

Research Grant Guidelines 2025

Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation



May 2025

1. Grant

In the interest of science and society, the Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation (het Sikkelfonds; www.hetsikkelfonds.nl) aims to support talented young scientists, PhD candidates, master students and nurse specialists in their research within the field of sickle cell to improve the prospects and the future for people living with sickle cell disease.

In 2025, the Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation is providing two Research Grants with a maximum of € 100,000,- and a Stimulation Grant of € 25,000,- to fund three of the submitted research projects, after independent review. Multicenter studies and/ or interdisciplinary projects are preferred.

2. Application

Deadline

The deadline for the 2025 call is August 15 at 23.59.

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

Applicants

Applicants are senior investigators, young scientists (<45 years), PhD candidates, master students or nurse specialists, registered at one of the academic centers in the Netherlands.

Applications

Applications are sent to the Board of the Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation (info@hetsikkelfonds.nl) signed and scanned as a single pdf-file.

The title of any email correspondence should contain: the short title and your last name.

Only complete and correct applications will be accepted. (see Appendix 1: Grant application)

3. Selection

Procedure

The grant application forms will be reviewed and rated by an international independent selection committee consisting of three established international researchers. The selection committee communicates the proposed ranking to the Scientific Board of the Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation, who makes the final selection. Rating is based on study design, feasibility and originality of the project as well as excellence of the research institute.

Notification

The final decision will be communicated to all applicants by the Board of the Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation on **October 31th 2025**.

4. Reporting of your research activities

In the year in which you have been received the grant, you will report on your ongoing research once **every half year** in a small report with photograph or other visuals which will be published on social media and on the website of the foundation. At the start of the research project the Dutch Sickle cell Foundation, the junior and senior researcher will establish a communication plan.

In addition, at the end of your research project you will submit a short report (500-1,000 words for lay persons in Dutch and English) about the study results . This report will be used to illustrate the research made possible by the grant on the website of the Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation (www.hetsikkelfonds.nl) and other media in order to inform donors and other important stakeholders.

Please send all communications and reports to: **info@hetsikkelfonds.nl**.

5. Funding

An overview of the total expected costs (100%) must be included in the application form. Please be aware that payments are based on the actual costs. After the project has been awarded, 80% of the total grant will be paid within four weeks after receiving the signed contract.

The remaining 20% will be paid by the Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation three months after receiving the short report mentioned above.

In all publications, presentations or a dissertation, we value communicating that financial support was provided by the Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation, using the logo of the foundation.

For any information or questions, please contact info@hetsikkelfonds.nl.

Explanation about the different sections of the Grant application form

Ad 1. Summary of the research project for professionals and lay persons: summarizes the project, *including, the title of the project, short title*, a statement of what issue(s) the project addresses, a description of why the work is important and a description of how the project will be accomplished.

Maximum number of words by section

- a. Summary for lay persons : 300 words
- b. Samenvatting in leekentaal (Dutch): 300 words

Ad 2. Specific Aims: State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will have on sickle cell disease. Subsequently list the specific objectives of the research proposed (e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology).

Maximum number of 100 words

Ad 3. Relevance to the sickle cell disease research field: Explain how this project will advance the quality of life, the natural history and/ or potential therapeutic treatment.

Especially social relevance for the population at risk.

Maximum number of 150 words

Ad 4. Research Strategy and Plan: Contains a discussion of the background and significance of the work proposed, including a critical evaluation of previous research lines and existing knowledge, specifically identifying the gaps that the project is intended to fill, and explicitly stating the importance of the proposed research (hypotheses).

Also a thorough summary of the research design and methods and if possible: power calculation.

Provide a timetable for the project.

Maximum number of 1,000 words

Ad 5. Plans for longer-term funding: Assuming a positive outcome for your project, discuss

your plans for obtaining subsequent funding from NWO or other (national and/or international) funding organizations.

Maximum number of 100 words

Ad 6. Key references: Standard citations of publications referred to in the application.

Maximum number of key references: n=5

Ad 7. Biographical sketch: Please include a short version of the curriculum vitae of the young and/ or senior researcher

Maximum of 5 rules

Ad 8. Other funding or resources: Please also indicate when this application (or parts of this application) has been submitted at and/or granted by other funding organizations.

Maximum number of 150 words

Ad 9. Budget form: Including list of project personnel (name, title, institution and role in the project), including the percentage of effort that each person is expected to devote to the project.

Add separate Excell form

Note: Principal investigators must be involved throughout the duration of the research project and must be employed by the UMC/university concerned. All budgets will be scrutinized for allowable costs (see “Disallowed budget items” below). Applicants should only consider budget item requests that are necessary for the completion of the project.

Disallowed budget items in the Research Grant Program include a.o.: publication fees, personal expenses. Capital expenditures for laboratory equipment are not allowed.

Regulatory aspects:

In addition to the application described above, several specific documents may be required if applicable. If applicable, please provide a proof of current or pending approval by a ‘Medisch

Ethische Toetsings Commissie' (METC), or a similar oversight group.

Funding for the project, if the application is approved, will not be released until the final approval has been secured and a copy, including the approved informed consent form, has been received.

Furthermore:

- Only proposals written in English will be considered.
- Incomplete applications or applications exceeding the maximum word count will not be accepted.
- Applications are considered confidential information by The Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation and by any external reviewers.

Guideline and Requirements

Paper Size and Margins: A4, standard margins normal (2,5 cm).

Font size: Arial 10 or larger. Smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams and charts is acceptable, as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%. A digital version of the full application (in .doc format or in .pdf format) and any attachments must be sent to: info@hetsikkelfonds.nl.

The form must be completed and signed/scanned by the persons concerned.