



Graduate School of Philosophy Fact Sheet

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Profile

The Graduate School of Philosophy (GSPh) is part of the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Groningen and closely linked to the Groningen Research Institute for Philosophy (GRIPh). The GRIPh is a high-ranking and very competitive research institute that belongs to the absolute top within the Netherlands as well as world-wide. In the latest research quality assessment all three Research Programmes represented within the Graduate School scored the maximum score of 5 (excellent) on all four categories: Quality, Productivity, Societal relevance, and Vitality and feasibility. Being a small and separately housed institution in the historical centre of Groningen, the connections between the GRIPh staff and the GSPh students are very close with a lot of interaction and mutual participation in a host of different research activities. Research within the GRIPh is very internationally oriented, with a significant proportion of both the staff and the graduate students coming from a variety of different countries.

Research Master programme

The Graduate School of Philosophy offers a two year (120 ECTS) Research Master programme with a focus on one of the three Research Programmes:

- *History of Philosophy*
- *Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy*
- *Theoretical Philosophy*

The programme is characterized by a general introduction into doing philosophical research and a subsequent focus on a specific research topic that, for the best students, can be developed further into a full dissertation.

Research Master students are required to actively participate in the on-going research activities at the institute, to write a thesis in the form of a publishable paper, as well as a research plan that specifies a subsequent PhD project. Dutch students are required to spend a term abroad, while non-Dutch students are encouraged to attend specialized courses at other universities within the Netherlands.

Finally, the GSPh offers the best Research master students a three year fully funded PhD position to develop their graduate studies further and write a dissertation on their chosen topic.



PhD programme

We provide several possibilities for pursuing a PhD involving both three year (180 ECTS) and four year (240 ECTS) projects:

1. Via the Research Master (three years)

These PhD projects come after the two year Research Master programme, combined in a so-called 2+3 format. After two years, the most successful RM students continue in a three year PhD project and write their dissertation on the basis of their RM project. Funding will be available for these students. These three year projects of 180 ECTS involve 15 ECTS of tuition and training while the remainder of the time is reserved for research under supervision.

2. Specific projects (four years)

The GSPh offers four-year PhD positions within a set research theme. These positions derive from specific research projects of staff members that acquire funding intermittently and the topic is usually set beforehand. Funding will be available for students who are selected for an available position. For these four year projects three and a half years (210 EC) are earmarked for research under supervision and about half a year (a minimum of 25 EC and a maximum of 30 EC) is intended for tuition and training. Please check our vacancies page <http://www.rug.nl/filosofie/job-openings/> on a regular basis to see if such positions are currently available.

3. Externally funded projects (four years)

It is also possible to enrol in the PhD programme on the basis of funding acquired elsewhere. Prospective PhD students who bring their own money should contact a potential supervisor among our staff who might be able and willing to supervise the kind of PhD project envisioned. Admission is highly selective though and you will only be accepted if you and your project fulfil all the academic requirements that are standard within the GSPh. For international PhD students who bring their own funding, the University of Groningen will provide some additional financial support as well as support in housing. For these four year projects three and a half years (210 EC) are earmarked for research under supervision and about half a year (a minimum of 25 EC and a maximum of 30 EC) is intended for tuition and training.

Admission requirements

Both the Research Master programme and the PhD programme are highly competitive and selective, as only a limited number of places is available. Research master candidates must have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent in a subject that fits well in the Research Master's programme. They must also fulfil a number of additional requirements including a language test (see the GSPh website). The three year projects within the PhD programme can only be entered through the Research master programme. However, applicants with other Master's degrees in philosophy, or a closely related subject, will be considered for the four year PhD positions outside the 2+3 format.