University of Groningen Student Support Fund Regulations 2026-2027

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 provisions 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 (RIO: Registratie Instellingen en Opleidingen). These degree programmes are known as 'extended Master's degree programmes (Article 7.5d 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 25 June 2026.

Article 1. Definitions

BA:	The nominal duration of a Bachelor's degree programme.
CLRS:	Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights.
Board of the University:	The Board of the University of Groningen.
RIO:	Central Register of Higher Education Programmes (Registratie Instellingen en Opleidingen) managed by DUO.
DUO:	*Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs* [Dutch Education Executive Agency]
MA:	The nominal duration of a Master's degree programme.
Nominal student workload:	In accordance with Article 7.4 of the Higher Education and Research Act (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: A 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.
The 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 Higher Education and Research Act (WHW).

Student Support Fund:	fund as meant in Article 7.51 and further WHW, abbreviated to StOF
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 degree programme.
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 installed 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 for which the study load has been increased by the University of Groningen, pursuant to Article 7.5d WHW, to more than 60 ECTS credit points.
Act:	The Higher Education and Research Act (*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*, WHW)
WSF 2000:	Student Finance Act 2000 (*Wet studiefinanciering*)
Statutory tuition fees:	The tuition fees as referred to in Article 7.45 of the Higher Education and Research Act (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 Student Support Fund to students who:
   a. have passed the final Master's assessment for an extended Master's degree programme offered by the University of Groningen within the diploma period, as referred to in the WSF 2000; and
   b. have therefore paid the statutory tuition fees due to the University of Groningen; and
   c. are or were entitled to the performance-related grant for higher education, as referred to in the WSF 2000, for that degree programme; and
   d. no longer qualified for study finance in the form of a performance-related grant during the extended portion of the Master's degree programme.

2. Notwithstanding Article 2.1c, students who have progressed from a degree programme at a university of applied sciences to an extended Master's degree programme at the University of Groningen and have already used up their eligibility for a performance-related grant during the degree programme at a university of applied sciences are also eligible for financial support under the Student Support Fund if they meet the other conditions of these Regulations.

3. The University of Groningen offers the following extended Master's degree programmes in the academic year 2026-2027:
   a. Sport Sciences, 120 ECTS credit points (the extended portion comprises the final 60 ECTS credit points of the degree programme)
   b. Human Movement Sciences, 120 ECTS credit points (the extended portion

comprises the final 60 ECTS credit points of the degree programme)
c. Media Studies, 90 ECTS credit points (the extended portion comprises the final 30 ECTS credit points of the degree programme)

Article 3. Scope and amount of compensation

1. The maximum duration of compensation is a no more than 12 months for Master's degree programmes in Sport Sciences and Human Movement Sciences. For the Master's degree programme in Media Studies, this duration amounts to a maximum of six months.
2. Students can qualify for financial compensation for only 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 the student has received as a supplementary grant and/or single-parent family allowance in the last month in which the student was entitled to a performance-related grant. The travel allowance does not qualify for separate compensation.
4. If the student is eligible for a performance-related grant for one or more months during the extended portion of the Master's degree programme, the financial support will be reduced by that number of months.

Article 4. Application procedure and documentary evidence

1. Students can apply for financial support via the digital application system Forest, at https://forest.rug.nl. Login with an active UG account is needed to access the system. Students without an active UG account can request instructions via ufc@rug.nl.
2. The application must be submitted within three months after the examination date. Applications submitted after this period will not be processed, unless there is evidence of extraordinary circumstances.
3. The following must be included with the application:
    a. The student-finance notification from DUO stating the last month in which the student was eligible for a performance-related grant.
    b. The student-finance notification from DUO stating the amount of any supplementary grant and/or single-parent family allowance received during the last month in which the student was eligible for a performance-related grant.
    c. The student-finance notifications referred to in Articles 4a and 4b are available for download in My DUO. Download instructions are available on www.rug.nl/studievertraging.
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 application is incomplete, the student will be given the opportunity to provide the necessary information within four weeks. If the application is not supplemented within this period, a decision may be taken not to process the application.
6. The Executive Board will decide on the application as soon as possible, but no later than eight weeks after receiving the complete application.
   The decision will be one of the following:
    a. either the granting of financial support, including the method of payment;
    b. or the rejection of the application;
    c. or the decision not to consider the application because it was not submitted on time
    d. or the decision not to consider the application because an incomplete application was not supplemented before the deadline

   The applicant will be notified of the decision, stating the reasons.

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, an application 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.

Article 8. Entry into force and validity
These Regulations enter into force on 1 September 2026 and apply to applications for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Article 9. Citation and publication of these regulations
1. These regulations may be cited as: 'UG SSF Regulations 2026-2027', 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, are published on www.rug.nl and are included as an appendix to the Student Charter.

Groningen, 26 May 2026

the Board of the University