



INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PLATFORM VOUCHER PROGRAMME 2025

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 external stakeholders. In this call, a total of 6 vouchers will be awarded with an available maximum budget of €50.000 per project and a duration of one year (January - December 2025).

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 especially 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 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 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 addressing sustainable goals in the areas of health, food, agriculture, and the environment.
- The use of **machine learning, artificial intelligence and information technology in the natural sciences**. Machine learning and AI have emerged as essential tools for fundamental and applied research in disciplines such as astrophysics, computer science, atomic and molecular physics, mathematics, neuroscience, chemistry, biology, and others. They provide 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 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 one other researcher from a different research institute at the Faculty of Science.
- The main applicant and co-applicants have not been granted an IRP Voucher before. This restriction does not apply to external partners.
- 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 or outsourcing above €10.000 should be justified on the Application Form. Costs for equipment larger than €10.000 (incl. VAT) are not possible. Hiring students through Radboud Campusdetaching is allowed.
- The amount requested must be spent between January 1 and 31 December 2025.
- 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 **Thursday 13 June 2024, 1:00 PM**.

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 and excellence** - 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 steppingstone towards a larger project or grant application or builds a new research collaboration with stakeholders or contributes 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, novelty, etc.). This is performed by the IRP coordinators.
- 2) Applications are passed to the Selection Committees, who will rank the submissions according to their merits and provide remarks supporting their assessments.
- 3) The ranked list and remarks from the Selection Committees, 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 will be informed about the decision in September 2024.
- 5) The award ceremony will take place on **3 October 2024**.
- 6) 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

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