



University of Groningen Graduation Fund Regulations 2017-2018

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

Introduction

In accordance with Article 7.51a WHW, the Board of the University will provide financial support to students who are following a degree programme with a student workload that is higher than that allocated in the Central Register for Degree Programmes in Higher Education (CROHO).

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 29th of June 2017.

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.
CROHO:	<i>Centraal Register Opleidingen Hoger Onderwijs</i> [Central Register of Higher Education Programmes] managed by DUO.
DUO:	<i>Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs</i> , the Dutch Education Executive Agency.
Ma:	The nominal duration of a Master's degree programme.
Degree programme:	A Bachelor's or Master's degree programme.
Performance-related grant:	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 WHW Article 7.34.
Study advisor:	Employee of the Faculty; advisor for study-related issues, study planning, study progress and the 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.
- Act: The Higher Education and Research Act (WHW: *Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk onderzoek*).
- WSF 2000: *Wet studiefinanciering 2000* (Student Finance Act 2000).
- Wet studievoorschot hoger onderwijs*: Student Loans (Higher Education) Act. The amendment to legislation including the WSF 2000 (Student Finance Act 2000), following the introduction of a new student finance system: the student loan.
- Statutory tuition fees: The tuition fees as referred to in WHW Art. 7.45 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

The University of Groningen provides financial support from the Graduation Fund (*Profileringfondsen*) to students who incur study delay due to extraordinary circumstances, and who

- are enrolled as full-time students in a degree programme and have not yet gained their degree
- have paid the relevant statutory tuition fees to the University of Groningen
- are or were entitled to a performance-related grant on the basis of the WSF 2000 during the period to which the request relates.

Article 3. Conditions and amount of compensation

1. The University of Groningen will grant financial compensation to students who are registered at the institution for an extended Master's degree programme with a student workload of 90 ECTS or 120 ECTS.
2. Students must satisfy all conditions listed in Article 2 of these Regulations.
3. When the Board of the University decides the amount of financial compensation, it will base its decision on the original of the most recent information or the most recent 'Notification' concerning the basic grant, plus any supplementary grant/bonuses in accordance with the WSF 2000. In addition to the performance-related grant, the financial support will also comprise a sum to cover the costs of the student travel product that is in line with the amount that DUO reimburses for temporary absence abroad. No financial support will be provided for a loan granted under the Higher Education Student Loan Act.
4. Financial compensation will be paid on the basis of the number of months of the academic year that the student was registered at the University of Groningen and will not exceed the period corresponding to the student workload over and above 60 ECTS credit points.
5. Students can only qualify for financial compensation for one extended Master's degree programme at the University of Groningen.

Article 4. Request procedure

1. Students who believe they qualify for financial compensation may submit a digital request via the University of Groningen website <http://www.rug.nl/studenten/studiebegeleiding/studievertraging/index>.
2. The request must be submitted within six months of termination of registration. Requests submitted after this period will not be processed, except in demonstrable cases of force majeure.

3. Decisions will be made by or on behalf of the Board of the University as soon as possible, and in any case within 8 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.
4. The requester will be notified in writing of the decision.

Article 5. Payment of financial support

Payment will take place close to the date indicated by the student. The date of payment must be within a year of termination of the registration.

Article 6. Possibility of appeal

Students can 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 7. 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 8. Deviation from the regulations

In exceptional cases the Board of the University may deviate from the provisions of these Regulations.

Article 9. Date of commencement and validity

These regulations will take effect on 1 September 2017 and will remain in force until 1 September 2018.

Article 10. Citation and publication of these regulations

1. These regulations may be cited as: 'University of Groningen Graduation Fund Regulations 2017-2018', possibly with the addition of 'Part D: 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 Students' Charter.

Groningen, 17th of July 2017, the Board of the University