

## Information regarding the application process for the 2026 Prof. J.C.M. Warnsinck Fellowship at the National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam

Since 2007, the Prof. J.C.M. Warnsinck Fellowship supports maritime historical research relating to historical objects in the collection of the National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam. The fellowship allows for a one-time stipend of up to €5,000, including travel expenses. This sum may only be dispensed directly to the applicant.

This year it is possible for the first time to submit an application for a Prof. J.C.M. Warnsinck Fellowship that is focused specifically on the maritime history, archaeology and culture of the province of Zeeland. The collection of the National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam and the collection of the Maritiem Muzeem Zeeland in Vlissingen together serve as the starting point of research conducted for this fellowship. Research proposals focused on maritime archaeology or ship building will be given preference for this Warnsinck Fellowship Zeeland. For this Zeeland fellowship, candidates who are not based in Zeeland can apply for additional funding of up to € 3.000 for travel costs to Vlissingen and accommodation there, to conduct research in the collection of the Maritiem Muzeem Zeeland, which will be reimbursed based on the costs made. This fellowship for this specific research area will be awarded no more than one time annually.

The fellowship is open to those who have (almost) completed their master's degree. The fellowship may last a maximum of six months, the earliest starting date is 1 September 2026. It is possible to postpone the start of the fellowship, in consultation, up to 1 December 2026. The closing date for applications is 28 May 2026.

### Procedure

You can only apply for a fellowship at the National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam by submitting the following documents:

1. A motivation letter
2. A curriculum vitae with a list of the applicant's publications
3. A summary of the applicant's research proposal (c. 700 words) which should include:

- Introduction of the subject
- Historiographical context
- The central research question
- Collection item or items on which the research focuses – including inventory numbers ('objectnummer(s)/exemplaarnummer(s)') and your motivation for selecting these objects.

Applicants who wish to be considered for the Warnsinck Fellowship Zeeland, must state this clearly in their application, and indicate in their proposal which objects from both collections will be the starting point of the research project.

- Relevance and urgency of the research
- Planning strategy

Applicants who wish to be considered for the Warnsinck Fellowship Zeeland must indicate how much time they expect to spend in Zeeland for their research.

- Bibliography containing 10 titles (these titles are not included in the total word count)
- 4. A letter of recommendation from an academic familiar with the applicant's research – to be sent by the referrer themselves separately from the applicant's own dossier.

All documents must be sent by email to [fellows@hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl](mailto:fellows@hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl) no later than **28 May 2026**.

## Timeframe

- 17 April 2026                      Online information meeting
- 28 May 2026                        Application deadline
- July 2026                             Announcement of fellows
- 1 September 2026                Earliest starting date of research

Candidates may be invited to expand verbally on their proposal.

## Selection criteria

1. Study of objects in the collection of the National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam is central to the fellowship programme; applicants should indicate specifically in their application which objects and/or parts of the collection form the basis of their research. Candidates who wish to be considered for the Warnsinck Fellowship Zeeland must indicate, in addition to the objects and/or parts of the collection of the National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam, which objects and/or parts of the collection of the Maritiem Museum Zeeland form the basis of the research. Research proposals focused on maritime archaeology or ship building will be preferred for this Zeeland fellowship;
2. The applicant has convincingly demonstrated the academic significance of their research proposal;
3. The applicant demonstrably has academic skills;
4. It must be possible to complete the proposed research in the available period of no more than six months.

## Subjects

The selection committee welcomes original and groundbreaking research proposals. A key precondition is always that the museum collection forms the basis for the research. Proposals which, besides the collection of the National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam, also include the use of collections of other (maritime) museums, archives, libraries or heritage institutions, are especially encouraged.

Applicants may find descriptions of previously conducted research projects on the '[Onderzoek & fellowships](#)' webpage.

