

CONNECTED WORLD

ACADEMY ASSISTANTS
2024

Connected
World

VU 



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CONNECTED WORLD is one of four profile themes at the heart of Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam. Wishing to promote innovative research on this theme and to engage students in this endeavour, VU sustains Connected World Academy Assistant teams. These teams consist of two Bachelor or Master students guided by VU staff members. With the present call, we cordially invite VU staff to propose such teams. The Academy Assistant program aims at promising high-potential students who want to conduct scientific research and possibly pursue an academic career. The program is meant to bring together scientists from different disciplines; therefore the projects must combine methods and themes from two different disciplines. For each awarded project, the program will fund two student research assistants (0,2 FTE) for a period of nine months. The proposed research must explicitly relate to the Connected World theme.

Connected World

Today's world is a Connected World, with 24/7 online communication, millions of citizens closely packed in metropolitan cities, and people, goods and ideas travelling around the globe as never before. VU wishes to actively stimulate research on those connections and in particular to contribute to the solution of disconnection: better connecting social groups in metropolitan melting pots, better connecting citizens to the environment they inhabit and better connecting global citizens to improve mutual understanding.

Who can apply?

Only VU staff can apply and propose Academy Assistants teams.

Deadline for application

Deadline for submission proposals: 26 February, 2024 before 23:59 hrs.

Communication of winning proposals: March, 2024.

All required documents have to be sent in one pdf to connectedworld@vu.nl. Applications have to be written in English.

Funding amount

You can apply for a max. of €18.000,-. The funding covers the recruitment of two student research assistants (0,2 FTE) for a period of nine months.

How to apply?

A complete application must include:

- Cover letter by the applicant (max. 1 page A4; including a 200-word abstract) highlighting
 - the interdisciplinary collaboration in the project;
 - Project description;
 - Planning;
 - Deliverables
- Detailed budget estimate (estimate costs for employment of a student assistant can be requested from the HR advisor of our own faculty. Please note that the employment costs cover the super gross salary and KDM costs for the student assistant.)
- A WBS element on which the funding can be booked. (The financial administration of the funding is the responsibility of the applicant(s). Therefore a WBS element on which the funding can be booked is mandatory when apply for funding. If you have no WBS element you can contact your Business

controller of your faculty, the head of your department or the chair where you work for to make arrangements to use an existent WBS element. Without a WBS element or an assurance that the WBS element will be arranged, the application can't be reviewed.

- There is room for material costs up to max. €1.000,-.

Selection criteria

Proposals are selected on the basis of the quality of the proposed research project, its interdisciplinarity, the level of student engagement and the relation to the Connected World theme.

Further remarks:

1. Academy assistants will be appointed for a maximum period of nine months, for eight hours a week (one working day), starting between March 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.
2. Assistants should be VU bachelor or (research) master students for the entire period of their appointment; note that each assistant should bring in the expertise of one of the disciplines involved in the project. Exceptions can be made upon discussion with the coordinators.
3. Assistants will be appointed at the faculty of choice.
4. Tips for recruitment:
 - Posting information for your AA position on Canvas pages of the courses you teach/assist in;
 - Using the mailing list of your faculty to send out a call for students;
 - Refer students to the Connected World, Network Institute and CLUE+ websites to advertise the position;
 - Ask a peer for students;
 - Ask the Graduate School of your faculty to share your AA position via its student network.

The VU profile theme Connected World is coordinated by the interdisciplinary research institutes CLUE+ and Network Institute and chaired by the Faculty of Humanities.



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