Selection procedure 2020-2021

For the academic year 2020-2021, the Bachelor’s degree programme in Medicine at the University of Groningen/UMCG will have 410 first-year student places on offer. All places will be allocated via a selection procedure. This brochure provides more information about the selection procedure.

Why selection?
As of 2016, the relevant legislation was changed; a selection procedure is now mandatory for all available places in fixed-quota degree programmes. Moreover, research shows that selected candidates prove to be quick and able students; our own experiences in this respect are also positive.

Note: the 8+ scheme has been abolished, which means that even if your average mark for the VWO (pre-university education) final examination is 8 or higher, you will still need to participate in the selection procedure.

Prerequisites for participation in the selection procedure
Participation in the selection procedure is restricted to those who can meet the national statutory requirements for admission to a medical degree programme in the year of participation. If you do not yet meet these requirements, you may still participate if you will be taking the VWO final examination in the appropriate subjects (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics) this year or if you will meet the entry requirements in a different way. To be eligible for admission to the degree programme, you must have satisfied all entry requirements by 15 July 2020. If the results of your final examination will not be known by 15 July 2020, you must personally apply for an extension. More information about admission to the degree programme can be found here.

If you cannot meet the requirements based on a VWO final examination, you will need to go through an additional procedure (parallel to the standard selection procedure). This additional procedure involves having your eligibility assessed by the Admissions Office of the University of Groningen¹.

Note that the selection procedure is distinct and separate from the admission procedure!

If you are not able to meet the requirements by means of a VWO final examination, it is important for the assessment of your eligibility to register in Studielink as well as in the Online Application System (OAS), the Admissions Office’s registration system, before 15 January 2020. For more information see ‘Registration for selection procedure’. To register in OAS, you must first register in Studielink. You will then receive instructions on how to complete your registration in OAS. It is important to follow these instructions meticulously! Be sure to register in OAS as soon as possible, because you must be in possession of a confirmation email from the Admissions Office before 15 February 2020 confirming that the file concerning your eligibility is being processed. After submitting your registration through OAS, you will receive an email confirming your registration. However, this email is not a confirmation that your eligibility is being processed. Once the Admissions Office has received the (minimally required) set of application documents that it needs to assess your eligibility, it will send you the

¹ An additional procedure is also involved for admission via Colloquium Doctum (21+). This procedure is handled by the medical faculty, rather than the Admissions Office. For details of this procedure, please contact us at studymedicine@rug.nl
email confirming that your application is being processed. Be sure to upload all the required
documents to OAS by 15 January 2020 and submit your registration in time (no later than 11.59 p.m.
Dutch time). The sooner you complete your registration in OAS, the sooner you will receive the
confirmation email informing you that the file concerning your eligibility is being processed. More
information can be found here.

If you are currently enrolled in a Bachelor’s degree programme, check out our Pre-Master’s
programme (in Dutch only).

Registration selection procedure – deadline 15 January 2020
If you meet the aforementioned requirements for admission and feel that the programme in
Groningen is right for you, register from 1 October 2019 for the degree programme in Medicine at
UG/UMCG. You can register through Studielink until 15 January 2020 at 11.59 p.m. Dutch time. Note
that if you live in the Netherlands, you will have to use your DigiD. If you are still living abroad, you
will need a username and password to log into Studielink. Please bear in mind that it may take several
working days before you receive your login details when you apply for a DigiD or a username and
password!

Note that you will only have one opportunity to participate in the selection procedure for the
Bachelor’s degree programme in Medicine in Groningen.²

What do we consider important during selection?
Through our selection procedure, we aim to identify the most ambitious and talented candidates with
the cognitive and non-cognitive qualities required to successfully complete the degree programme in
Medicine and to become a good physician. We also consider it important that you familiarize yourself
with our degree programme, with the medical profession and with the competencies required to
become a medical professional. It is also important that you have intentionally selected this particular
degree programme as developed by the University of Groningen, and that you match this
programme’s specific characteristics. We expect you to know the aims of the curriculum in Groningen
and why you think it suits you! We also expect you to be able to provide solid arguments for your
choice of one of our four Learning Communities (see below for details of our Learning Communities).
You can also find more information about the degree programme in our online magazine (in Dutch).

