

Regulations Governing Project Grants for Literary Creators

The board of the Dutch Foundation for Literature
mindful of the Dutch General Administrative Law Act
mindful of Article 10, Section 4 of the Dutch Cultural Policy Act,
mindful of the General Regulations of the Dutch Foundation for Literature
has decided to adopt the following Regulations Governing Project Grants for Literary
Creators

Article 1. Definitions

In these regulations, the below terms are defined as follows:

- a. *board*: the board of the Dutch Foundation for Literature
- b. *book publication*: an original literary work in book form in the Dutch, English, Papiamentu or Frisian language in the following genres: prose, nonfiction, poetry, children's and young adult literature, stage works or graphic narrative, taken to include graphic novels, illustrated children's and young adult literature, and picture books
- c. *Caribbean*: the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, consisting of the countries Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten and the three public bodies Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba
- d. *debut*: the applicant's first independent book publication
- e. *debutant*: a writer or image maker who is working on a debut
- f. *English*: the English language as used by native English speakers in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- g. *Foundation*: the Foundation for Dutch Literature
- h. *General Regulations*: General Regulations of the Dutch Foundation for Literature
- i. *graphic narrative*: fiction and nonfiction books for children and/or adults in which the illustrations enter into a creative dialogue with the text, such as graphic novels, picture books, illustrated novels, or books without words in which the illustrations tell the story
- j. *graphic novel*: a book publication with a series of drawn or painted images that have a narrative connection between them

- k. *literary biography*: a nonfiction book about the life and work of one or more central characters who are or were groundbreaking or of great importance to Dutch literature and whose active working life has been completed
- l. *Papiamento*: Papiamento and Papiamentu
- m. *policy period*: the limited period within the continuous long-term policy plan as defined in Article 6, Section 9, of the Statutes of the Dutch Foundation for Literature
- n. *publisher*: a legal entity that on a continual basis is engaged in business activities for the purpose of publishing literary works and that complies with the following conditions:
 - the publishing house has at its disposal an independent, expert editorial staff that supports the author in the creation of the literary work
 - the literary works published and to be published are presented to the book trade on a regular basis, at least once a year, in the form of a catalogue, and paper copies are distributed to mainstream bookshops
 - the publishing house supplies its literary works with an ISBN.
- o. *publishing agreement*: an agreement between author and publishing house concerning the exploitation rights in the book publication in which as a minimum the terms of the royalty percentage and the license have been agreed upon, as laid down in the Groep Algemene Uitgevers / Literaire Uitgeversgroep (GAU / LUG) and Auteursbond Model Contract for Literary Translations for original Dutch-language literary works
- p. *total taxable income*: the sum as defined in Article 2.18 of the Income Tax Law 2001 and as definitively determined by the inspector of the Dutch Tax Authorities in the definitive income tax assessment
- q. *website*: the website of the Dutch Foundation for Literature, to be found at www.letterenfonds.nl.

Article 2: Applicability

These regulations apply to project grants provided by the board for the creation of book publications.

Article 3: Requirements of the applicant

1. The applicant for a project grant is a natural person and complies with the following conditions:

- a. the average total taxable income of the applicant in the period for which the grant is awarded is predicted to be no higher than an income limit determined by the board. The period concerned is no longer than three years. The income limit is published in the *Staatscourant* and on the Foundation's website
 - b. the applicant has received in the current policy period no more than two grants under these regulations, the Regulations Governing Project Grants for Publications, or Writers' Lives, Biography Regulations of the Dutch Foundation for Literature
 - c. at the time of application the applicant is not working on a project under these regulations or the Regulations Governing Project Grants for Publications of which the book to be written has not yet been published, and
 - d. in the case of a graphic narrative, the applicant has a contractual right to a minimum of 30% of the royalties.
2. Section 1, Subsection a, is not applicable in the case of an applicant who is applying for a grant for a literary biography.
3. Section 1, Subsection c, is not applicable if the work in progress is a literary biography or if the application relates to a literary biography that has yet to be written, as long as the work in progress and the application do not both relate to literary biographies.
4. The applicant who has received a project grant based on these regulations can apply for a subsequent project grant no earlier than two years after the time of a decision to award a grant if the said grant is for €30,000, or no earlier than one year after the time of a decision to award a grant if the said grant is for €15,000.

