

## INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PLATFORM VOUCHER PROGRAMME 2022

The present voucher programme constitutes the starting point of an effort from the Interdisciplinary Research Platform (IRP) to stimulate excellent collaborative research between different institutes of the Faculty of Science and with public/private stakeholders. In this first call, corresponding to the period 2022-2023, a total of 6 vouchers will be awarded with an available maximum budget of €50.000 per project.

### SCOPE

The mounting complexity of the challenges that science and society are facing today, necessarily implies the concurrence of many areas of expertise for a successful solution. Interdisciplinarity has thus become a priority for every scientific hub worldwide, as it is the most meaningful way to use human and material resources in research. Radboud University, and specially the Faculty of Science, have successfully adopted this perspective and provided support for collaboration and community building among traditionally separated scientific circles. The IRP is part of that strategic view and aims at fostering the faculty-wide interaction between research groups.

This IRP voucher programme has been launched to promote **small exploratory projects** that involve different institutes at the Faculty of Science and/or boost the foundation of consortia with external partners. Current focus areas are:

- The **interplay of experimental laboratories in life sciences, chemistry and physics**. While the Radboud University excels in research programmes in the molecular- and biosciences, there is an unmet need to further integrate these research areas. Interdisciplinary studies at these interfaces can contribute to address sustainable goals in the areas of health, food, agriculture and the environment.
- The use of **machine learning and information technology in the natural sciences**. Machine learning has emerged as an essential tool for fundamental and applied research in disciplines such as astrophysics, computer science, atomic and molecular physics, mathematics, neuroscience, chemistry, biology and others. It provides a common conceptual framework where ideas and methods from seemingly distant specializations converge in an extraordinary synergy.
- **Projects with a green information technology perspective**; building upon the successful experience of the previous Green Information Technology initiative that led to successful collaborations of multiple academic, industrial and societal stakeholders. Green

information technology aims to find next-level solutions for energy-efficient data use and to design radically new IT applications for a sustainable future. This includes hardware development (*greening of IT*) as well as smart software solutions that optimize processes, drive digitalization and contribute to the sustainable development goals (*greening by IT*).

Furthermore, the scope of the IRP is broad: any researcher of the Faculty of Science with an innovative idea that **establishes new collaborations** between faculty institutes and generates **high impact results** in fundamental or applied research is welcome to apply.

#### REQUIREMENTS

- The main applicant is a researcher of the Faculty of Science, and the project involves at least another researcher from a different research institute at the Faculty of Science. Involvement of relevant external partners is encouraged.
- Projects involving external partners can include a letter of support.
- Costs can include salary (Faculty of Science researchers), consultancy for grant applications, conference costs, travel expenses, etc. Costs of laboratory materials/consumables above €10.000 should be justified in the Application Form. Costs for equipment larger than €10.000 (incl. VAT) are not possible.
- The amount requested must be spent before 1 July 2023.
- Awardees are committed to present the results/advances of the awarded project in the events (symposia, poster sessions, etc.) organized by the IRP.
- Awardees are expected to submit a report summarizing the success/achievements of the project within one month after completion.

#### APPLICATION

You can apply for an IRP voucher by sending the Application Form to Isabel Rijk (isabel.rijk@ru.nl) before **Monday 16 May 2022, 1:00 PM**. The awarded projects will be announced on 28 June, 2022.

#### EVALUATION PROCESS

The applications will be evaluated by a Selection Committee, and submitted to the Faculty Board for approval. The following guidelines will be considered to assess the submission merits:

- **Novelty** - Project explores an innovative idea following the Faculty of Science high standards for quality and relevance of scientific research.
- **Consortium** - Project establishes an inter-institute collaboration. If applicable, significant involvement of societal or external stakeholders.

- **Expected impact** - Project is a stepping stone towards a larger project or grant application, or builds a new research collaboration with stakeholders or makes a contribution to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Feasibility** - Project includes a detailed research plan illustrating achievable targets.

The selection process will observe the following steps:

- 1) Check for compliance with basic application requirements (basic info, participants, institutes involved, dates, etc). This is performed by the IRP coordinators.
- 2) Applications are passed to the Selection Committee, who will rank the submissions according to their merits and provide remarks supporting their assessments.
- 3) The ranked list and remarks from the Selection Committee, together with recommendations from the IRP Management Board, are sent to the Faculty Board for discussion and approval. The final decision of the Faculty Board will aim for a balance of awarded projects among the different focus areas.
- 4) Awardees are announced at the award ceremony on 28 June 2022.
- 5) The Selection Committee consists of 3 external evaluators. The identity of the external evaluators will be made public at the end of the review process.

#### MORE INFORMATION

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#### WEBSITE

[www.ru.nl/irp](http://www.ru.nl/irp)