Learning Communities
The degree programme in Medicine in Groningen (G2020) has four Learning Communities, each
comprising around 100 students. You must decide in advance which community appeals to you the
most and matches your interests most closely. If you are admitted to the degree programme, you will
remain in the same Learning Community for the entire Bachelor’s degree programme. Wherever
possible, this will be the Learning Community for which you have expressed a preference. All Learning
Communities result in the same degree certificate. The general medical topics that you will learn

² If you are registered for the degree programme in Medicine in Studielink on 15 January 2020, this will count as
participation in the selection procedure, even if you later decide to withdraw. Such participation can only be
rendered null and void if you fail your final VWO (pre-university education) examination in the year in which you
participate in the selection procedure. If this applies to you, then you must fill in the selection and placement
form before 1 September 2020.
about during the Bachelor’s degree programme will be the same for all four Learning Communities. However, each of these Learning Communities have a different focus and approach to medical topics. It is important for you to study the focus of each Learning Community, as this will enable you to choose the one that best matches your own interests. After the Bachelor’s degree phase, students from all four Learning Communities may proceed to the same Dutch-taught Master’s programme and, if all goes well, will leave the University after six years, as a physician (basisarts).

Why Learning Communities?
We believe that it is better and more motivating to study in a small community, in which you are familiar with your peers and lecturers, share common interests and are expected to participate actively in terms of education. A Learning Community gives you the opportunity to delve deeply into the topics that appeal to you and, thus, to develop a true academic attitude. The themes of the Learning Communities were chosen because they dovetail neatly with the way in which healthcare is expected to develop in the coming years and with the UMCG’s key areas of interest. In this way, we are making every effort to give you the best possible preparation for a role in post-2020 healthcare.

You can find more information about the four Learning Communities here.

Choosing a Learning Community
In January, after you have registered in Studielink, we will ask you to choose one of the four Learning Communities. During the selection day, you will be assigned to that Learning Community. There are 110 places available for first-year students within each Learning Community.

The selection procedure
Once you have correctly registered in Studielink, you will receive an invitation to the selection day in Groningen, which will take place on either Saturday 15 February 2020 or Sunday 16 February 2020. To participate in the selection procedure, you must attend this selection day. We will not be able to tell you on which of these two dates you will be expected until we know how many candidates will be participating. We will inform you about this at the end of January.

Preparation for the selection day
On the selection day itself, you will have to complete various written assignments and tests. You will have to do a lot of preparatory work at home, for example studying the material you will be tested on and completing various preparatory assignments, such as compiling a portfolio. After registering in Studielink, you will receive instructions by email on 9 or 16 January 2020, so make sure that your email address in Studielink is correct. All candidates who register before 9 January 2020 receive their homework on 9 January 2020. Note: with some email providers, this email ends up in the spam box, so be sure to check your spam box too! Sound preparation for the selection day will involve at least 60 hours of preparatory work. The purpose of the various tests is to identify those students who best suit our degree programme. We will select the candidates who achieve the highest scores on the various tests and assignments.

The selection day: Saturday 15 February 2020 or Sunday 16 February 2020

3 After registering in Studielink, candidates from the Caribbean Netherlands (the BES islands) should notify us of their registration by email (selectionmedicalbachelors@umcg.nl), stating ‘BES island candidate’ in the subject line.
The on-site selection day will start in the morning. The tests will take up most of the day. The day will begin with you handing in your portfolio. This portfolio constitutes one of the tests. The rest of the selection day consists of three or four tests of about 90 minutes each. There will be long breaks between the tests. One test, cognitive test 1, will be focused on the material that you prepared at home. In non-cognitive test 1, we will present you with a number of situations and ask you to indicate what you think is the best solution. The other tests will concern your perspective on a particular development in healthcare and will require you to answer various questions about a passage of text. There will be sufficient time to complete the various tests on the selection day. Candidates with a functional impairment may obtain additional time.\(^4\)

**Assessment of selection components**

We will only judge the work of candidates who are able to meet the entry requirements in the year of participation. Therefore, always check whether you can meet these [entry requirements](#). We will first assess cognitive test 1 and non-cognitive test 1. The bottom 15% of the candidates, in terms of their combined scores for these two tests, will be excluded from further assessments (i.e. the remaining tests and the portfolio). This means that only their first two tests will be taken into account when determining these candidates’ ranking numbers. This puts them at the lower end of the ranking list. The chance of these candidates being offered a place in the programme is virtually nil. For all other candidates, all of the assessment elements, including the portfolio, carry equal weight. The portfolio includes an extensive CV with your final pre-university education examination marks, your final marks for the fifth year of VWO or from pre-university education comparable to VWO. Candidates with an average final pre-university examination mark or final fifth year mark (in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Dutch and/or English) of over 8 (according to the Dutch system) will receive extra points. Candidates who can demonstrate excellent achievements in other areas (e.g. sports) can also earn extra points for this assessment element. Those candidates who will not be able to distinguish themselves in this way can use their experiences and achievements in the other tests.