Article 4: Requirements of the book publication

1. The book publication for which a grant is awarded must comply with the following conditions:
- a. the book must be published based on a publishing contract
 - b. the book must be published in a print run of at least 500 copies, with the exception of poetry collections and literary book publications in the Frisian language, for which the minimum is 250 copies. For poetry in the Frisian language the minimum is 150 copies
 - c. if the book is a debut, it must have a length of at least 20 pages for poetry, 35,000 words for fiction and nonfiction, 7,000 words for children's and young adult literature, 60 pages for graphic novels and 30 pages for picture books, and

- d. if the genre of the book is graphic narrative and the applicant is the writer only, not also the book's image maker, the written part of the book must have a length of at least 2,000 words.
2. As an exception to Section 1, for an applicant who at the time of submission of the application is resident in the Caribbean, the following requirements apply:
 - a. the book will be published in a print run of at least 150 copies, and
 - b. if the book is a debut, it must have a length of at least 20 pages for poetry, 35,000 words for fiction and nonfiction, 7,000 words for children's and young adult literature, 60 pages for graphic novels and 30 pages for picture books.
3. Section 3 is applicable in like manner to an application for a book publication in Papiamentu, irrespective of the applicant's place of residence.

Article 5. Exceptions to the publishing contract

1. The definition of the publishing contract does not apply to the applicant for a graphic novel. The agreement with the publisher must in any case comply with the following conditions:
 - a. the royalty percentage is at least 10%
 - b. the share of the creator in the subsidiary rights is at least 50% if the publisher itself exploits the subsidiary rights
 - c. the share of the creator in the subsidiary rights is at least 60% if a third party exploits the subsidiary rights.
2. The definition of the publishing contract does not apply if the applicant is resident in the Caribbean. Instead the costs of editing, production and distribution of the book publication are to be borne by a third party based on a concluded or to be concluded contract, as laid down in a declaration of intent.
3. Section 3 is applicable in like manner to an application for a book publication in Papiamentu, irrespective of the applicant's place of residence

Article 6: Application

1. An application for a grant is submitted via the website using the application form made available on the website via 'Start your application'.
2. The application form is completed truthfully, fully and according to the guidelines in the application information supplied along with the application form and including all mandatory attachments. Application must be made in either Dutch or English.

3. An application consists of the following mandatory elements:
 - a. a fully completed application form, via ‘Start your application’ on the website
 - b. a project plan compiled according to the model made available on the Foundation’s website
 - c. a copy of the publishing contract with the publisher, or a declaration of intent from the publisher that makes clear that a publishing contract with the applicant will be concluded for the book to be written. If the book to be written is a debut, the application must include a publishing contract
 - d. a copy of the publishing contract with the publisher for the previous book publication, unless the application concerns a grant for a debut, and
 - e. the most recent definitive income tax assessment.
4. As an exception to Section 3, Subsection c, an applicant who lives in the Caribbean or is applying for a book publication in Papiamentu submits, instead of a publishing contract or a declaration of intent, evidence showing that the requirements in Article 5, Section 2 and Section 3, will be complied with.
5. As an exception to Section 3, Subsection c, an applicant for a graphic novel submits a publishing contract that complies with the requirements in Article 5, Section 1, or a declaration of intent in which reference is made to the requirements of Article 5, Section 1.
6. Before the end of the funding round, the applicant submits the following literary work to the Foundation:
 - a. if the applicant has received a grant on a previous occasion or occasions under these regulations, the Regulations Governing Project Grants for Publications, or Writers’ Lives, Biography Regulations of the Dutch Foundation for Literature, the applicant submits a recent book publication, published based on a publishing contract, that has not yet been assessed as part of a previous application under the aforementioned regulations
 - b. if the applicant has never before received a grant under these regulations, the Regulations Governing Project Grants for Publications, or Writers’ Lives, Biography Regulations of the Dutch Foundation for Literature, the applicant submits the most recent book publication and a second book publication of their choice, both of which were published based on a publishing contract. If the applicant has only one book publication, that publication will suffice
 - c. if no book publication by the applicant, based on a publishing contract, has been published previously, the applicant submits the following:

- in the case of prose or nonfiction, an extract from the book to be published of at least 5,000 and no more than 10,000 words
 - in the case of poetry, 8 to 10 poems, consisting of a maximum of 3,000 words in total, or a smaller number of poems should the maximum number of words be exceeded
 - in the case of children's and young adult literature, 1,000 to 5,000 words
 - in the case of graphic narrative, 8 to 10 pages, including both text and image
- d. if no book publication by the applicant, based on a publishing contract, has been published previously, then the applicant submits, in addition to the material referred to in Subsection c, other work of their own choice for assessment, of the following length:
- prose and nonfiction: at least 5,000 and no more than 10,000 words
 - poetry: at least 6 and no more than 10 poems
 - children's and young adult literature: 1,000 to 5,000 words
 - graphic narrative: 8 to 10 pages, including both text and image
 - film of a performance: no more than 15 minutes.

