



Soroya Beacher Young Investigator Grant

Soroya Beacher Jonge Onderzoeker Beurs

2022

Guideline for application

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1. Background

Het Sikkelfonds or the *Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation* aims to collect the urgently needed funding to finance research to improve the treatment of patients with sickle cell disease. With more research, we hope to treat sickle cell disease more effectively and ultimately to cure this hereditary red blood cell disorder with as few adverse effects as possible.

In the interest of science and society, *het Sikkelfonds* supports talented young scientists (PhD candidates, master students and nurse -specialists) working on sickle cell disease by supporting a research traineeship or course which is valuable for their research project.

In honour of Soroya Beacher, who was an example for all working in the field of sickle cell disease and thalassemia, *het Sikkelfonds* has installed a young investigator grant in her name: *the Soroya Beacher Young Investigator Grant*.

Soroya Beacher was the founder of *OSCAR Nederland*, the patient organisation for people with sickle cell disease and/ or thalassemia in the Netherlands. She can be seen as a true pioneer in patient advocacy as she actively represented patients' interests the Netherlands and abroad for more than 30 years. As a patient herself, she knew how relevant it was to increase societal awareness of the disease and to improve comprehensive multidisciplinary care and to innovate treatment by initiating and funding research. She died on June 11th, 2018 due to complications of sickle cell disease.



2. Application & important facts

Applicants

Applicants are excellent PhD candidates, master students or nurse specialists, registered at one of the Academic centers or research institutes in the Netherlands and not older than 35 years of age.

Application form

The application form consists of: a summary of the research project (max. 300 words), aim of research traineeship or course, description of excellence of institute for which grant will be used (max. 100 words) and motivation (max. 500 words). Maximum number of words may not be exceeded. A letter of recommendation from the supervisor/promotor is required. Do not include other letters of recommendation. Please do not add (other) appendices.

Period

The minimal duration of the research traineeship or course that will be funded is four weeks. The research traineeship may take place in the Netherlands or abroad.

Budget

The maximum grant is €5.000. Within this amount, costs of travel, housing and course fees will be completely funded. An estimate of total expected costs must be included in the application form. The grant is based on this estimate.

Unforeseen circumstances or alternative travel arrangements

In case of any unforeseen circumstances before or during the planned research traineeship (delay due to COVID19 for instance), it is mandatory to contact *het Sikkelfonds* immediately. In case travel arrangements are extended, for example due to a vacation, the applicant must inform the board of *het Sikkelfonds* in advance.

Deadline

The grant application deadline for the 2022 call is **April 1st** at 23:59 hours.

The application form must be fully completed in English and signed by the applicant and his/her supervisor or (co)promotor.

3. Selection procedure

Procedure

The rating of applicants is executed by a selection committee. This committee consists of three established researchers. The selection committee sends their ranking and proposal to the Scientific Advisory Board of *het Sikkelfonds*. Rating will be based on training plan, excellence of the research institute proposed, curriculum vitae and motivation.

Notification

The final decision with regard to the winner of *the Soroya Beacher Young Investigator Grant* will be communicated to all applicants by the Board of *het Sikkelfonds* at least **two weeks** before the award ceremony on World Sickle Cell Day (annually on June 19th).

Award Ceremony

The Soroya Beacher Young Investigator Grant will be awarded during an official ceremony on World Sickle Cell Day (annually on June 19th). The winner is expected to give a short presentation about the goals of the research traineeship or course during the ceremony. Further details will be sent to the applicant in due time.

4. Reports, organisation fundraising activity, & financial obligations

During the period in which you have been awarded *the Soroya Beacher Young Investigator Grant* you will report informally on your ongoing research at least once with a photograph or other visuals which will be published on the website and in (social) media expressions by our back office.

In addition, a fundraising activity is expected to be organised by the grant winner, generating awareness and funding for *het Sikkelfonds*.

Within four weeks after the end of your grant period, you will submit a short formal report on your experiences and accomplishments (max. two A4). This report may include certificates and/or other documentation proving attendance, as well as several photographs illustrating your activities. This report will be used on the website and in other (social) media expressions to inform sponsors and other important stakeholders.

Please also include:

- Institute, period and followed program.
- What was the value and were the most important lessons you have learnt?
- Why was it so important to gain experience in another institution?

At pages 5-8 of the Application form, you will find a Grant Agreement (*Subsidieverleningsovereenkomst*), which should be fulfilled and signed by the applicant and the supervisor.

Send all communications and reports to: info@hetsikkelfonds.nl.