Join the highest student ranked Research Master’s programme in the Netherlands

The Department of Social and Organizational Psychology at the University of Groningen is now accepting a limited number of applications for the two-year Research Master’s programme.

The Social and Organizational Psychology group is founded on a national and international reputation for excellence. Our teaching and research programmes consistently rank among the best in the country. The key characteristics of the two-year Research Master’s programme are:

1. High quality research training and active participation in research groups
2. Emphasis on individual work, supervised by internationally renown researchers
3. High degree of specialization possible
4. Ideal preparation for PhD programme
5. Individual supervision during the programme

Our activities are founded on the international reputation, commitment and dynamism of staff and students, coupled with a cooperative, supportive and friendly work environment. Our teaching and research philosophy is to integrate basic and applied psychology: Basic issues in social and organizational psychology are made groundbreaking by their relevance to important societal and organizational issues (e.g., health, productivity, social cohesion). At the same time, applied research becomes outstanding when it is based on sound and solid theoretical foundations.

Content of the Programme

The Social and Organizational Psychology stream is part of a multidisciplinary Research Master’s programme ‘Behavioural and Social Sciences’ which in 2008 and 2009 was ranked by students as the best Research Master’s programme in the Netherlands in the behavioural and social sciences (Elsevier, 2008, 2009).

Students are versed in empirical research guided by theory. The programme provides extensive training in social and organizational psychological theories and experimental techniques, and a focus on core social and organizational psychological topics such as: competition and cooperation between groups, identity, leadership, diversity in organizations, achievement motivation, creativity, stereotypes, and cohesion and integration.

Students also obtain in-depth and practical training in the most advanced statistical methods from experts in the field, including courses on experimental design and analysis of variance, applied statistics, repeated measures, and test and questionnaire construction.

Students also learn to write research articles, reports, and proposals, including a course on how to write in English. Students from previous cohorts have published articles in top academic journals, participated in international research networks, presented their research on international conferences and received high-level research subsidies.
Student profile and how to apply

The Social and Organizational Research Master’s programme in Groningen is unique from some of the larger Research Master’s programmes in that it selects only a small number of 10 students each year to engage in intensive individually guided research training supervised by internationally renown researchers. Students are embedded in research groups and also join others in the larger multidisciplinary Research Master’s programme at the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences, which contains approximately 30 students each year.

In this entirely English-language programme, both students within and outside of the Netherlands are encouraged to apply. Previous cohorts include international students from Estonia, Germany, Mexico, Romania and the United States. Some research assistantships and scholarships are available for talented applications. Funding is also available for participation in summer schools both within and outside of the Netherlands such as Essex and Ann Arbor.

The profile of our alumni is excellent with students either engaging in further research to obtain a PhD or engaging in research in a commercial or government-related job. Drop-out rates from the programme are low and until now, all students have completed the programme within 2 years. We are recruiting students for the cohort to start on September 1, 2010. Candidates can apply from now on. Applying early may enhance chances of admission since the number of new students per year is limited. The deadline for applications for non-EU students is March 1 and for EU students May 1.

Detailed information and application forms can be found at: www.rug.nl/gmw/rema
Applications may be sent to: researchmaster.gmw@rug.nl

For specific questions regarding the Social and Organizational Psychology stream, please contact Dr. Maike van der Vlugt: m.j.p.w.van.der.vlugt@rug.nl

A selected Track Record of the 2007 and 2008 cohorts

Monica Blaga, (Romania, graduated 2007), worked on projects on achievement goals and task performance. She is currently working on a PhD entitled: “Approach goals, performance attainment, and task interest: The role of moderators”. She published her MA thesis research, entitled “Easy and difficult performance-approach goals: Their moderating effect on the link between task interest and performance attainment” in Psychologica Belgica, 48, 93-107.

Lise Jans, (The Netherlands, graduated 2008), worked on projects on group processes and intergroup relations. She is currently working on a PhD entitled: “Social identity formation in diverse contexts”, focusing on whether the way in which an overarching identity is created, matters to overcoming the negative outcomes of diversity in workgroups.