In each of these cases, the maximum length can be exceeded in consultation with the Foundation on condition that a single continuous work is submitted.

7. An application can be submitted only to the Foundation or to Literatuur Vlaanderen.

Literary creators who are resident in Flanders can submit an application only to Literatuur Vlaanderen.

Article 7. Grounds for rejection

1. An application for a grant can be rejected:

- a. if the applicant has not demonstrably complied with the obligations imposed in relation to earlier grants awarded by the Foundation, or has culpably fallen short in complying with one or more of the obligations attached to an earlier grant awarded by the Foundation
- b. if for the activities for which application is made for a grant, a grant has already been awarded by the Foundation or by Literatuur Vlaanderen
- c. if the book has already been published at the time application is made for the grant
- d. if the applicant does not comply with the requirements of Article 3
- e. if the application does not comply with the requirements of Article 6
- f. if the application concerns a book that is to be self-published

- g. if the applicant contributes to the costs of production, promotion or distribution or if the applicant is to purchase a certain number of copies at their own expense
 - h. if the application scores fewer than 12 points in the assessment criterium ‘quality of earlier work’, as defined in Article 10, Section 2
 - i. if honouring the application would mean exceeding the budget ceiling as a whole or the relevant part of it, or
 - j. if the relevant part of the budget ceiling has been reached.
2. If an application is rejected on grounds of content, a new application will be considered only if there is a new book publication available for assessment that complies with the requirements of Article 4.
 3. No more than one application per applicant will be dealt with in a single funding round.
 4. If an earlier application has been accepted, a new application will be considered only if the subsidized book publication covered by that earlier application has been published.

Article 8. Funding rounds

1. The board deals with applications in several funding rounds per year:
 - a. three general funding rounds for publication in all genres with the exception of graphic narrative, and
 - b. a funding round for publications in the graphic narrative genre
2. The general funding rounds consist of three groups, each of which has its own ranking and budget ceiling:
 - a. group A: applicants for the writing of a debut
 - b. group B: applicants for the writing of a second book publication
 - c. group C: applicants by whom two or more books have already been published.
3. An applicant is assigned to group B if the applicant has published one book that complies with the requirements of Article 4.
4. An applicant is assigned to group C if as well as a debut at least one book by the applicant has been published that complies with the requirements of Article 4, with the exception of the requirements of a debut.
5. In determining the group to which an applicant will be assigned, book publications count only if they have not been written with a co-author and were published based on a publishing contract.
6. Within the general funding rounds, the following are given precedence: applications from applicants who are resident in the Caribbean and make application for a publication in

Papiamento, on condition that the applications score at least 12 points on criterium 1, as defined in Article 10, Section 2.

7. The funding round for the graphic narrative genre consists of the following two groups, each group having its own ranking and funding ceiling:

- a. graphic novels group, and
- b. picture books and illustrated children's books group

8. In the case where both a writer and an image maker are involved, the writer of a graphic novel must apply for a grant in the funding round for the graphic narrative genre. The writer of an illustrated children's book must in this case make application in one of the three general funding rounds.

9. The Foundation publishes the opening and closing dates of the funding rounds, as defined in Section 1, in the *Staatscourant* and on its website.

Article 9. Budget ceiling

1. The budget ceiling for the awarding of grants based on these regulations is €3,620,000 per year. The board divides that sum over the various funding rounds by determining a partial budget ceiling per funding round.

2. The size of the partial budget ceilings is announced in the *Staatscourant* and on the Foundation's website.

3. If the budget in a funding round has not been fully spent, the board may decide in the last quarter of the year to honour rejected applications, taking into account the ranking as defined in Article 10, Section 2.

Article 10. Criteria

1. The board decides simultaneously on all the applications received for a given funding round.

2. For each funding round, the applications are placed in a ranking based on an assessment of the expected quality of the publication to be written. This assessment is based on the following main criteria:

criterion 1: the quality of earlier work, and

criterion 2: the quality of the project plan.

