



university of  
 groningen

faculty of behavioural  
 and social sciences

graduate school

# Appendix OER: Research Master

Academic year 2025-2026

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# 1 General provisions

## 1.1 Aim of the degree programme

The RMSc programme aims to provide a thorough specialist training in the theoretical basis and state of the art research methods in the field of social and behavioural sciences. Graduates have a broad view on this research area, have in-depth knowledge and understanding in a specific part of the area, and are capable to recognize the need for and participate in multidisciplinary research. Graduates have the necessary skills to independently identify, formulate, analyse and suggest solutions to problems in the field. Graduates have the necessary skills to conduct research in the field and to report research according to recognized standards in the field, and are able to communicate their research. The programme prepares its graduates to embark on a solid scientific career in the area, starting with a PhD project or a research position in a public or private organization.

## 1.2 Language

The programme courses are taught and examined in English, including papers and other assignments written by students. Traineeship reports are exempted from this rule (article 2.2.5, 1c and 3c).

## 2 Structure of the degree programme

### 2.1 Study load

The study programme has a study load of 120 ECTS credit points.

### 2.2 Study programme

#### 2.2.1 Themes

The degree programme prepares for conducting academic research in the multidisciplinary field of human behaviour and social sciences, with a first step into specialization in one of the following themes:

1. Mental Health: Perspectives from Neuro- and Clinical Psychology
2. Individual Development in Social Context
3. Understanding Societal Change

#### 2.2.2 Transitional provision

Graduates from the theme Understanding Societal Change who entered the programme in the academic year 2018 or 2019, will receive the theme name 'Sustainability in a Changing Society' on their diploma supplement.

Graduates from the theme Mental Health: Perspectives from Neuro- and Clinical Psychology who entered the programme in the academic year 2021 or earlier, will receive the theme name 'Deficits, Distress and Disorders' on their diploma supplement. Upon request, this name can be replaced by 'Mental Health: Perspectives from Neuro- and Clinical Psychology'.

Graduates from the theme Individual Development in Social Context who entered the programme in the academic year 2024 or earlier will receive the theme name 'Lifespan development and Socialization' on their diploma supplement.

#### 2.2.3 Compulsory content of the degree programme

The programme contains modules that are compulsory for all students, and compulsory modules that are theme-specific. All compulsory modules and their study load are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

**Table 1. Compulsory modules for all students**

Module	ECTS
How to Theorize	2.5
Reflecting on Science and Integrity	7.5
Multidisciplinary research in action (not for students in their first year of study)	5
Advanced statistics	7.5
Applied statistics	10
Elective methods module, to be selected from: Structural equation modelling; Multilevel analysis; Statistical analysis of social networks; Statistical modelling of single cases; Qualitative Research Methods.	5
Seminar	2.5
Traineeship <sup>1</sup>	10

<sup>1</sup> Students who want to qualify for the post-master programme for health care psychologists will have the option to do a Clinical Science Traineeship of 20 EC.

Preparing for your master's thesis: writing your proposal	5
Master's thesis	30
<b>Sum</b>	<b>85</b>

**Table 2. Compulsory theme-specific modules**

Module	ECTS
<b>Mental Health: Perspectives from Neuro- and Clinical Psychology</b>	
Mental Health: a multidimensional perspective	5
Mental Health: Advanced research methods	5
Choice between: Clinical interventions and e-health for adults and youth or Neuropsychological assessment (shared course)	5
<b>Individual Development in Social Context</b>	
Lifespan development	5
Modelling persons and variables over time	5
Socialization	5
<b>Understanding Societal Change</b>	
Theorizing change	7.5
From problem analysis to intervention design	7.5

#### 2.2.4 Elective modules

Elective modules totalling 20 ECTS may be chosen from the modules listed in Table 3. Furthermore, the modules listed in Table 1 (Compulsory modules for all students) and in Table 2 (Compulsory theme-specific modules) may be chosen as elective modules, in as far as the modules have not been taken to fulfil the compulsory parts of the programme. The Board of Examiners can approve one or more courses from other (Research) Master programmes in or outside the University of Groningen within the degree programme.

