

**University of Groningen Talent
Grant / PhD Fellowship
programme**

University of Groningen

(January 2009)

University of Groningen Talent Grant / PhD Fellowship programme

University of Groningen	3
The University of Groningen Talent Grant / PhD Fellowship programme: characteristics and objectives	3
Objectives of the PhD Fellowship Programme	3
Application Procedure and Entrance Requirements	3
Grants for short visits	4
Criteria for Approval of the Research Proposal	5
Basic conditions	5
The scholarship	6
Travel to and from The Netherlands	6
Arrival and accommodation in The Netherlands	6
Allowances	7
Expense refund	7
Insurance	8
Appendix 1	9
Appendix 2	11
Appendix 3	12

University of Groningen

The University of Groningen is one of the oldest in Europe boasting more than 100.000 graduates since its inception in 1614. Currently some 25.000 students are enrolled of whom 1400 international students (bachelor and master) and about 640 international students are studying for their PhD. Annually more than 3.000 students graduate from the University.

The University of Groningen Talent Grant / PhD Fellowship programme: characteristics and objectives

The University of Groningen Talent Grant / PhD Fellowship programme is established in 1993 and is a so-called “sandwich” programme that enables junior researchers to do part of their PhD research at the University of Groningen for periods of a maximum of six months each year within a four-year period. During this period, the researcher remains in the employ of his or her home institute in the country of origin. Candidates from a university that has signed a co-operation agreement with the University of Groningen will be given preferential treatment). The researcher will be supervised by a senior researcher (or academic supervisor) from Groningen and preferably also by a senior researcher from the country in question.

There are also grants available for a brief stay in Groningen. These are intended for junior researchers who wish to formulate a research proposal or academic staff who want to spend a sabbatical leave at the University of Groningen.

Objectives of the PhD Fellowship Programme

The objectives of the University of Groningen Talent Grant / PhD Fellowship Programme of the University of Groningen are:

1. Stimulating high-quality research by linking up the participants' research with those areas of research focused on by the University of Groningen;
2. Strengthening the structural international co-operation with research institutes in developing countries and Eastern Europe,
3. Building up the research capacity in developing countries and Eastern Europe.

The countries are selected according the List of Recipients of Official Development Assistance (ODA), of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Application Procedure and Entrance Requirements

Grants will usually be awarded for a maximum of a four year period. Part of the research should be conducted in the home country and part in Groningen.

Grants will cover expenses incurred in travelling to and from The Netherlands (a maximum of four times) and the living costs during the stay at RUG. A moderate research budget can be granted, if judged necessary by the academic supervisor.

In principle, applications for research grants may only be submitted by individuals from developing countries and Eastern Europe if endorsed by a professor of the University of Groningen and with the support of their home institution/partner-university.

The Scientific Committee of the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) of the University of Groningen assesses research proposals on academic quality and feasibility and recommends Fellowship candidates to the Executive Board of the University. The Scientific Committee can consult with researchers and/or faculty research committees for this purpose.

The entrance requirements are:

1. The applicant is an inhabitant of a developing country or Eastern European country;
2. The applicant meets the academic requirements for PhD research (has an MSc degree or comparable degree) and is a junior researcher;
3. The applicant is employed by a research institute or university in a developing country or Eastern European country and should receive an income from the home institution. The application should also be supported by this organization;
4. The research should relate to issues relevant to developing countries or Eastern Europe and should be conducted in the home country;
5. The applicant submits a research proposal. This proposal should include:
 - A clear research question;
 - A short description of current developments in the chosen area of research;
 - A plan for the work;
 - A survey of relevant literature;
 - A list of the applicant's publications;
 - References.
6. The University of Groningen is able to provide a thesis supervisor who will be responsible for the scientific supervision of the research.

Grants for short visits

There are also grants available for a brief stay in Groningen. These are intended for junior researchers who wish to formulate a research proposal or academic staff who want to spend a sabbatical leave at the University of Groningen. The period can cover a maximum of three months. The grant does not provide for the cost of bringing any members of the holder's family to the Netherlands or of supporting them. Nor will assistance be provided in obtaining residence permits for family members.