3. For a grant to be awarded, the application must score at least 12 points for criterium 1.

4. Criterium 1 consists of two sub-criteria:

sub-criterion 1a: the quality of the most recent book publication, and

sub-criterion 1b: the quality of other earlier work.

5. If the application concerns a second book publication by the applicant, only the quality of the debut is taken into consideration. Sub-criterion 1b is in that case not applicable.

6. For applications concerning a debut, in place of the sub-criteria in Section 4, the following sub-criteria apply:

sub-criterion 1a: the quality of an extract of the book to be written, and

sub-criterion 1b: the quality of other work, of the applicant's choice, as described in Article 6, Section 6, Subsection d.

7. Criterion 2 consists of four sub-criteria

sub-criterion 2a: literary persuasiveness and realism of the project plan

sub-criterion 2b: the degree to which the book to be written contributes to the modernization or broadening of the literature available

sub-criterion 2c: artistic development, in other words the degree to which the book to be written contributes to increasing the depth, breadth or innovative nature of the applicant's oeuvre, and

sub-criterion 2d: social or cultural relevance.

Article 11. Advisory committee

1. In checking the application against the assessment criteria and in deciding on the size of the grant, the board takes advice from an advisory committee that is composed of members of the Foundation's Advisory Board as defined in the Regulations of the Foundation. The advisory committee can call upon the help of one or more external advisors.

2. The advisory committee gives substantive advice per assessment criterion, as defined in Article 10, with as its conclusion the judgement 'inadequate', 'weak', 'adequate', 'good' or 'very good'. If the advisory committee gives fewer than 12 points for criterion 1, then the advisory committee does not proceed to reach a judgement on criterion 2.

3. The advisory committee obtains assessments of the work submitted by an applicant, as defined in Article 6, Section 6, from three expert individuals. These experts are either members of the advisory committee or external advisors.

4. In making its decision on the application, the board takes into consideration the advice of the advisory committee.

Article 12. Distribution of budget

1. The board shares out the available budget according to the ranking, as defined in Article 10, Section 2. For this purpose the judgements referred to in Article 11, Section 2, are converted into a numerical score as defined in the below table.

Evaluation	Score	Explanation
Very good	4	Entirely positive, with at most one point of criticism
Good	3	Overwhelmingly positive, but with several points of criticism
Adequate	2	Considerable points of criticism, but the positive elements predominate
Weak	1	Mediocre, with more points of criticism than positive points
Inadequate	0	Below par, with few positive elements

2. For criterium 1, as defined in Article 10, the maximum score is 24 points:

- a. a maximum of 12 points for sub-criterium 1a, and
- b. a maximum of 12 points for sub-criterium 1b.

3. In the case of applicants for a third or subsequent book who have previously made application under these regulations, the Regulations Governing Project Grants for Publications, or Writers' Lives, Biography Regulations of the Dutch Foundation for Literature, the number of points achievable for criterium 1 is arrived at as follows:

- a. for sub-criterium 1a by the sum of three individual assessments, whereby each individual assessment can have a maximum of 4 points
- b. for sub-criterium 1b the advisory committee gives a score of a maximum of 4 points based on earlier assessments for earlier applications, after which this score is multiplied by 3.

4. In the case of applicants for a third or subsequent book who have not previously made application under these regulations, the Regulations Governing Project Grants for Publications, or Writers' Lives, Biography Regulations of the Dutch Foundation for Literature, the number of points achievable for criterium 1 is arrived at as follows:

- a. for sub-criterium 1a by the sum of three individual assessments, whereby each individual assessment can have a maximum of 4 points
- b. for sub-criterium 1b by the sum of three individual assessments, whereby each individual assessment can have a maximum of 4 points.

5. In the case of debutants the number of points achievable for criterium 1 is arrived at as follows:

- a. for sub-criterium 1a the advisory committee gives a score of a maximum of 4 points, based on the extract submitted, after which this score is multiplied by 3

- b. for sub-criterion 1b the advisory committee gives a score of a maximum of 4 points based on the other work submitted, after which this score is multiplied by 3.
- 6. In the case of applicants who submit an application for a second book, criterion 1 is based purely on the assessment of the quality of the debut, for which a maximum of 24 points can be achieved. The number of points available is the sum of the three individual assessments, multiplied by 2.
- 7. For criterion 2 and the sub-criteria 2a to 2d, as defined in Article 10, Section 7, a maximum of 16 points are available:
 - a. a maximum of 4 points for sub-criterion 2a
 - b. a maximum of 4 points for sub-criterion 2b
 - c. a maximum of 4 points for sub-criterion 2c, and
 - d. a maximum of 4 points for sub-criterion 2d.
- 8. Applications for literary biographies receive 4 additional points, as long as the application complies with the following conditions:
 - a. the subject consists of one or more central characters who are or were groundbreaking or of great importance to Dutch literature and whose active working life has been completed
 - b. there is sufficient relevant archive material, or important oral or written sources, to be consulted for the biography
 - c. the applicant is regarded as capable of using the abovementioned sources in a convincing manner
 - d. the applicant has sufficient critical distance in relation to the subject, and
 - e. the biography is not being written as part of the author's scholarly employment.
- 9. Applications that have scored at least 12 points for criterion 1 are awarded or partially awarded subject to the ranking and the relevant partial budget ceiling. The remaining applications will be rejected.
- 10. In making a choice between two or more applications that have an equal ranking and cannot both be honoured because the budget ceiling would then be exceeded, the following sub-criteria are decisive, in order of importance, such that in each case the application with the highest score is honoured first:
 - sub-criterion 1a: the quality of recent work
 - sub-criterion 2a: literary persuasiveness and realism of the project plan
 - sub-criterion 2d: social or cultural relevance
 - sub-criterion 2c: artistic development

- sub-criterion 2b: modernization or broadening of the literature available
- sub-criterion 1b: the quality of other work.

11. If after application of Section 3 applicants still end with an equal ranking, the board divides the sum available equally between these applications.

12. If an application cannot be honoured as the budget ceiling would then be exceeded, the application is rejected and the remaining sum is transferred to the next funding round.

Article 13. Size of grant

1. The size of the grant is €15,000 for projects expected to take less than two years and €30,000 for projects expected to take at least two years. For a debut, the grant is €15,000 irrespective of the length of the project.

2. If the income limit as defined in Article 3, Section 1, Subsection a, is exceeded by the awarding of the grant, the board may decide to fix the grant at €15,000.

3. If the applicant requests it in the application, the board may decide to fix the grant for projects of two years or longer at €15,000 instead of €30,000.

4. In the case of a graphic novel created by a writer and an image maker, the size of the subsidy is €20,000 for projects with an expected duration of less than two years and €40,000 for projects with an expected duration of at least two years. The share of this sum that goes to the writer and the share that goes to the image maker coincides with the share of royalties as laid down in the contract between writer, image maker and publisher, unless the writer and the image maker propose a different division by mutual agreement. If the writer and the image maker are one and the same person, Section 1 applies.

Article 14. Obligations of those in receipt of a grant

1. The grant is spent by the recipient on the realization of the publication described in the application.

2. The information given to the Foundation by the recipient of the grant is always correct and truthful.

3. The recipient of the grant does not violate the copyright of third parties.

4. The recipient of the grant informs the Foundation without delay of any substantial changes to the plan submitted in the application.

5. If the recipient of the grant is unable to carry out the plan within the time stated, or will not complete it, the recipient reports this immediately to the Foundation, making known the reasons.

6. If the recipient of the grant has received grants or other financial support from third parties for the publication, the recipient notifies the Foundation of this without delay.
7. The recipient of the grant is obliged to send or to have sent to the Foundation, immediately upon publication, one paper copy of the book in question or of the e-book published by the publisher.
8. In the publication the Foundation is mentioned as having provided a grant, as specified in the attribution toolkit on the website.
9. If the income limit, as defined in Article 3, Section 1, Subsection a, is exceeded in the period for which the grant has been awarded, the recipient of the grant informs the Foundation of this immediately after receipt of the definitive income tax assessment for the years covered by the period concerned.
10. If a declaration of intent from the publisher formed part of the application, the publishing contract must be submitted when the book is published if not before.
11. The recipient of the grant collaborates in research by or on behalf of the Foundation that is aimed at providing the Foundation with information for the purpose of developing its grants policy.

Article 15. Timing, decision-making and method of payment

1. The board decides within 22 weeks of the period in which applications can be submitted whether or not to award a grant.
2. In awarding a grant, the board immediately decides on the size of the said grant.
3. This decision includes the way in which the grant will be paid.

Article 16. Grounds for withdrawal of and alterations to the terms of a grant

1. The board can withdraw a grant or alter the terms of a grant if the recipient has not complied with the obligations attached to that grant.
2. If the board establishes that substantial changes have occurred with respect to the information provided in the application, the board can withdraw a grant or alter the terms of a grant.
3. The board can withdraw a grant or alter the terms of a grant if the period for the writing of the book publication as laid down in the project plan has been exceeded and the recipient of the grant has not, in the judgement of the board, been able to provide well-founded reasons for this.

