

# Selection procedure 2019-2020

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In academic year 2019-2020, 410 places for first-year students will be available in the Bachelor's degree programme in Medicine at the University of Groningen/UMCG. All places will be allocated in a selection procedure.

Note that the 8+ scheme has been abolished, which means that even if your average mark for the VWO final examination is 8 or higher, you will still need to participate in the selection process. This brochure provides more information about the selection procedure.

## **Why selection?**

For several years now, places in the medical degree programme have been allocated by means of a selection procedure. Research shows that selected candidates prove to be quick and able students; our own experience in this respect is also positive. Moreover, in 2016 the relevant legislation was changed; a selection procedure is now mandatory for all places in fixed-quota degree programmes.

## **What do we consider important?**

We feel that candidates should make a clear choice for the University of Groningen approach to the medical degree programme, and that candidates should possess the qualities required of good students and, later, good doctors.

## **How to prepare for the selection procedure?**

It is important to familiarize yourself with the competences necessary for the degree programme and a medical career. We will expect you to know the aims of the Groningen curriculum 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 an explanation of what a learning community is). You can also find more information about the degree programme in our [online magazine](#) (in Dutch).

## **Participation in the selection procedure**

You can participate in the selection procedure if your qualifications satisfy the national statutory requirements for admission to a medical degree programme. If you do not satisfy these requirements yet, you may still participate if you will be taking the VWO school-leaving examination with the appropriate subjects (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics) this year or meet the entry requirements in a different way. To be admitted to the degree programme, you must have satisfied all the entry requirements by 15 July 2019. If the results of your final examination will not be known by 15 July 2019, you must apply for an extension. More information about admission to the degree programme can be found [here](#). If you meet the requirements and feel that the Groningen programme is right for you, go to [Studielink](#) before 15 January 2019 to register for the selection procedure for the degree programme in Medicine at UG/UMCG.

If you do not have a VWO certificate allowing you to participate, you will have to meet an additional set of requirements. In that case, the Admissions Office will assess your admissibility. After you have registered in Studielink, you will be sent instructions to complete your registration in the Online Application System (OAS), the Office's registration system. Carefully follow the instructions and ensure that you complete your application and upload all the required documents in OAS no later than 15 January 2019. More information about the application procedure can be found [here](#) (Dutch) and [here](#) (English).

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

Registration for the degree programme (and the selection procedure) is done in Studielink. Note that you must have a DigiD (if you live in the Netherlands) or a user name and password (if you live abroad) to log on to Studielink. Applying for a DigiD or a user name and password can take several working days!

**Note that you are only allowed to participate in the selection procedure for the medical degree programme in Groningen once.<sup>1</sup>**

#### **What about 8+ candidates?**

The national 8+ scheme has been abolished, which means that even if your average mark for the VWO final examination is 8 or higher, you still need to participate in the selection procedure.

#### **The selection procedure**

This procedure aims to identify the most ambitious and talented candidates with the *cognitive and non-cognitive* qualities required for success in the degree programme and a medical career. In addition, we feel that candidates should match the specific nature of the UG/UMCG degree programme in Medicine. We therefore expect you to familiarize yourself with the medical profession, the degree programme and our four learning communities.

#### **Selection day: Saturday 16 February 2019 or Sunday 17 February 2019**

Once you have correctly registered in Studielink, you will receive an invitation for the selection procedure in Groningen on either Saturday 16 or Sunday 17 February 2019. To participate in the selection procedure, you must attend this selection day.<sup>2</sup> 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. This will be known by the end of January.

On the selection day, you will 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. After you register in Studielink, we will send you

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<sup>1</sup> Your attempt will be void only if you fail your school-leaving examination. Then you will be allowed to participate a second time. If you are registered for the medical degree programme in Studielink on 15 January 2019, this will count as participation (even if you later decide to withdraw from the selection procedure).

<sup>2</sup> After registering in Studielink, candidates from the Caribbean Netherlands (the BES islands) should notify us of their registration [by e-mail](#), stating 'BES island candidate' in the subject line.

instructions by e-mail. These e-mails will be sent on 10 and 17 January 2019. Sound preparation for the selection day will involve at least 60 hours of preparatory work.

The selection procedure aims to identify the students best suited to our degree programme, in other words, the candidates with the highest scores on the various tests and assignments.

We will first assess cognitive test 1 (covering the material sent out in January) and non-cognitive test 1 (in which you are asked to find the best solution for various problematic situations). Candidates with very low scores on these two tests combined will be excluded from the remainder of the assessment, including assessment of their portfolio and CV. These candidates will be given a ranking number based on the results of the first two tests, which will place them at the bottom of the ranking table. The chance of these candidates being offered a place in the programme is virtually nil.

