Brochure Research Master Education and Development

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

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

The Educational Sciences and Developmental 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 senior researchers with international affiliation and a high degree of specialization possible
3. Preparation for PhD programme
4. Individual supervision during the programme

Our activities are founded on the international reputation of staff and interactive education for students, coupled with a cooperative, supportive and friendly work environment. Our teaching and research philosophy is to integrate basic and applied educational and developmental psychology: Basic issues in education and learning and in developmental psychology are being researched and related to their relevance to important societal and organizational issues (e.g., inclusive education, educational effectiveness, multimedia learning and dynamic systems theory in social and cognitive development). At the same time, our applied research is based on sound and solid theoretical foundations.

Content of the Programme

The Education and Development 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 theories on education and developmental psychology, experimental research, correlational research, and a focus on core educational and psychological topics such as: educational governance, instruction and learning, diversity in education, achievement motivation, the dynamics of individual development and environmental factors.

Students 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, dynamic model building and model fitting, multilevel analysis and item-response theory in testing.

Students 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 at international conferences and received high-level research subsidies.

**Student profile and how to apply**

The Education and Development 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 6 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 25 to 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, Chile, 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.

The profile of our alumni is excellent with students either engaging in further research to obtain a PhD or 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, 2012. 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](http://www.rug.nl/gmw/rema)

Applications may be sent to: [j.a.m.evers@rug.nl](mailto:j.a.m.evers@rug.nl)

For specific questions regarding the Education and Development stream, please contact Dr. Egbert Harskamp: [e.g.harskamp@rug.nl](mailto:e.g.harskamp@rug.nl)

**A selected Track Record of the 2007 and 2008 cohorts**

*Mayra Mascareno*, (Chile, graduated 2009), worked on projects about school readiness and graduated with a MA thesis on this subject. She is currently working as a PhD student at the Groningen Institute for Educational Research under supervision of prof. dr. R. Bosker. Here she is elaborating her previous research on school readiness and now focusing on learning standards and the transition from pre-school to school.

*Willem de Kock*, (The Netherlands, graduated 2009), worked on projects about digital learning environments and their effect on transfer of learning. He is currently working as PhD student at GION (Groningen Institute of Educational research). His projects refer to the effects of a student controlled problem solving program for math and the implementation of this program by teachers in elementary education. He works under the supervision of associate prof. dr. E. Harskamp.

*Elisa Kupers* (The Netherlands, graduated 2009), worked on projects on dynamics system theory and the role of the environment (teacher and parents) in developing musical skills in violin playing. She graduated with a MA thesis on this subject. She is currently working as a PhD student on a longitudinal study on the interacting between the learning environment and the development of musical skills of children. A first article on this subject is in preparation. The project is under supervision of prof. dr. P. Van Geert.

*Mechteld van Kuijk*, (The Netherlands, graduated 2008) investigated the role adaptive education plays in furthering motivation and achievement of minority students in primary education. She graduated in September 2008. She is currently working as a PhD student at GION (Groningen Institute of Educational research) in The Netherlands. Her work is part of a national programme to improve evidence based educational practice. The project is under supervision of prof.dr. R. Bosker.
**Core instructors and supervisors educational science**

**Prof. dr. Roel J. Bosker**  
Evidence based education, inequality of educational opportunities, educational evaluation, and multilevel modeling  
[www.rug.nl/staff/r.j.bosker](http://www.rug.nl/staff/r.j.bosker)  
Key publications:  

**Associate Prof. dr. Egbert Harskamp**  
New learning programs, blending teaching and computer supported learning, cognitive theory, processing of verbal and visual information, collaborative learning, indirect instruction, complex tasks  
[www.rug.nl/staff/e.g.harskamp](http://www.rug.nl/staff/e.g.harskamp)  
Key publications:  

**Prof. dr. Greetje van der Werf**  
Educational effectiveness, learning and instruction, motivation, personality, social relations, citizenship and social cohesion  
[www.rug.nl/staff/m.p.c.van.der.werf](http://www.rug.nl/staff/m.p.c.van.der.werf)  
Key publications:  

**Associate Prof. dr. Roelande H. Hofman**  
Educational governance, educational policy, professional communities, school effectiveness, comparative education  
[www.rug.nl/staff/r.h.hofman](http://www.rug.nl/staff/r.h.hofman)  
Key publications:  
Core instructors and supervisors developmental psychology

Prof. dr. Paul van Geert
Dynamic systems, development, developmental processes, education, single-subject designs, modelling
www.rug.nl/staff/p.l.c.van.geert
Key Publications:

Associate Prof. dr. E. Saskia Kunnen
Dynamic systems and developmental processes, identity development, development in adolescence and early adulthood
www.rug.nl/staff/e.s.kunnen
Key Publications:

Dr. Henderien Steenbeek (Assistant Professor)
Dynamic systems and developmental processes, play, peer relationship, interaction, social development, interpersonal competence, cognitive processes, child development, developmental stages, models, goal orientation, power structure, prediction
www.rug.nl/staff/h.w.steenbeek
Key publications:

Dr. Marijn van Dijk (Assistant Professor)
Developmental transitions in early childhood from the perspective of complex dynamic systems. Changing feeding interactions in infancy, adaptation in early language development, scaffolding processes in talent eliciting situations, process oriented research
www.rug.nl/staff/m.w.g.van.dijk
Key publications: