

# VU-University Research Fellow 2021-2022



Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Amsterdam) has high ambitions in academic research. The university recognizes that top researchers help define the quality and reputation of the university. As a gesture of its appreciation, VU Amsterdam would like to honour a select group of internationally recognized academics by offering them a Fellow as part of our University Research Fellow programme.

This programme will enable a number of the university's leading academics to annually appoint a Fellow of their choice. The talented students awarded the personal VU Fellowship will hold the title of University Research Fellow (URF) for one year, and will carry the name of the academic with whom they are affiliated. By launching this programme, VU Amsterdam aims to provide recognition to excellent academics as well as talented students and to forge a stronger link between research and teaching activities.

## 1. WHICH ACADEMICS ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPOINT A FELLOW?

The university will designate a number of outstanding academics, actively involved in teaching and mentoring, to award a VU Fellowship. These academics must distinguish themselves by an exceptional record of academic performance and by making a significant contribution to their disciplines.

Any of the following will be viewed as evidence of this:

- an ERC Advanced Grant
- an NWO Spinoza prize
- an NWO VICI Grant

Academics with any of these achievements to their name will, each year for the duration of their special award, be entitled to appoint a VU Fellow for a maximum of 12 months.

The upcoming Fellows will start their Fellowship at the beginning of the Academic year, which is in September 2020.

## 2. WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

Each year, the Executive Board will invite the laureates personally to award a VU Fellowship to a student who has demonstrated exceptional academic excellence. Laureates are responsible for recruiting their Fellow themselves. The Executive Board of VU Amsterdam will confirm the selection made by the laureate.

## 3. WHAT ARE THE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES?

Each academic will be allocated a sum of €10.000 to be spent by the academic on the Fellowship. They may choose from one of the four spending objectives:

1. To appoint the Fellow as a student assistant to carry out teaching and / or research activities.
2. To fund a Master's study programme or Research Master's programme at VU Amsterdam (if the Fellow is a Bachelor's student)
3. To contribute towards the funding of a one-year PhD programme at VU Amsterdam (if the Fellow is a Master's student and wishes to gain a PhD). The Faculty will meet the costs of the remaining period of the PhD programme.
4. To appoint the Fellow as personal assistant, enabling him /her to take on some of the duties of the academic.

Throughout the year, the academic and the Fellow are expected to work together in teaching and research activities. The Fellow may also join the academic when attending various conferences and meetings. The academic and his/her Fellow are expected to promote the visibility and overall reputation of VU Amsterdam.

#### 4. WHICH LAUREATES ARE ENTITLED TO AWARD A VU FELLOWSHIP IN 2021-2022?

VU Amsterdam is proud to announce the following leading academics who will be entitled to appoint a Fellow. The academics will be assigned their fellowships in the spring, at which point they may proceed with the selection process for a VU Fellow.



**Toby Kiers**  
**Ecological Science**  
NWO VICI Grant Laureate  
VU – Kiers – Fellow



**Paola Gori-Giorgi**  
**Theoretical Chemistry**  
NWO VICI Grant laureate  
VU - Gori-Giorgi - Fellow



**Danielle Posthuma**  
**Statistical Genetics**  
ERC Advanced Grant laureate  
VU - Posthuma - Fellow



**Serge Dumoulin**  
**Cognitive Psychology**  
NWO VICI Grant laureate  
VU - Dumoulin - Fellow



**Albert Menkveld**  
**Finance**  
NWO VICI Grant laureate  
VU - Menkveld - Fellow



**Erwin Peterman**  
**Physics of Living Systems -  
Molecular Biophysics**  
ERC Advanced Grant laureate  
VU - Peterman - Fellow



**Coen Ottenheijm**  
**Muscle Physiology**  
NWO VICI Grant laureate  
VU - Ottenheijm - Fellow



**Halleh Ghorashi**  
**Sociology - Identities, Diversity  
and Inclusion**  
NWO VICI Grant laureate  
VU - Ghorashi - Fellow



**Sergey Nejentsev**  
**Molecular Cell Biology and  
Immunology**  
ERC Advanced Grant laureate  
VU - Nejentsev - Fellow



**Jeroen Aerts**  
**Water and Climate Risk**  
ERC Advanced Grant Laureate  
VU – Aerts- Fellow



**Jan Theeuwes**  
**Cognitive Psychology**  
ERC Advanced Grant laureate  
VU - Theeuwes - Fellow



**Yvette van der Kooyk**  
**Immunology**  
Spinoza Prize  
VU – Kooyk – Fellow



**Maurice Crul**  
**Sociology - Identities, Diversity  
and Inclusion**  
ERC Advanced Grant laureate  
VU - Crul - Fellow



**Gijs Wuite**  
**Physics of Living Systems**  
ERC Advanced Grant  
VU – Wuite – Fellow



**Jolanda van der Velden**  
**Physiology**  
NWO VICI Grant laureate  
VU - Van der Velden - Fellow



**Pieter Rein ten Wolde**  
**Physics of Living Systems**  
ERC Advanced Grant  
VU – ten Wolde - Fellow



**Gerben Meynen**  
**Ethics & Psychiatry**  
NWO VICI Grant laureate  
VU – Meynen – Fellow