



## MSc: Theory and History of Psychology

This programme is the only programme of its kind in Europe. We aim to understand why psychology became the way it is, how it has been understood, how it negotiates its boundaries with other allied sciences, and how it could be improved. We focus on the social, methodological, philosophical, and conceptual issues that underlie contemporary psychology.

You will study psychology as a science, a discipline, and a profession. You will explore beyond statistical analyses of quantitative data and learn about the various historical, cultural, and qualitative alternatives to the standard set of approaches in contemporary scientific psychology. Gaining access to a broader range of concepts, literature, and research methods will help you to identify and ask the most exciting and urgent questions, and discover new ways to consider their answers by looking at history, philosophy, public understanding, and sociology of science.

Together with faculty and fellow students, you will set to work by reading deeply in both primary and secondary sources, examining popularizations, writing your own texts, presenting your own ideas, reconsidering your reasoning, and debating the consequences. This active learning process will help you to think flexibly and well in various different contexts, conduct independent research unconstrained by current fashion, and communicate in an understandable and appealing way about ideas that have not yet been popularized elsewhere.

### Course examples

- Conceptual issues in Psychology
- Boundaries of Psychology
- Writing skills
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Reflecting on Science and Integrity

### Career opportunities

Concepts and theories from psychology's past have been integrated into governance, the meaning of merit, human-machine interactions, the structuring of school systems and curricula, law, and other parts of society. The THP master is therefore a valuable next step toward a variety of careers, for example in science-communication, libraries or archives, civil service, politics, media companies, public relations or (PhD) research in disciplines from history and the social sciences to philosophy and medical policy.

### Application deadline

February:  
15 November

September:  
1 May

Note for non-EU/EER students:  
We strongly advise you to apply well before this deadline (more than 1 month) to allow enough time for visa arrangements or visa renewal.

### € Tuition fees (2026-2027)

EU/EEA: €2,695  
Non EU/EEA: €22,200

### ⌚ Duration

60 ECTS

### ➔ Entry requirements

Bachelor degree  
in Psychology  
Sufficient level of English  
[www.rug.nl/masters/theory-and-history-of-psychology](http://www.rug.nl/masters/theory-and-history-of-psychology)  
→entry requirements

### More information

[www.rug.nl/masters/theory-and-history-of-psychology](http://www.rug.nl/masters/theory-and-history-of-psychology)

Programme coordinator:  
[j.h.gmelin@rug.nl](mailto:j.h.gmelin@rug.nl)

Academic advisor:  
[studyadvice.psy@rug.nl](mailto:studyadvice.psy@rug.nl)

*Course titles are subject to change. Please consult the website for the current schedule of courses.*