To prepare their research proposal, applicants are invited to search the museum collection online via the National Maritime Museum's website ([collectie.hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl](https://collectie.hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl)). The collection of the Maritiem Museum Zeeland can be partly consulted via <https://collectiezeeland.nl>. The collection of maritime archaeology is not available online in its entirety. Candidates for the Warnsinck Fellowship Zeeland are therefore strongly recommended to contact [p.verbeeck@muzeum.nl](mailto:p.verbeeck@muzeum.nl) for more information. Using the Maritiem Digitaal website ([www.maritiemdigitaal.nl](http://www.maritiemdigitaal.nl)) is also warmly recommended. This website contains

# het scheepvaart national maritime museum

information regarding the maritime collections of 23 museums in the Netherlands and Belgium. For more information, applicants can contact the museum's curators ([fellows@hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl](mailto:fellows@hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl)) and information specialists ([bibliotheek@hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl](mailto:bibliotheek@hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl)), for the Maritiem Muzeum Zeeland: [p.verbeeck@muzeem.nl](mailto:p.verbeeck@muzeem.nl).

An online information meeting will take place on 17 April 2026 (for more information see below under 'Information meeting and questions').

## **Further information and requirements**

Application proposals will be considered by a selection committee chaired by Leiden University's professor of maritime history. The selection committee will issue its advice to the board of the Fellowship Foundation, Stichting Fellowships Scheepvaartmuseum.

Fellows are required to have sufficient command of the Dutch language to carry out their proposed research. Applicants are responsible for organising their own visa (when applicable), accommodation and other practical matters, although the museum can provide assistance if possible.

Fellows are expected to spend part of their time in the museum, to work with the museum's research staff and to be prepared to actively take part in meetings with curators and other fellows. Their presence will be coordinated in consultation. It is not possible to conduct all research for this fellowship remotely. The museum advises applicants to expect to be present weekly in the museum for six months to conduct research within the collection and to join meetings (meetings are generally held on Tuesdays and Thursdays). Completing the fellowship in a shorter period is an option that can be discussed.

Academic supervision of the research is performed in close coordination with museum curators and colleagues at universities and other museums.

Prof. J.C.M. Warnsinck Fellows have to complete their fellowship by providing at least one article and ensure that this is published within two years in an academic journal. They furthermore have to give a public lecture outlining the results of their fellowship research. This lecture is generally given at the Fellowship symposium in the National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam in the February following the start of the fellowship.

Fellows are obliged to mention the fellowship in all publications, lectures and other public statements regarding the research undertaken, both during and after the completion of the research period. The museum will be pleased to receive a copy of each publication for the library collection.

## **Information meeting and questions**

An online information meeting will be held on 17 April 2026 at 15:00 (CEST) regarding this call. Fellowships coordinator Suze Zijlstra will explain the research possibilities and the application process. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions. Please send an email to [fellows@hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl](mailto:fellows@hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl) to receive a Teams link for this meeting.

# het scheepvaart national maritime museum

Please contact Suze Zijlstra directly by e-mail at [fellows@hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl](mailto:fellows@hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl) for questions regarding the application process. Feel free also to ask for a separate meeting by phone or online with her to discuss your research ideas further.

## **About both museums**

The National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam is the national museum for maritime history and culture in the Netherlands. Almost every aspect of Dutch maritime history from the sixteenth century up until the twentyfirst century is represented in the vast collection of, at the moment, about 350.000 objects. Through objects and stories, the museum shows which ways the maritime world impacts the lives of individuals in the past, present, and future.

The Maritime Muzeum Zeeland in Vlissingen holds a diverse collection regarding Zeeland's maritime past, including one of the most valuable collections of maritime archaeology in the Netherlands, with many objects from sunken VOC ships such as 't *Vliegend Hert* and *Rooswijk*.

*The fellowship programme of the National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam is made possible with support from the Samenwerkende Maritieme Fondsen and the Vereniging Nederlandsch Historisch Scheepvaart Museum.*