Martijn Keizer, (The Netherlands, graduated 2008), worked on projects on intergroup perceptions and the activation of pro-environmental goals. He graduated with a MA thesis research entitled “Framing the environment: The effect of multiple motives on pro-environmental behavior”. He is currently working on a PhD focusing on the interacting effects of contextual factors and individual variables on household energy use.

Linda Tip, (The Netherlands, graduated 2008), Master’s Thesis at Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Canada, has worked on several projects in intergroup relations. After graduation, she worked as a Research Assistant at Royal Holloway University of London on a project called “Psychological antecedents of majority members’ acculturation preferences”. In September 2009, she started a PhD related to this topic under supervision of Rupert Brown and Hanna Zagefka in England.

Roy Sijbom, (The Netherlands, graduated 2008), Traineeship at the University of Groningen, faculty of Economics and Business, worked on projects on creativity and achievement goals. He is currently working on a PhD entitled: “Differential reactions of managers to creative employees: An achievement goal approach”.


Prof. dr. Nico W. Van Yperen
Achievement motivation, leadership, workstress, cheating, perfectionism
www.rug.nl/staff/n.van.yperen
Key publications:

Key publications:

Prof. dr. Tom Postmes
Group processes, intergroup relations, social effects of technology, communication, social identity
http://www.rug.nl/staff/t.postmes
Key publications:

Dr. Annet H. de Lange
Work and mental health, job crafting, humor at the workplace, health, work motivation and social identity of aging workers, longitudinal research
http://www.rug.nl/staff/a.h.de.lange
Key publications:

Prof. dr. Sabine Otten
Intergroup relations, social integration, cultural diversity, intra- and intergroup aggression, social projection
http://otten.socialpsychology.org/
Key publications:
Prof. dr. Karen I. van Oudenhoven-van der Zee
Diversity in organizations, integration of immigrants, social identity and threat, intercultural competencies
www.rug.nl/staff/k.i.van.oudenhoven-van.der.zee
Key publications:

Dr. Claire Ashton-James
Nonconscious behaviour, mimicry, affect and emotions, prosocial behaviour
www.rug.nl/staff/c.e.ashton-james
Key publications:

Prof. dr. Ernestine H. Gordijn
Person perception, intergroup emotions, charisma, social influence
www.rug.nl/staff/e.h.gordijn
Key publications:

Prof. dr. Arie Dijkstra
Social Psychology of Health and Illness: preventing illness, adaptation to illness, and persuasive communication
www.rug.nl/staff/arie.dijkstra
Key publications:
Dr. Eric F. Rietzschel
Creativity, innovation, team performance, group decision making
www.rug.nl/staff/e.f.rietzschel
Key publications:

Prof. dr. Linda M. Steg
Prosocial behaviour, environmental behaviour, values, norms, goal framing
www.rug.nl/staff/e.m.steg
Key publications:

Dr. Thomas V. Pollet
Evolutionary psychology, mate choice, kinship, life history theory
www.rug.nl/staff/t.v.pollet
Key publications:

Prof. dr. Barbara M. Wisse
Power and leadership, the self, emotions
www.rug.nl/staff/b.m.wisse
Key publications:
Dr. Katherine E. Stroebe
Relations, stigma, prejudice (from the target's perspective), discrimination as a worldview threat
www.rug.nl/staff/k.e.stroebe
Key publications:
Stroebe, K., Dovidio, J.F., Barreto, M., Ellemers, N., John, M.S. Is the world a just place? Countering the negative consequences of pervasive discrimination by affirming the world as just (manuscript submitted for publication).

Dr. Diana Rus
Power and leadership, procedural justice, creativity, group decision making
www.rug.nl/staff/d.c.rus
Key publications:

Dr. Kai Epstude
Social cognition, counterfactual thinking and regret, comparative judgments, social norms
http://epstude.socialpsychology.org
Key publications:

Dr. Nina Hansen
Intergroup relations, social identity, social discrimination, integration, social effects of technology
www.rug.nl/staff/n.hansen
Key publications:
Dr. Inge A.P.M. Nuijten
(Servant-)leadership, trust, self-esteem, motivation, well-being, mindfulness
www.rug.nl/staff/i.a.p.m.nuijten

Key publications: