Criteria for the Marina van Damme grant from Eindhoven University of Technology, Delft University of Technology and the University of Twente

Are you looking for a career change?
The Marina van Damme grant can help!

The Marina van Damme grant – awarded by Mrs. Van Damme, the Delft University Fund, the Eindhoven University Fund and the Twente University Fund – aim to support talented women alumni who have graduated from one of the three universities of technology in the Netherlands (Delft University of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology and the University of Twente) with a Master’s degree or PhD. The grant offers these women graduates extra support for the next step in their careers, or the opportunity to make a career change. It has a value of € 9,000, and is intended for example to allow the recipients to broaden their knowledge or gain an international outlook through a study program, an internship or a project. The grant is not intended for (partially) financing a PhD program. The grant will also not be awarded to applicants wishing to follow study programs at the universities at which they gained their Master’s degrees or PhD.

Applications must be supported by a plan showing the career development of the candidate since her graduation, including CV, a statement of her dream and motivation and the steps that she intends to take to achieve them, and how she would use the grant for this purpose. This plan must be written by the candidate herself, and should address the assessment criteria described below. It is an advantage if the winner serves as a career example for women students and graduates.

The jury will apply the following assessment criteria:

1. Candidates must have gained a Master’s degree or PhD at Delft University of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology or the University of Twente
2. Preference will be given to women whose parents did not have an academic education
3. The application relates to the personal development of the candidate (this must involve a career breakthrough and/or a cross-disciplinary step or career change, or gaining a strongly international outlook to be achieved by working together with one or more prominent institutes in other countries)
4. Preference will be given to women who have already built up a career; however women who are at the start of their careers may also apply for the grant provided that their applications comply fully with the requirements of criterion 3 above
5. The plan as described in the application can be carried out in practice
6. The plan as described in the application will be carried out at a recognized educational or research institute or company in the Netherlands or other country
7. The application must clearly show why the grant is essential to achieve the desired career change
8. The application must show how the candidate will continue to build on her previous education
It is permitted, and it may even support the application, if the candidate will receive additional grants from other funds. It is therefore desirable and advisable to make explicit reference to other grant applications.

Checklist for applications:
The application must be supported by a plan for the proposed approach, including:
- A brief description of the career to date, including CV
- A brief description of the intended career step or change (see criterion 3) and its importance for the personal development of the candidate
- A brief explanation of how the grant will be used to achieve the intended career step or change, together with a letter of recommendation or support from a professor or institute at which the planned program will be followed
- Details of any applications to other funds to support the candidate’s plan
- A budget and timeline for the plan

N.B.: The length of the total plan is limited to a maximum of three A4 pages excluding CV and appendices.

After the awarding of the grant by the jury, the winner can start to put her plan into practice. The amount of the grant can be drawn down, if desired in installments, by submitting (summary) receipts showing the expenditure. The candidate may consult the University Fund about an advance payment if necessary.

The final result must be shown by means of a diploma, certificate or reference letter. The candidate must achieve her plan within a period of 4 years. Exceptional situations will be assessed by the University Fund in consultation with Mrs. Van Damme or a representative of the Van Damme network. The University Fund will monitor the progress made by the winner in carrying out her plan.