Criteria for Approval of the Research Proposal

1. The proposal fulfils the relevant quality standards;
2. Preferably, the applicant works for an institute which co-operates on a structural basis with (a faculty of) the University of Groningen;
3. The research ties in with the research programme of the Centre for Development Studies, or is part of the research programme of the institute mentioned under 2.

Basic conditions

1. Any person who accepts a fellowship is deemed to agree to the objectives, rules and regulations of the RUG Fellowship Programme.
2. The RUG accepts no responsibility for the consequences of illness, accidents etc., nor for any other risk that acceptance of a fellowship may entail.
3. Holders of a fellowship must be issued with Netherlands visas or residence permits. These are valid solely for the duration of the fellowship and must be requested at the Netherlands Embassy.
4. Holders of fellowships must undertake to return to their countries of origin at the end of the training programme for which the fellowship is granted or upon expiry of the fellowship, as appropriate.
5. Holders of fellowship are to refrain from commercial or political activities and from concluding any agreement to enter into paid employment in The Netherlands.
6. Holders of fellowships must undertake to follow and complete the training programme for which the fellowship is granted to the best of their ability. They must be prepared to make available to the Executive Board of the RUG any information concerning their training at any time and to co-operate fully in any form of programme evaluation carried out by the Executive Board.
7. The fellowship will be terminated before it takes effect if it transpires that the personal particulars and/or the circumstances of the holder's employment are not in accordance with those stated in the application form on the basis of which the fellowship was awarded.
8. The fellowship will be terminated prematurely and restitution of payments made in connection with the fellowship will be required if the holder:
 - a. makes a false declaration;
 - b. commits a criminal offence;
 - c. fails to observe the rules and regulations of the RUG Fellowship Programme or refuses to act in accordance with oral or written instructions issued to him/her by the fellowship awarding authority in connection with the fellowship;
 - d. arrives in The Netherlands too late to join the training programme;
 - e. voluntarily withdraws or is obliged to withdraw from the training through his/her own fault.
9. The fellowship normally makes provision for the cost of international travel, training and subsistence as specified in this information brochure.
10. An allowance is provided towards subsistence. It is intended as a supplement to the salary or part thereof which the holder must continue to receive from his/her employer while he/she is following a training programme in The Netherlands.

- The allowance is considered to be sufficient to support one person's subsistence in The Netherlands and is paid directly to him/her.
11. The fellowship does not provide for the cost of bringing any members of the holder's family to The Netherlands or of supporting them; nor will assistance be provided in obtaining residence permits for family members.
 12. The RUG cannot be held responsible for actions of any Institutes' functionaries.
 13. The decision of the Executive Board of the RUG is binding in all cases not covered by these regulations.

The scholarship

Grants will be awarded for a maximum of a four-year period. Part of the research should be conducted in the home country and part in Groningen.

In principle, applications for research grants may only be submitted by individuals from developing countries and Eastern Europe if endorsed by a professor of the University of Groningen and with the support of their home institution/partner university. The application should contain an elaborated research proposal (see Appendix 2).

Travel to and from The Netherlands

- The journeys to the Netherlands and back home are included in the scholarship grant.
- The travel costs include the flights between Amsterdam and the airport nearest to the fellowship holder's (scholarship student's) residence. It includes travel insurance and airport taxes. The maximum fare is that of the economy class. Additional expenses such as excess luggage are not covered. See also Allowances.
- Fellowship holders are advised to arrange travel insurance for their journey from and to their hometown.

Arrival and accommodation in The Netherlands

- The University of Groningen will provide the fellowship holders with the necessary information regarding their arrival in Amsterdam and their further travel to Groningen. The Euro is required for this journey within the Netherlands. At the airport, the Euro can be obtained against any international convertible currency.
- In Groningen, students can find accommodation through the Housing Office. The University of Groningen assists fellowship holders in finding accommodation by sending application forms and by explaining the procedures to the holders. Holders are advised to make arrangements well in advance.
- Holders are obliged to report to the Foreign Police Department at the police headquarters. They must report within the time stated on the entry visa.
- A clothing allowance is not included in the fellowship. Holders are advised to bring warm clothing – in the Netherlands it may be quite cold in the winter.