**Table 3. Elective courses**

Module	ECTS
Evidence-based interventions	5
Explaining psychopathology (shared course)	5
Advanced clinical neuropsychology (shared course)	5
Neuropsychological rehabilitation and treatment (shared course)	5
Development, learning and instruction	5
Complexity, dynamics and development	5
Economy and society: Critical transitions in Advanced Industrialised Societies	5
Solidarity and social contexts	5
Power and leadership (shared course)	5
Selection, assessment and job performance (shared course)	5
Culture and Diversity (shared course)	5
Environmental psychology	5
Cooperation and Communication (shared course)	5
Multilevel analysis	5
Structural equation modelling	5
Statistical analysis of social networks	5
Statistical modelling of single cases	5
Qualitative Research Methods	5

Contextualized Assessments and interventions	5
Literature study	5

### 2.2.5 Traineeship, master's thesis and Clinical Science Traineeship

With regard to the following practical modules, passing the examination requires several specific activities:

1. Traineeship
  - a. Writing a traineeship proposal that is judged as sufficient and complete by the coordinator of the theme, before the start of the project. The topic should fall in at least one of the specializations associated with the student's theme, as indicated in Table 4.
  - b. Work placement at a research institute or department whose area of expertise is closely related to one of the Research Master specializations. This can be at a department or research group at our own faculty or at an external institution.
  - c. Writing a traineeship report that is judged as sufficient and complete (and graded accordingly) by the traineeship supervisors (and co-assessor, if applicable). The traineeship Report may be written in Dutch or English, to be settled in mutual agreement with supervisory team.
  
2. Master's thesis
  - a. Students are obligated to pass the course 'Preparing for your master's thesis: writing your proposal', before the start of the project. The topic should fall in at least one of the specializations associated with the student's theme, as indicated in Table 4.
  - b. The execution of a research assignment, as specified in the thesis proposal.
  - c. Writing a master's thesis that is judged as sufficient and complete (and graded accordingly) by the thesis supervisor and co-assessor.
  
3. For students from the themes Mental Health: Perspectives from Neuro- and Clinical Psychology and Individual development in Social Context it is possible to arrange a Clinical science traineeship (20 ECTS) by the student and/or the programme, when:
  - i. a traineeship is offered by an institution that is suitable for the student (e.g., w.r.t. language and quality of supervision), and
  - ii. the student is invited for the traineeship, for example after application
  - iii. the traineeship is approved by the staff member who is responsible for the Clinical Science Traineeship.
  - iv. For students specializing in Clinical Psychology, it is mandatory to have completed the course Clinical interventions and e-health for adults and youth (GMCSCP02);
  - v. For students specializing in Clinical Neuropsychology, it is mandatory to have completed the course Neuropsychological Assessment PSMNV-2 before starting the clinical traineeship in an institution.
  - vi. For students specializing in Clinical Psychology or Clinical Neuropsychology, it is strongly advised to complete the course Statistical modelling of single cases (GMMSGE29).
  - vii. For students specializing in Orthopedagogy, it is mandatory to have completed the course Ethics in Care and Education (PAMA5105) before starting the clinical traineeship in an institution.
  - viii. For students in the theme Individual development in Social Context it is strongly advised to complete the courses Contextualized Assessments and Interventions (GMLDS007) and/ or Statistical modelling of single cases (GMMSGE29).

- a. Writing a clinical traineeship proposal that is judged as sufficient and complete by the coordinator of the specialization, no later than 2 weeks after the start of the clinical traineeship.
- b. Doing a clinical science traineeship.
- c. Writing a clinical traineeship report. The report may be written in Dutch or English, to be settled in mutual agreement with supervisory team.
- d. Attending practicals.
- e. Doing an additional assignment.