4. The board can withdraw a grant or alter the terms of a grant if the income limit, as defined in Article 3, Section 1, Subsection a, has been exceeded.
5. The board can withdraw a grant or alter the terms of a grant as a result of the death of the recipient. If the recipient of the grant dies before the publication is completed, the Foundation will not demand repayment of a grant that has already been paid out.
6. The withdrawal of or alteration to a grant is retrospective back to the time at which the grant was awarded, unless it is decided otherwise at the time of withdrawal or alteration.
7. The sum by which the grant may be reduced will either be set against any parts of the grant yet to be paid or reclaimed from the recipient.

Article 17. Hardship clause

The board can, mindful of the interest that these regulations aim to protect, decline to apply an article or deviate from it insofar as its strict application would lead to gross unfairness.

Article 18. Transitional arrangements

1. These regulations come into force as of 1 January 2026.
2. The Regulations Governing Project Grants for Publications and the regulations Writers' Lives, Biography Regulations of the Dutch Foundation for Literature are repealed.
3. As an exception to Section 2, the Regulations Governing Project Grants for Publications and the regulations Writers' Lives, Biography Regulations of the Dutch Foundation for Literature continue to apply during the period during which these regulations come into force to applications already submitted, to grants already awarded and to objections and appeals lodged in a timely manner.

Article 19. Official title

These regulations are to be cited as *Regeling projectsubsidies voor makers van boeken* (Regulations Governing Project Grants for Literary Creators).

These regulations shall be placed in the *Staatscourant* along with their explanatory notes and published on the Foundation's website (www.letterenfonds.nl).

The board of the Dutch Foundation for Literature,
As represented by,
R.N. de Bildt, managing director

Explanatory notes

As of 1 January 2026, the Dutch Foundation for Literature is implementing a revision to the Regulations Governing Project Grants for Publications. This has been prompted by changes in the literary field, in the practice of writing and in the ambitions of the Foundation, as given in the 2025-2028 policy plan. This policy is focused on the one hand on strengthening the position of literary creators – from talented beginners to established names – and on the other on the simplification of regulations, so that the process of applying for a grant becomes more accessible.

The revised regulations are open to creators who until now have remained out of the picture, such as debutants, graphic novelists, illustrators of children's books and writers from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This means, for example, that a first book publication can now qualify for support. The regulations cover all genres, from poetry and prose to children's books, graphic narrative and nonfiction. These regulations now include the formerly separate regulations for biographies, with adjusted scoring to ensure support for literary biographies. The new groups of creators can also apply for a grant for their debut.

To make the regulations fit better with the creative process, they are designed more flexibly. From now on, most writers will be able to choose between three application periods per year rather than one. Furthermore, writers now have a choice between two fixed amounts of subsidy, based on the duration of the project. There is no longer an opportunity to apply for grants for several projects simultaneously, which means that the budget can be shared across a broader group of creators. The most important assessment criterium remains literary quality, with a greater emphasis on recent work. Also taken into account is what the project adds to the diversity of literature available in Dutch, in a literary, cultural and social sense. The principle of fair pay is as important a starting point as ever; the Foundation wants to ensure that new and diverse talents can continue to opt for the life of a writer, now and in the future, and wishes to strengthen the position of creators in all phases of their career. There is also more space for those with a hybrid or multidisciplinary literary writing practice.

With this revision, the Foundation aims to do justice to the reality of authorship in all its diversity, and to ensure more accessibility, transparency and balance in the sharing out of resources.

Here we look at several specific aspects of the regulations.

Writers starting out

It is in the interests of Dutch literature that new voices coming from many different angles get the chance to develop. Because of current market developments in the book trade, this is not always a natural outcome. So with an eye on the future and on a better fit between writing courses, literary magazines and the festival circuit, the Foundation wants to support talented writers who are just starting out and working on their first or second book publication.

Because the work of a beginner is hard to compare to the extensive oeuvres of writers who have already published several books, applications from writers working on their first or second book will be dealt with separately within the three general rounds of applications. This group will be given its own ranking and budget ceiling.