Allowances

The allowances mentioned are the allowances for the Netherlands; the amounts will change when the student or researcher is studying or working in another country.

- Allowances are paid in a monthly advance at the beginning of the month.
- The allowance is paid for the duration of the fellowship, starting on the day of arrival in the Netherlands. The day of arrival should not be more than 1 week before the start of the programme concerned. The allowance is paid until the holder's day of departure from the Netherlands, which should be no later than 5 days after the end of the programme concerned.

Holders are entitled to the following allowances:

- A living allowance of € 1190,00 per month for food and accommodation. In the case of a short stay in the Netherlands, the University of Groningen will make lodging arrangements for this period. The costs of the rent, amounting to € 475,00 will be deducted from the living allowance. In that case € 715,00 is left over for the monthly allowance.
- A personal allowance of € 275,00 for extra expenses when arriving in the Netherlands. This lump sum is paid along with the first monthly allowance.
- The travel costs from Amsterdam Airport (Schiphol) to Groningen and back will be reimbursed
- A study allowance of € 310,00 max. per year for books and other study material.
- The expenses for the visa at the Netherlands Embassy and the Foreign Police Department in the Netherlands will be reimbursed.
- To assist holders in with their luggage, an allowance of € 100,00 is available for sending back study materials by post
- Ph.D.-candidates may receive a research budget up to € 2.300 per year. The research budget should be approved by the supervisor of the studyprogramme.

Extensions of the fellowship are approved only in cases of:

- serious illness during the student's study in the Netherlands;
- the holder having to return home as a result of the death or serious illness of a relative in the first degree;
- the holder not being able to finish his or her study in time due to circumstances beyond control of the holder or the University of Groningen; this decision will be taken by the Executive Board of the university.

Expense refund

- Occasional travel in the Netherlands in connection with the course or research will be refunded. Such travel has to be approved by the supervisor of the study programme.

- In the case of excursions or field trips, extra expenses will be paid over and above the cost of the regular accommodation if these trips involve at least one overnight stay.

Insurance

- Within the framework of the RUG Fellowship Programme, the fellowship holders are insured through a private insurance company. The Programme pays the insurance premium. The insurance policy is handed over to the fellowship holder upon arrival or shortly after. The insurance policy covers certain expenses related to:
 - Medical treatment
 - Personal accidents
 - Extra flight home in case of emergency
 - Legal liability for private persons
- Holders are covered from the day of arrival in the Netherlands until the day of departure.
- The insurance is valid in all West European countries
- Costs not paid by the insurance must be paid by the holder.

Appendix 1

Application form for PhD-grants

Applications for grants may be submitted by academic supervisors of the University of Groningen and/or by the home institution / partner university in the developing country or by individuals from a developing country, provided that the application is endorsed by the academic supervisor in Groningen or in the developing country.

1. Applicant

- position
- address
- zipcode/city
- tel/fax

2. Project title

3. Project outline

4. Composition of the research group

- promotor in the Netherlands
- (co)promotor from home institution
- researcher

5. Duration of the project

6. Detailed description of the project, including at least the following aspects: (max. 5000 words)

- a. scientific significance/ innovative aspects
- b. research
- c. history of the project
- d. cooperation with other national and international universities/research groups

7. Detailed description of the relevance of the project for the development of the country involved, including at least the following aspects: (max. 3000 words)

- a. relations with
- b. capacity building of policy related research
- c. scientific capacity building
- d. direct usefulness of expected results on local or macro level
- e. effectiveness of proposed dissemination of research results, both in scientific as well as in policy circles

- 8. Time table of the project**
(per year and month)
- 9. Research locations**
- 10. How and where will the results of the project be published**
- 11. Previous publications of relevance of the project**
- 12. Other sources of financial assistance**
- 13. Researcher:**

a.

- name
- address
- date of birth
- degrees
- date of graduation
- university
- fields of academic specialization
- academic awards

b.

