Foundation's website
- a copy of the publishing agreement with the publisher, or a declaration of intent from the publisher that demonstrates that the publisher will conclude a publishing

contract with the applicant for the book to be written. If the book to be written is a debut, a publishing contract must be included with the application

- a copy of the publishing contract with the publisher for the most recent book publication, unless application is being made for a grant for a debut, and
- the most recent definitive income tax assessment.

In addition you need to send, along with your application, literary work that will be presented to our advisors and external readers for assessment. What literary work that is depends on the group within which you are submitting your application and whether you have previously submitted an application to us.

**In the case of an application for a debut:**

- An extract from the book for which you are making application. The size of the extract depends on the genre of the book to be written and can be found in the regulations (Article 6, Section 6, subsection c).
- Other work of your choice for assessment. The size of the extract depends on the genre of the book to be written and can be found in the regulations (Article 6, Section 6, subsection d).

**In the case of an application for a second book:**

- Your literary debut.

**If you have submitted an application before:**

- Your most recent book publication (which has not yet been assessed within the framework of these or the previous regulations).

**If you have never before submitted an application but have at least two publications to your name:**

- Your most recent book publication
- A second book publication of your choice.

Have you gathered everything together? Then you should submit your application via 'Start your application' on our website.