Graphic narrative

The Foundation regards the graphic narrative as a standalone literary discipline, in which text and image reinforce each other and form a close connection. Illustrated children's books and picture books as well as graphic novels have their own readership and the Foundation, partly for the sake of reading promotion, is keen to make space for them. The assessment of images requires specific knowledge and expertise within a committee. Applicants for grants in the graphic narrative genre (graphic novels, illustrated children's and young adult literature, and picture books) are therefore given one separate application round per year.

Biography

Since the new regulations offer a place to all genres, biographies fall under them from now on too. The Foundation attaches great value to the publication of well-written biographies of Dutch authors, so these applications can score extra points. Applications that comply with the conditions in Article 11, Section 8, receive 4 extra points. Below, in the information about the criteria, you will find an explanation of how genre-specific quality criteria can have a part to play in the assessment of quality. The income limit does not apply in the case of biographies, because biographies often demand an investment of many years and because we want to be able to support the best biographer for a given subject.

As a rule, a fresh application can be made under this particular arrangement only after the book resulting from an earlier award of a grant has been published. The literary biography forms an exception in this sense. Alongside a literary biography, another project can be ongoing at the same time in another genre, but not two simultaneous projects in the literary biography genre. The reason for this is that literary biographies often demand an investment of a large number of years. The Foundation does not want to discourage biographers during that writing process by blocking applications in another genre.

Applicants resident in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands or writing in Papiamentu/u

Since the literary infrastructure in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom is different from that of the European Netherlands, the Foundation is broadening the 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, which takes 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.
- Because the Foundation wants to stimulate the supply of literature in Papiamentu, these adjusted threshold conditions also apply to writers resident in the European Netherlands (or elsewhere in the world) who write in Papiamentu/u.

Requirements of the applicant (Article 3)

The total taxable income of the applicant in the period for which the grant is awarded must be no higher than the income limit determined by the board. The applicant gives the intended duration of the project in the application and makes the case that the income limit will not be exceeded within that period. If the duration of the project covers several calendar years, the income limit is determined by the average of the total taxable income over those calendar

years, up to a maximum of three calendar years. The definitive income tax assessment from the Dutch Tax Authorities serves as proof of the total taxable income. If the income limit is exceeded, the recipient of the grant is obliged to notify the Foundation as quickly as possible after receiving the definitive tax assessment. Based on this new information, the board may decide to alter the terms of the grant or withdraw the grant.

Writers and image makers of illustrated children's books and picture books must have a contractual right to a minimum of 30 per cent of the royalties in order to be eligible for support under these regulations. These regulations are not intended for creators who make a relatively small contribution to a book. Furthermore, writers of graphic narratives who are not also the image maker can make an application only if the written part of the book consists of at least 2,000 words.

Requirements of the publication (Article 4)

Titles for which authors themselves contribute to the costs of production, promotion or distribution, or of which the author purchases a specific number of copies for a fee, do not qualify for a grant based on these regulations.

In principle, applications are supported only for publications with a valid publishing agreement, which is to say a contract that at a minimum complies with the conditions of the Model Contract of the Auteursbond. There are two exceptions to this rule:

1. For applicants who live in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands or who write in Papiamentu/u. For these applicants a literary infrastructure is largely absent, so it is unreasonable to expect them to publish with a Model Contract. For these applicants, therefore, other requirements are set out in the regulations.
2. For applicants making application for a graphic novel. For this genre there is as yet no Model Contract.

Application (Article 6)

Since debutants have not yet published a book, they demonstrate the quality of their work in a different way. For this purpose, as well as an extract from the book to be written, they send other work too, preferably work that has already been published, for example in a literary magazine, or that has been presented at a festival and of which a recording can be submitted.

If the applicant has previously received a grant under these regulations or its predecessors, the applicant sends a recent publication that has not yet been assessed by the advisory committee and that was published with a publishing contract.

All applicants who are not debutants demonstrate the quality of earlier work by submitting already published books. These must not be: self-published works, works that are available exclusively in a specific bookshop chain, publications to mark an occasion, bibliophile publications in a limited print run, work in the form of editing and compilation, anthologies containing the work of several authors, reprints, adaptations (unless the adaptation can be regarded as sufficiently original) or books that are small in size.

Submitted copies of books are not generally returned to the applicant.

Funding rounds (Article 8)

In determining the group to which an applicant belongs, the following publications are not taken into account: self-published titles, bibliophile publications in a limited print run, work in the form of editing and compilation, anthologies containing the work of several authors, reprints, adaptations (unless the adaptation can be regarded as sufficiently original) and books that are small in size.

