



university of
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faculty of economics
 and business

groningen experiential
 economics lab

Honours Bachelor Programme Faculty of Economics and Business (HB-FEB)



1. The Honours Bachelor Programme

Since 2009, the Honours College at the University of Groningen has offered motivated students the chance to go beyond their regular studies with interdisciplinary courses and activities. First-year bachelor students from all faculties can apply to join. If admitted, they complete an honours programme alongside their main degree.

For students in the Faculty of Economics & Business (FEB), this programme is called the FEB Honours Bachelor (HB-FEB), organized jointly by FEB and the Honours College. It is open to all FEB bachelor students.

What is the Honours Bachelor Programme?

The Honours College offers a two-and-a-half-year extracurricular Honours Programme designed to enhance practical and professional skills through small, hands-on classes and interdisciplinary learning. Students collaborate with talented peers from different disciplines to tackle scientific and societal challenges, broadening their knowledge and strengthening their skills for both personal and professional growth.

Within this framework, the Honours Bachelor Programme (HB-FEB) allows FEB students to deepen their expertise through specialised courses while exploring broader subjects beyond economics and business. Additional activities organized by the Honours College further develop interdisciplinary thinking and problem-solving skills.

The programme consists of an extra 30 ECs alongside the standard 180 ECs of a bachelor's degree. It begins in Semester 2.2 of the first year and is completed alongside the regular programme by the end of the third year. There are no additional costs, and honours activities are scheduled to avoid conflicts with regular coursework.

Why follow the Honours Bachelor Programme?

The Honours Bachelor Programme helps you prepare for your next step—whether pursuing a master's degree or entering the job market. It deepens your subject knowledge while allowing you to explore new talents beyond your field.

Through courses, workshops, and research projects, you will develop critical thinking, independent learning, and professional skills. Working closely with FEB researchers, you'll gain hands-on experience in conducting and analyzing research. Small class sizes ensure more individual attention from instructors.

The programme also offers opportunities to engage with faculty and honours students across disciplines, broadening your perspectives and enriching your education. You can participate in projects tackling societal and scientific challenges, as well as student-led initiatives.

Upon completion, your honours student status will be formally recognized with a certificate attached to your diploma, which can strengthen your CV.

2. Selection Procedure and Criteria

Who can apply?

All FEB bachelor students who meet the minimum requirements for admission can apply to participate in the Honours Bachelor programme.

The requirements are as follows:

1. You are a first-year bachelor's student at the UG.
2. You have completed all ECTS of the first semester and have achieved a weighted grade point average of at least 7.
3. You have sufficient knowledge of the English language to be able to follow the Honours Programme.

First-year FEB students who meet the requirements will receive an invitation to apply at the start of the second semester. However, an invitation is not required to apply. Any student who meets the selection criteria is encouraged to do so.

All applications are evaluated equally, regardless of whether the student received an invitation. Those who do not meet the minimum requirements must explain their situation in their application.

Application Process and Required Documents

To apply for the Honours Bachelor programme, you need to submit an online application available here <https://www.rug.nl/education/honours-college/admission-procedure>. The application file should include:

Contents of the application file:

1. Personal data (including name, student number, faculty/programme).
2. Answers to questions about your motivation and suitability for the programme.
3. An overview of all results achieved so far in your Bachelor's degree programme and the total number of ECTS.
4. A short resume/curriculum vitae.
5. A video in which you (1) introduce yourself, and briefly explain (2) why you are applying for the HB programme and (3) what you think you will gain from and contribute to the HB programme.

Selection Procedure

The selection of all students who are admitted to the Honours Bachelor programme is made centrally by the Admissions Board of the Honours College for the whole University. The admission decisions are made after a careful assessment of the application material of each student.

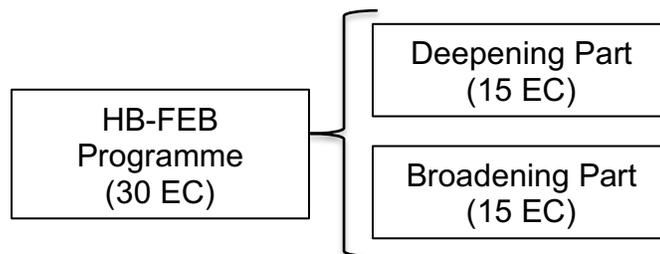
Shortly after the deadline has passed, a decision will be made on admission or rejection based on the file. If you are suitable and there are enough places (per faculty or programme), you will be admitted. The Faculty of Economics and Business has about 50 available spots.

