



University of Groningen Graduation Fund Regulations 2023-2024

Part C: Financial support for extended Master's degree programmes (7.51a)

Introduction

Pursuant to Article 7.51a of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW), institutional boards must make provision for financial support for students enrolled in a degree programme for which the student workload is greater than that stipulated in the Central Register of Higher Education Programmes (CROHO; Centraal Register Opleidingen Hoger Onderwijs) (extended Master's degree programmes, Article 7.5d of the WHW).

The Board of the University approved the regulations set out below concerning the granting of financial support on the basis of these legal regulations after approval by the University Council on 4 July 2023.

Article 1. Definitions

BA:	The nominal duration of a Bachelor's degree programme.
CLRS:	Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights (Centraal Loket Rechtsbescherming Studenten).
Board of the University:	The Board of the University of Groningen.
CROHO:	Central Register of Higher Education Programmes (Centraal Register Opleidingen Hoger Onderwijs) managed by DUO.
DUO:	The Dutch Education Executive Agency (Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs).
MA:	The nominal duration of a Master's degree programme.
Nominal student workload:	In accordance with Article 7.4 of the WHW, the nominal student workload is 60 ECTS credit points per academic year.
Degree programme:	A Bachelor's or Master's degree programme.
Performance-related grant:	Article 5.1 WSF 2000: Basic grant and a travel allowance, possibly with the addition of a supplementary grant and bonus for a single-parent family. A travel allowance, possibly with the addition of a supplementary grant and bonuses. The performance-related grant is awarded by DUO for the combined nominal duration of the Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes. The travel allowance is awarded for the combined nominal duration of the Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes, plus one extra year.
UG:	University of Groningen.
Student:	A person who has paid tuition fees and is registered at the University of Groningen, with all the rights connected to registration as set out in Article 7.34 of the WHW.

Study advisor:	The person appointed by the faculty to inform , advise, and guide students in their study planning and progress, as well as in their choice of course units.
Student finance:	A performance-related grant that students receive during the nominal duration of their degree programme, followed by a three-year loan period, in accordance with the WSF 2000.
Academic year:	A period of time that starts on 1 September and ends on 31 August of the following year.
UFC:	University Funds Committee; A committee appointed by the Board of the University which advises the Board with regard to decisions made on the basis of these regulations.
Extended Master's degree programme:	A Master's degree programme whose student load has been increased to more than 60 ECTS credit points by the University of Groningen in accordance with Article 7.5d of the WHW.
Act:	Higher Education and Research Act (WHW: Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk onderzoek).
WSF 2000:	Student Finance Act 2000 (Wet studiefinanciering).
Statutory tuition fees:	The tuition fees as referred to in Article 7.45 of the WHW for registration as a student, set by the Minister.

All other terms used in these regulations will have the meaning that the Act ascribes to them.

Article 2. Conditions for financial support

1. The University of Groningen provides financial support from the Graduation Fund (Profileringfondsen) to students who
 - have passed the Master's final assessment of an extended Master's programme offered by the University of Groningen within the nominal degree programme duration referred to in the WSF 2000; and
 - have paid the relevant statutory tuition fees to the University of Groningen; and
 - are or were entitled to a performance-related grant for the degree programme on the basis of the WSF 2000; and
 - during the extended part of the Master's degree programme were no longer entitled to student finance in the form of a basic grant, a supplementary grant, and/or a bonus for a single-parent family; and
 - during the extended part of the Master's degree programme were still entitled to a loan as referred to in Article 5.2 paragraph 4 of the WSF 2000.
2. The University of Groningen will offer the following extended Master's degree programmes in the 2023-2024 academic year:
 - Sport Sciences, 120 ECTS
 - Human Movement Sciences, 120 ECTS
 - Media Studies, 90 ECTS

Article 3. Scope and amount of compensation

1. Financial compensation will be paid on the basis of the number of months of the academic year that the student was registered for the extended Master's degree programme at the University of Groningen and will not exceed the period corresponding to the student workload over and above 60 ECTS credit points.

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2. Students can only qualify for financial compensation for one extended Master's degree programme at the University of Groningen.
3. The financial support amounts to €321 per month, possibly increased by the monthly amount last received (in the 48th month) as a supplementary allowance and/or a bonus for a single-parent family.
4. If, during the extended part of the Master's degree programme, the student is entitled to student finance in the form of a basic grant, a supplementary grant, and/or a bonus for a single-parent family, the financial support will be reduced by the number of months concerned.
5. No financial compensation will be granted for the months following the successful completion of the final Master's assessment of the extended Master's programme.

Article 4. Request procedure and documentary proof

1. Students who believe they qualify for financial compensation may submit a digital request via the University of Groningen website <http://www.rug.nl/studievertraging>. Questions about this procedure can be submitted to ufc@rug.nl.
2. The request must be submitted within three months of completing the final Master's assessment. Requests submitted after this period will not be processed, unless there is evidence of force majeure.
3. The request must be accompanied by:
 - a copy of the final Master's assessment for the degree programme for which compensation is requested.
 - a Student Finance Statement from DUO detailing the amount of the student's most recent supplementary grant and/or bonus for a single-parent family (can be downloaded from My DUO).
4. Decisions will be made by or on behalf of the Board of the University as soon as possible, and in any case within eight weeks. The Board of the University, or someone on its behalf, may consult the relevant Faculty Board, Programme Director, or study advisor for advice before coming to a final decision.
5. If the request is incomplete, the student will be given the opportunity to provide the necessary information within four weeks. If the request is not completed within this period, a decision may be taken not to process it.
6. The requester will be notified in writing of the decision.

Article 5. Possibility of appeal

Students may lodge an appeal against a decision taken by or on behalf of the Board of the University on the grounds of these regulations within six weeks of the date of the decision with the Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights (CLRS) via the website www.rug.nl/clrs or P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen.

Article 6. Hardship clause

In some cases a request for financial support may be granted if rejection would result in a situation of unfairness of overriding nature.

Article 7. Deviation from the regulations

In exceptional circumstances the Board of the University may deviate from the provisions of these regulations.

Artikel 8. Date of commencement and validity

These regulations will take effect on 1 September 2023 and shall apply to requests for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Article 9. Citation and publication

1. These regulations may be cited as: 'University of Groningen Graduation Fund

University of Groningen Graduation Fund Regulations, 2023– 2024, Part C: Financial support for extended Master's degree programmes.

Regulations 2023-2024', possibly supplemented by 'Part C: Financial support for extended Master's degree programmes.'

2. These regulations have been sent to the Faculty Boards for reference, published on the internet, and included as an appendix in the Student Charter.

Groningen, 4 July 2023

the Board of the University