### 2.2.6 Specialization

From each theme, it is possible to further specialize into a specific field. Specialization into a specific field will be acknowledged on the diploma supplement by mentioning the specialization. It is not possible to obtain more than one specialization label. For students who choose not selecting a specialization, the following requirements apply:

- a. The topics of the traineeship and master's thesis are related to the theme of the student, and
- b. The traineeship, master's thesis and elective modules form a coherent whole.

The specializations are: Clinical Psychology, Clinical Neuropsychology, Developmental Psychology, Orthopedagogy, Pedagogical and Educational Sciences, Sociology, Social Psychology, Organizational Psychology, Environmental Psychology, Psychometrics and Statistics.

From each theme, only a limited set of specializations are possible to be selected, as indicated in rows 1 and 2 of Table 4.

With respect to the specialization the following requirements should be met:

- a. The specialization is part of the theme the student is enrolled in (as indicated in rows 1 and 2 of table 4);
- b. Traineeship: the topic of the traineeship is within the specific field;
- c. Master's thesis: the topic of the master's thesis is within the specific field;
- d. Elective modules: minimally 10 ECTS of the elective modules are in the specific field. In Table 4, the courses meeting this criterion are indicated per specialization. Upon the student's request the board of examiners may allow substituting a mandatory specialization course by a course from outside the Research Master programme which fits the student's specialization.

**Table 4. Electives related to the specialization**

<b>Specialization <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Clinical Psychology</b>	<b>Clinical Neuropsychology</b>	<b>Developmental Psychology</b>	<b>Orthopedagogy</b>	<b>Pedagogical and Educational Sciences</b>	<b>Sociology</b>	<b>Social Psychology</b>	<b>Organizational Psychology</b>	<b>Environmental Psychology</b>	<b>Psychometrics and Statistics<sup>3</sup></b>
From theme <sup>4</sup>	MH	MH	IDS	IDS	IDS	IDS USC	USC	USC	USC	MH IDS USC
Evidence-based interventions	X									
Explaining psychopathology	X									
Advanced clinical neuropsychology		X								
Neuropsychological rehabilitation and treatment		X								
Development, learning and instruction			X	X	X					
Contextualized Assessments and interventions				X						
Ethics in Care and Education				X <sup>5</sup>						
Complexity, dynamics and development			X							
Economy and society: Critical transitions in Advanced Industrialised Societies						X				
Solidarity and social contexts						X				
Power and leadership								X		
Selection, assessment and job performance								X		
Culture and Diversity							X			
Cooperation and Communication							X			
Environmental psychology									X	
Multilevel analysis										X
Structural equation modelling										X
Statistical analysis of social networks										X
Statistical modelling of single cases										X
Literature study, in area of specialization		X			X				X	

<sup>2</sup> Choose minimally two courses from a column for a specialization.

<sup>3</sup> For this specialization, choose courses that have not been chosen as the elective methods module.

<sup>4</sup> MH: Mental Health: Perspectives from Neuro- and Clinical Psychology; IDS: Individual development in Social Context; USC: Understanding Societal Change

<sup>5</sup> This course is mandatory for students specializing in Orthopedagogy choosing a clinical traineeship and counts as a specialization course.

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## 3 Examinations and final assessment of the degree programme

### 3.1 General

1. The results of an examination are rated on a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 being the best grade.
2. As an exception to Article 3.1, item 1, it is allowed to grade with pass/fail on practicals.
3. For each module, students are given the opportunity to resit the examination if they fail or miss the first examination, or if they pass the first examination, but want to improve their grade. The dates for these exams, if not planned in advance, are to be determined in direct consultation with the student(s).
4. If from an examination for a module several valid results are registered or known, including exemptions, the highest result will apply.
5. At the student's request, the Board of Examiners may grant exemptions for course units up to a maximum of 15 ECTS. It is not possible to be exempted from the requirements of the traineeship and/or from the master's thesis.

