# **Call for Network Institute Academy Assistant projects**

# Apply for interdisciplinary research projects with 2 student assistants

# **Deadline 8 June 2018 at 12.00 pm**

The [Network Institute](http://www.networkinstitute.org/)’s (NI) Academy Assistants program (NIAA) is now entering its eighth year. Initially funded through a KNAW grant and aimed at combining social sciences and computer science research, it has since been adopted by the Network Institute and opened up for other interdisciplinary projects which fall within the NI’s research themes. The Academy Assistants program aims at promising high-potential master students who want to conduct scientific research and possibly pursue an academic career. Last year, six Academy Assistant proposals were funded, this year, the program will also be able to fund six to seven projects.

This is a call for new proposals to start from October 2018 onwards. The program aims to bring together scientists from **different** **disciplines**; therefore the projects must combine methods and themes from two different [disciplines](http://www.networkinstitute.org/research/) affiliated with the NI. For each awarded project, the program funds two student research assistants (0,2 FTE) for a period of ten months. The intended outcome of the projects should be papers and/or research proposals. In addition, at the end of the project (July 2019) we will publish proceedings of this year’s project.

**An example project: A Probabilistic Approach to Linguistic Variation and Change in Biblical Hebrew**

*This project addresses the longstanding problem of linguistic dating of the Psalms. The researchers will investigate the novel idea of analyzing these texts by elaborating on techniques and concepts from the analysis of social networks. Specifically, a probabilistic model (Markov chain) will be developed that captures the linguistic structure of the ‘textual network’.* *The rationale is that text parts that originate from different time periods show distinguishable patterns (e.g., homopholy in the text-network).*

This call is aimed at researchers who are willing to cross the boundaries of their own discipline, and who have a research topic in mind that would benefit from such an interdisciplinary approach. If you are interested in participating in this program, please send us a short research proposal as outlined in the template proposal below. Send the completed proposals to: akademiestudent.fsw@vu.nl, **before 8 June 2018 at 12.00 pm**. An independent committee will evaluate the proposals. The successful projects will be announced during the NI end of year meeting on 3 July 2018.

**Quick facts**:

* Proposals should **combine two** [**disciplines**](http://www.networkinstitute.org/research/) that are part of the Network Institute;
* Project supervision by **two** (and not more than two) [**Network Institute researchers**](http://www.networkinstitute.org/about-2/departments/)**;**
* Proposed projects can be continuations of previous NIAA projects. In that case, supervisors need to address the way in which this new proposal is different from the previous project;
* A maximum of **one project per supervisor** will be awarded (although it is allowed to submit multiple proposals);
* Funding for two student assistants for **ten months at one day per week (0.2 FTE)**; value around €14,000;
* A 500€ travel/expenses budget per project;
* Submission before **8 June 2018 at 12.00 pm**;
* Decision on 3 July 2018.

*For more information and inspiration, visit* [*http://www.networkinstitute.org/academy-assistants*](http://www.networkinstitute.org/academy-assistants)

*If you have any questions regarding this call or eligibility, please contact:*

*Christine Moser,* *c.moser@vu.nl**,*

*Antske Fokkens* *a.fokkens@vu.nl**, or
Victor de Boer* *v.de.boer@vu.nl*

We look forward to receiving your proposals!

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**Proposal Title**

**Applicants**

*Eligible proposals must have two (and only two) applicants from different disciplines within the Network Institute.*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Supervisor Name** | **Department/Group** | **Faculty** |
| 1. |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |

**Project description**

*Provide a brief description of the project (max. 300 words)*

**Project Organization**

*Each proposal requests two Academy Assistants from different disciplines. Describe their roles and describe the skills and expertise required from them (max. 300 words)*

**Collaboration**

*Describe how your research improves collaboration and cross-pollination between the disciplines involved (max. 300 words)*

**Deliverables**

*Enumerate intended project results: papers, research proposals or otherwise (max 200 words)*

**Planning**

*Provide a breakdown of the project into phases with tentative timing (max 150 words)*

***Please respect the word count limits: proposals that exceed the stated limits will not be eligible.***