If there are more suitable students than available places, a lottery will take place. The outcome of this lottery will determine whether or not you will be placed in the Honours Programme. We will inform you about this before the Welcoming Ceremony, the official start of the Honours Programme.

3. Programme Description

Admitted FEB bachelor students begin the HB-FEB Programme in block 2.2 of their first year. The programme consists of 30 ECs, split between a 15 EC deepening part (offered by FEB) and a 15 EC broadening part (offered by the Honours College), as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. The HB-FEB Programme



More details about each of these courses can be found on Ocasys.

3.1 The Deepening Part of the Programme

The deepening part includes specialized courses and activities exclusively for FEB honours students, offering an in-depth exploration of topics from regular bachelor courses, closely linked to current research in economics and business. This component accounts for 15 additional ECs.

Year 1

- **Honours Horizons (1 EC)** – Introduces students to scientific research and its role in addressing societal challenges. Through individual and group activities, students explore open research questions in economics and business and learn to present insights to a broader audience.

Year 2

- **Honours Research Seminar I (5 EC)** – Focuses on research methods, emphasizing quantitative data and modeling to answer research questions within topics covered in regular bachelor courses.
- **Honours Research Seminar II (5 EC)** – Expands on research methods, guiding students in composing and presenting original research proposals.
- **Honours Research Practical (2 EC)** – Students collaborate with a FEB researcher on an ongoing research project for one semester, based on their topic and supervisor preferences.

Year 3

Students choose **one** of the following:

- **Honours Research Practical Extension (2 EC)** – Continues the research project for another semester, providing further hands-on experience.

OR

- **Honours Professionalization Seminar (2 EC)** – Bridges research knowledge with practical applications, helping students develop professional skills in real-world contexts.

3.2 The Broadening Part of the Programme

The broadening part includes Honours College courses and activities open to all honours students. These courses go beyond economics and business, expanding knowledge in other fields while developing skills like writing and debating in an interdisciplinary context. This component accounts for 15 additional ECs.

Year 1

- Welcoming ceremony (1 evening), team challenge (1 evening)

Year 2

- Interdisciplinary skills module, interdisciplinary skills opportunities (1 evening)
- Professional Life Skills Module (2 ECs): Skill-building courses (e.g., debating, academic writing) tailored to student preferences.
- Broadening Module (5 EC) – Courses taught by faculties outside FEB, focusing on science and society from diverse perspectives.

Year 3

- Summer School + Atelier (5 EC) – Students apply interdisciplinary approaches to real world challenges, culminating in a group project.
- Honours Festival (0 EC) – A public event where third-year Honours students present their projects through interactive activities before graduation.

For details on specific courses and modules, check Ocasys under *Honours College > Catalog*.

4. Additional Information

Teaching and Examination Regulations

The HB-FEB Programme is subject to the Teaching and Examination Regulations of the Honours College of the University of Groningen. These requirements are monitored by the Board of Examiners of the Honours College.

Good Standing Requirement

Students following the honours programme are required to maintain a good standing in their regular bachelor programmes. Failure to do so may lead to dismissal from the Honours Bachelor programme.

Special Facilities for Honours students

The Honours College offers honours students study spaces, meeting rooms, and computer facilities as needed.

Costs of Participation

There are no extra tuition fees for the HB-FEB programme, but students must cover their own travel and material costs.

Honours Certificate

Students who complete the HB-FEB programme receive a special honours certificate attached to their regular degree. Students admitted to the programme who do not finish the regular degree will not receive this certificate, but only a transcript of the HB-FEB courses in which the student has participated.

5. Contact Information

The FEB Honours Bachelor programme is coordinated by:
prof. dr. Milena Nikolova

The Research Practical and the Honours Portfolio activities are coordinated by:
dr. Gwenny Ruël

Administrative support for the programme is provided by:
ms. Hanneke Tamling

For inquiries or further information regarding the programme, you can send an email to:
Honours.FEB@rug.nl