



Quantum
Delta NL

Top Talent Initiative Application Guidelines

Description of the Top Talent Initiative

The TTI is a personal grant. The candidate must have a permanent appointment (or the prospect* of a permanent appointment) after September 2024 with an organisation based in NL. The grant is meant for a personal vision and ambition that contributes to one of the QDNL action lines or catalyst programmes, or to the Goals of the QDNL programme in a broader sense.

The budget is flexible, i.e. the candidate can use it for any idea (as long as it is compliant with NGF/RVO regulations), but the candidate has to explain what she/he wants to do and how this connects to QDNL ambitions.

Individuals can have a background in research or education or policy and may want to contribute directly or indirectly to quantum technology development and impact through research, valorisation, entrepreneurship, education, communication or policy, by bringing in new concepts or expertise to our ecosystem.

*By 'prospect', we mean either a signed contract or a statement from the employer confirming that they are in the process of hiring and intend to hire. Please note that a successful application in the TTI cannot be a precondition for hiring; the employer must intend to hire regardless of the TTI outcome.

Selection criteria

- Added value to ecosystem
- Excellence of applicant/Top in their field (top 10%)
- Factual criteria of when a person considered top in their field are difficult to give. The applicant has to give proof of excellence through support letters, CV, other demonstrations of excellence.
- Plan (summary) has to fit QDNL scope.
- Applicant has a (prospect of) an employment contract in NL and started after 1 September 2024.

Who can apply

Applications are done by individuals with a permanent appointment, and should be officially endorsed by employer/employing organisation based in NL. In case there is no employer yet, an intention to employ the individual should be part of the endorsement (in the event of a positive decision by QDNL, the subsidy will be granted under the condition that the candidate will actually accept the position and starts working in the Netherlands). An individual can apply only once.

What can be requested

An applicant in this Call for proposals can apply for a budget amounting to minimally €100.000 and a maximum of €300,000. In case there is a very large cost involved in the proposed plan (e.g. in an academic experimental physics project), the amount may be increased to € 400.000.

The maximum duration of the proposed project is 3 years.

All costs should be approved by QDNL according to RVO conditions.

Topics

We don't want to define topics of interest, there are in principle no boundaries to the topic. We do want to share some inspiration:

- To develop new concepts in quantum technology, both at a fundamental research as well as applied level.
- To develop a new educational or societal or artistic initiative.
- To develop a policy initiative to increase e.g. entrepreneurial awareness.

When can applications be submitted

Applications can be submitted throughout the year.

Applicants can apply latest 6 months after they started in their new role in the Netherlands.

Submission process

Intention to submit by candidate to talent@quantumdelta.nl, cc (future) employer of candidate.

There will be a call with QDNL to discuss intention and process.

Application

- Summary: In this summary you summarise your project plan and describe your fit to the QDNL programme.
- Project plan: The proposed project has to fit topically to one of the CATs or AL or NanoLabNL.
- Profile candidate: The selection committee checks if the application is admissible.
- Profile of candidate (CV + description key output and achievements).
- Support letters, supporting the top talent aspect.
- Endorsement by host institution.

Assessment process

As described above, the main goal of the Initiative is to support top talented individuals. The focus of the assessment process will, therefore, be on the candidate. If the candidate is assessed as a top talent, she/he has ample space to propose a project. The main criterium for the latter is fit to the QDNL programme.

The assessment process is managed by the QDNL programme office. The assessment consists of 4 steps:

- Eligibility check by QDNL, including a financial check.
 - The eligibility of the proposed candidate (step B) will be checked by the entire committee on quality (top 10%) and on potential fit to the programme.
- Check on fit with QDNL
 - This is done by 2 programme leads of the Strategy Council (the 'Trekking' of the catalyst programmes or Action Lines, or NanoLabNL). Also a partial fit - including indications how to make it fit - can be an outcome.
- Interview with the top talent committee.
 - In an interview the committee intends to get a good view on the excellence of

the candidate. An interview is deemed crucial to have a broader perspective for the committee than just CV + support letters to assess the excellence. Besides, the proposal will be discussed, receive feedback and, if necessary, how to improve fit to the QDNL ambitions.

- The committee will give an advice to the QDNL-board, who makes a decision.
 - In case of a positive decision by the board, the candidate will receive a grant letter.

Format application form

This is a free format. Maximum number of words allowed: 2500.

Contact Information

Applications can be sent to talent@quantumdelta.nl

Information: Contact person: Pieter de Witte

Top talent committee

The top talent committee consist of:

- Prof. dr. ir. Bart van Wees - RUG
- Prof. dr. Stephanie Wehner – TUD
- Prof. dr. Erik Bakkers – TU/e
- Prof. dr. Carlo Beenakker - LEI
- Prof. dr. Stacey Jeffery – UvA/CWI