Qualifications relevant to the project (at least the following aspects)

- former
- actual and future activities concerning the research theme
- scientific qualifications relevant to the project

c.

Other relevant information

15. Scientific networks involved

16. References

17. Signature of applicant	Place	Date
.....

18. Signature of professor from the University of Groningen

.....

19. Signature from the home institution or partner university

.....

Appendix 2

Tasks of the Scientific Committee

Scholarships for young researchers from developing countries and Eastern Europe, who wish to perform doctoral (PhD) research. The scholarship grant is awarded for a maximum of four years. The doctoral (PhD) research is carried out in the form of a 'sandwich' construction, in which a part of the research is executed in the relevant developing country. An elaborated research proposal should be submitted along with the application.

The Scientific Committee is requested to provide an assessment of the quality of the proposals and to advise the Executive Board of the University of Groningen on the desirability of honouring the application and/ or reviewing it once more. The Scientific Committee bases its assessment and advice on the following criteria:

1. the academic quality of the research proposal, including the innovative nature of the research;
2. developmental relevance;
3. feasibility;
4. adequate academic supervision;
5. the suitability of the candidate.

Scholarships for short-term visits by academics from universities in developing countries, with which the University of Groningen already has, or is going to establish, a co-operative relationship. The Scientific Committee may be asked for advice on the academic significance and the developmental relevance of the research to be performed or of other activities during the short-term stays.

Appendix 3

List of eligible countries

Least Developed Countries	Other Low Income Countries	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories	Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories
	(per capita GNI < \$935 in 2007)	(per capita GNI \$936-\$3705 in 2007)	(per capita GNI \$3 706-\$11 455 in 2007)
Afghanistan	Côte d'Ivoire	Albania	*Anguilla
Angola	Ghana	Algeria	Antigua and BenBarbuda1
Bangladesh	Kenya	Armenia	Argentinain
Benin	Korea, Dem.Rep.	Azerbaijan	Barbados2
Bhutan	Kyrgyz Rep.	Bolivia	Belarus
Burkina Faso	Nigeria	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Belize
Burundi	Pakistan	Cameroon	Botswana
Cambodia	Papua New Guinea	Cape Verde	Brazil
Central African Rep.	Tajikistan	China	Chile
Chad	Uzbekistan	Colombia	Cook Islands
Comoros	Viet Nam	Congo, Rep.	Costa Rica
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Zimbabwe	Dominican Republic	Croatia
Djibouti		Ecuador	Cuba
Equatorial Guinea		Egypt	Dominica
Eritrea		El Salvador	Fiji
Ethiopia		Georgia	Gabon
Gambia		Guatemala	Grenada
Guinea		Guyana	Jamaica
Guinea-Bissau		Honduras	Kazakhstan
Haiti		India	Lebanon
Kiribati		Indonesia	Libya
Laos		Iran	Malaysia
Lesotho		Iraq	Mauritius
Liberia		Jordan	*Mayotte
Madagascar		Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of	Mexico
Malawi		Marshall Islands	Montenegro
Maldives		Micronesia, Fed. States	*Montserrat
Mali		Moldova	Nauru
Mauritania		Mongolia	Oman1
Mozambique		Morocco	Palau
Myanmar		Namibia	Panama
Nepal		Nicaragua	Serbia3
Niger		Niue	Seycheles
Rwanda		Palestinian Administered Areas	South Africa
Samoa		Paraguay	*St. Helena
Sao Tome & Principe		Peru	St. Kitts-Nevis
Senegal		Philippines	St. Lucia
Sierra Leone		Sri Lanka	St. Vincent and Grenadines
Solomon Islands		Swaziland	Suriname
Somalia		Syria	Trinidad and Tobago2
Sudan		Thailand	Turkey
Tanzania		Tokelau	Uruguay
Timor-Leste		Tonga	Venezuela
Togo		Tunisia	
Tuvalu		Turkmenistan	
Uganda		Ukraine	
Vanuatu		Wallis & Futuna	
Yemen			
Zambia			

Source: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), September 2008, to be reviewed in 2010