## 4 Selection procedure

### 4.1 Admission to the degree programme

1. The admission requirements include the following:
  - a. The student must have a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Sociology, Pedagogical or Educational Sciences or a related field obtained at the University Groningen or at another Dutch university; or a Bachelor's degree obtained at another programme judged suitable by the Admissions Board.
  - b. Excellent grades (indication: average BA grade at least 7.5 or equivalent).
  - c. Sufficient knowledge of the English language.
  - d. Sufficient knowledge of the sciences relevant to the degree programme.
  - e. Sufficient knowledge of and experience with basic statistical techniques.
  - f. An attitude, motivation and talent fitting the degree programme.
2. A student's application for admission to the programme must comprise the following documents:
  - a. A completed admission form;
  - b. A curriculum vitae;
  - c. Certified copies of university diplomas and academic transcripts;
  - d. A letter (800 words at maximum) in which the student explains why he/she wishes to follow this particular degree programme and what his expectations and ambitions are;
  - e. Names and contact details of two referees;
  - f. Proof of sufficient knowledge of the English language (see 4.1.3).
  - g. (Optional) other documents the student feels may contribute to a positive impression of suitability with regard to the degree programme, e.g. publications, theses etc.

These documents have to be in the possession of the institute on 1 May preceding the beginning of the degree programme; The documents mentioned under a, b, c and d must be written in English. The documents mentioned under e, f, and g must be in Dutch or English.

3. As proof of sufficient knowledge of the English language, as mentioned in Article 4.1.2.f, the following qualifications at least apply:
  - a. Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English or Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English with a minimum score of 185;
  - b. An overall score of 7 or higher with at least a 7 on speaking and writing in the International English Language Testing System (Academic version);
  - c. An overall score of at least 100 with at least a score of 25 on speaking and writing on the internet-based form of the Test of English as a Foreign Language.

An authentic test certificate, no more than two years old, needs to be submitted. The Admissions Board may also accept other evidence (e.g., the successful completion of an English bachelor programme, extended stays abroad) that, according to the Board's judgement, guarantees sufficient knowledge of the English language.

4. Based on the written material sent in by the student, the Admissions Board determines whether the student is invited for an interview. If this is not the case, the student will be notified of the decision and of the reasons of rejection.
5. As an additional requirement, students may be asked to complete a written assignment. Upon successful completion of this assignment, students are invited for an interview with the Admissions Board.
6. During the admission interview, the Admissions Board determines whether the student has the appropriate motivation and aptitude for taking part in the degree programme. The submitted written material is also taken into account.
7. The Admissions Board grants a certificate of admission to those students who comply with the admission requirements.
8. Any student in possession of a certificate of admission is allowed to take part in the degree programme.
9. A certificate of admission is only valid for the academic year immediately following the date on which it was granted.

10. The certificate of admission may include further conditions. These conditions must be met before a student is allowed to start the degree programme. See article 4.2 for further details.
11. The student will be informed of the Board's decision or issued a (conditional) certificate of admission no later than 1 July.
12. Appeal against decisions of the Admissions Board is possible at the Committee of Appeal for the Final Assessments.

#### **4.2 Conditional admission**

1. At the request of a candidate who is preparing for the final examination for a Bachelor's degree programme listed in Article 4.1.1, the Admissions Board may admit the candidate to the degree programme on condition that he/she has passed all the modules in the Bachelor's degree programme before 1 September of the year in which the student wants to start the Research Master's degree programme.
2. A student who is admitted to the Research Master's programme on the basis of a Master's degree from another programme, is admitted on the condition that he/she has finished this other programme before 1 September of the year in which he/she wants to start the Research Master's programme.

Appendix: Assessment programme

Appendix: Assessment plan

Appendix: Graduation guide for the Research Master  
BSS