Criteria (Article 10)

All applications are assessed based on two main criteria:

Criterion 1: the quality of earlier work

Criterion 2: the quality of the plan, authorial development and added value.

Criterion 1: the quality of earlier work

The quality of earlier work is assessed based on ideas and concepts that are prevalent in literary criticism, such as style, composition, subject matter, layering and the uniqueness of the literary voice. In the case of graphic narratives the relationship between text and image is also important, as well as graphic and artistic qualities, such as technique and the use of colour. Other genres too have their own genre-specific features, as well as general lines of approach, such as versification and rhythm in poetry, age-appropriateness in children's books, persuasiveness in nonfiction, and critical distance and knowledge of the context in biographies. The depiction of character has a part to play in prose, narrative nonfiction and

biography, while in general nonfiction it requires a rationale. An aspect such as style is relevant to every genre and has no fixed interpretation; a style can convince by means of original metaphors, but also through restraint and precision. In assessing the subject matter, cultural or social relevance may be taken into account.

The above criteria of quality then relate to two sub-criteria:

- a. the quality of the most recent publication
- b. the quality of other work.

For the awarding of a grant, the average assessment based on criterium 1 must be at least adequate. If an application is judged inadequate on that criterium, the assessment ends and the application is rejected.

If b (the quality of other work) can be based on an assessment by the Foundation in the past, then quality development in the oeuvre may be considered during the assessment.

If the most recent publication is barely if at all relevant to the application and there is another recent publication that is relevant, this relevant publication may be assessed instead of the most recent.

For all applicants making application for their second book, criterium 1 is based purely on the debut. The score for the debut then counts double.

For applicants making application for their debut, the sub-criteria have a different content, as follows:

- a. The quality of a fragment of the book to be written:
 - in the case of prose or nonfiction: in total at least 5,000 words and a maximum of 10,000 words
 - in the case of poetry: 8 to 10 poems, with a maximum word count of 3,000 (if this number of words is exceeded, a smaller number of poems can be submitted)
 - in the case of graphic narrative: 8 to 10 pages, including both text and image
 - in the case of children's and young adult literature: 1,000 to 5,000 words.
- b. The quality of work chosen by the applicant:

- in the case of prose or nonfiction: at least 5,000 words and a maximum of 10,000 words in total
- in the case of poetry: at least 6 and a maximum of 10 poems
- in the case of children's and young adult literature: 1,000 to 5,000 words
- in the case of graphic narrative: 8 to 10 pages, including both text and image
- in the case of film or a performance: a maximum of 15 minutes.

For applicants making application for their third or subsequent book and who have already made application under these regulations or one of its legal predecessors, sub-criterion b (the quality of other work) is based on the assessments that took place in relation to those earlier applications.

Applicants making application for their third or subsequent book who have not previously made application under these regulations or one of its legal predecessors choose a book from their oeuvre that will be assessed under sub-criterion b (the quality of other work).

Criterion 2: the quality of the plan, artistic development and added value

This criterion is made up of the following sub-criteria:

a. Literary persuasiveness and realism of the project plan

Is what the author has in mind clear and persuasive in a literary sense? Depending on the genre, the Foundation may look for example at the concept, subject matter, intended style, research or form. Is the plan realistic and achievable within the given timeframe?

b. Modernization or broadening of literature available

Based on the artistic aspects, does the project make a contribution to the modernization or to increasing the depth or breadth of literature available?

c. Artistic development

Does the book to be written contribute to depth, breadth or modernization within the oeuvre?
Does the development fit with the phase of the authorship?

d. Social or cultural relevance

What is the significance of the project within the social context? Does it add something to neglected perspectives? Is there an element of social relevance or thematic urgency?

Size of grant (Article 13)

In determining the size of the grant, the amount of time the applicant will devote to the publication from the moment of submission of the application is of decisive importance. This may be departed from if the applicant indicates a desire to opt for a subsidy of €15,000 instead of €30,000, for example to avoid exceeding the income limit.

If a graphic novel is a coproduction by more than one creator, a divergent sum may be decided upon to ensure fair pay for both, namely €20,000 and €40,000. These sums are shared out between the creators such that the division of royalties as agreed in the publishing contract is taken as a starting point, unless the writer and image maker propose a different division by mutual agreement. In the case of illustrated children's books and picture books, the author and illustrator make application separately in the specific funding rounds, the author in one of the general writers' rounds, the illustrator or image maker in the graphic narrative round. Hence the standard sums of €15,000 and €30,000 apply here.