**Offering and accepting a study place**

On 15 April 2020, we will send you a ranking number for the degree programme in Medicine and a ranking number for your Learning Community. Based on their ranking numbers, selected students will receive the offer of a study place in the degree programme in Medicine via Studielink. If you are selected, you will have 10 working days to accept or reject this offer. If you do not accept the offer in time, you will forfeit your place and it will automatically be offered to another candidate. You are then no longer eligible for a place in the degree programme in Medicine in Groningen. The University will offer study places from April 2020 until the end of August 2020.

To place the 410 candidates, we will first consider their rankings for the entire degree programme. A candidate’s preference for a given Learning Community plays no part in this, although it will be taken into account at a later stage. If more than 110 candidates opt for a particular community and are admitted to the degree programme, any candidates ranked over 110 will be placed in another Learning Community (preferably their second choice). Therefore, if your ranking number for the degree programme in Medicine lies within the 1 – 410 range, but your Learning Community ranking number lies outside the 1 – 110 range, you may not be allowed to study in your first-choice Learning

\(^4\) Instructions on how to apply for additional time will be included in the invitation for the selection day.
Community. However, in April 2020, we will not yet know whether all of the candidates will be able to meet the entry requirements or whether they will accept their study place in time. As a result, you might still be placed in your preferred Learning Community. This will only become clear in August, when all final pre-university education examination results are known.

Learn about the experiences of candidates in previous selection procedures here.
TIMETABLE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR THE DEGREE PROGRAMME IN MEDICINE IN 2020-2021

• In order to log into Studielink and register for the degree programme in Medicine in Groningen, you must have a DigiD (if you live in the Netherlands) or a username and password (if you live abroad). Please bear in mind that it may take several working days before you receive your login details when you apply for a DigiD or a username and password!

• Register for the degree programme in Medicine in Groningen in Studielink by no later than 15 January 2020 (and no later than 11.59 p.m. Dutch time).

• After your Studielink registration, we will check whether you are technically eligible for the degree programme or whether we need additional information to assess your eligibility. Visit this webpage for more information about the entry requirements. If you do not have a VWO certificate or if you are not attending a VWO school, your eligibility must be assessed by the Admissions Office of the University of Groningen. You must have received a confirmation email from the Admissions Office before 15 February 2020 stating that the file concerning your eligibility is being processed. Therefore, in addition to registering in Studielink, you should also register in the Admissions Office’s Online Application System (OAS) before 11.59 p.m. (Dutch time) on 15 January 2020. Note that the selection procedure is distinct and separate from the admissions procedure. For more information about the admissions procedure for candidates who do not have a VWO certificate, go to the Admission and Selection, Admission, Requirements and Deficiencies webpages.

• After we have received your registration via Studielink, we will send you an email on 9 or 16 January with your preparatory assignments for the selection round on 15 or 16 February 2020, so make sure that your email address in Studielink is correct. All candidates who register before 9 January 2020 receive their homework on 9 January 2020. Note that with some email providers, this email ends up in the spam box, so if you think you may not have received our email, check your spam box within one week to preclude that it will unwittingly be deleted!

• On Saturday 15 February 2020 or Sunday 16 February 2020, the on-site selection procedure in Groningen will be held.

• On 15 April 2020, we will publish the outcomes of the procedure and send you your ranking numbers via Studielink.

• An explanation of the results will be sent to all candidates by email. The results consist of a ranking based on candidates’ test scores. Each candidate will receive a study place ranking number and a Learning Community ranking number. A maximum of 110 places are available in each Learning Community. If demand for a particular Learning Community exceeds the number of places available, then candidates who are admitted to the degree programme in Medicine based on their study place ranking number may be placed in another Learning Community (preferably their second choice).

• Using Studielink, the University of Groningen will offer a place in the degree programme in Medicine to candidates with study place ranking numbers within the 1 – 410 range. If you are selected, you will have 10 working days to accept or reject this offer. If you do not accept the offer in time, you will forfeit your place and it will automatically be offered to another candidate. You are then no longer admissible for a place in the degree programme in Medicine in Groningen. The University will offer study places from April 2020 until the end of August 2020.
• For more information about this procedure, visit the selection webpage and the webpage Regulations for selection and placement (in Dutch).

If you have any questions about the selection procedure, please check the frequently asked questions first. If you do not find an answer to your question there, please send an email to selectionmedicalbachelors@umcg.nl.