For all other candidates, the other assessment elements carry equal weight. The portfolio that is part of the preparatory assignments includes an extensive CV with your final examination marks, your final marks for year 5 of VWO or marks from a school comparable to VWO. This portfolio constitutes one of the tests. Candidates with an average final examination mark or final year-5 mark (on Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Dutch and English) over 8 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. The other candidates who will not be able to distinguish themselves in this way, can use their experiences and achievements in the other tests.

Only candidates who can satisfy the entry requirements in the year in which they participate in the procedure will be assessed. Always check, therefore, whether you will be able to meet the [entry requirements](#). If you cannot meet these requirements on the basis of a VWO certificate, you must have received a positive decision letter issued by the Admissions Office of the University of Groningen before 16 February 2019. Therefore, register in both Studielink and the OAS as soon as possible but certainly no later than 15 January 2019. The sooner you register, the sooner you will receive the decision letter informing you of your admissibility. *Note that the selection procedure and the admission procedure are two different things!* It is important to comply fully with the instructions for this process, to upload all the necessary documents in the OAS and to submit your OAS application in good time. More information can be found [here](#) (Dutch) and [here](#) (English).

### *Selection day*

The selection day will start in the morning. The tests will take up most of the day. The day starts with you handing in your portfolio. The day is divided into three or four blocks of about 90 minutes. There will be long breaks between the tests. One test will be on the home study material. In another test, you will be presented with various problematic situations and asked what you consider the best solution. You will also have to present your perspective on a development in healthcare and answer several questions about a text presented to you. After you register in Studielink, you will be sent more information about the preparations for the selection day no later than 17 January 2019. There will be sufficient time to complete the various tests on the selection day. Candidates with a functional impairment may be given additional time.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Instructions on how to apply for additional time will be included in the invitation for the selection day.

### *Choosing a learning community and the ranking system*

You will complete your medical degree programme at UG/UMCG as a member of one of the four learning communities (see below for more information). In January, after you have registered in Studielink, we will ask you to choose one of these four. During the selection day, you will be assigned to your learning community. There are 120 places for each learning community.

In April 2019, we will send you a ranking for the degree programme in Medicine and a ranking for your learning community. To place the candidates, we will first look at their rankings for the entire degree programme (disregarding their choice for a particular learning community). There are 410 places available in the programme. We will then look at the community choices of the candidates. If more than 120 candidates opt for a particular community and are admitted to the degree programme (which depends on whether they pass their final examination *and* claim their place), any candidates over 120 will be placed in another community (preferably their second choice). Therefore, if your ranking for the degree programme is below 410 but your learning community ranking is higher than 120, you might not be allowed to study in your first-choice community. However, since we will not know in April 2019 whether all candidates will meet the entry requirements in time, you might still be placed in your preferred community eventually. This will only become clear in August, when all final examination results are known.

### **The four learning communities in the Groningen degree programme in Medicine (G2020)**

G2020 has four learning communities, each with about 100 students. You choose in advance which community appeals to you the most, and if you are admitted to the degree programme, you will remain within that community for the entire Bachelor's degree programme. All communities lead to the same degree certificate. After the Bachelor's degree phase, students from all four learning communities proceed to the same Dutch-taught Master's programme, and if all goes well they will leave 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 where students and lecturers know each other and share common interests and where students are expected to actively participate in the teaching and learning. A learning community gives you the opportunity to delve deeply into subjects that appeal to you and thus develop a true academic attitude. The themes of the learning communities have been chosen to dovetail with the way in which healthcare is expected to develop in the coming years. We are thus preparing you optimally for a role in post-2020 healthcare.

*What are the four learning communities?*

Many of the things that you will learn during the Bachelor's degree programme will be the same in all four learning communities (general medical issues). The difference is in the details. When choosing the themes for the four learning communities, we took note of current and expected developments in healthcare and the UMCG's key areas of interest. You should choose the learning community that matches your interests most closely. Matching the right student to the right community is important, so you must spend time studying the focus of each learning community. This focus determines the community's approach, which will lead to a deeper understanding of medical issues; it varies from 'broad generalist' to 'in-depth specialist'.

You can find more information about the four learning communities [here](#).

Learn about the experiences of candidates in previous selection procedures [here](#).

## TIMETABLE FOR THE MEDICAL DEGREE PROGRAMME SELECTION PROCEDURE 2019-2020

- You must register for the selection procedure for the Groningen medical degree programme in Studielink no later than 15 January 2019 (at the latest on 11:59 p.m. Dutch time). After we have received your registration via Studielink, we will send you an e-mail on 10 or 17 January with your preparatory assignment for the selection process on 16 or 17 february 2019 (check that your e-mail address in Studielink is correct). Also check your spam folder!
- After your Studielink registration, we will check whether you are admissible to the medical degree programme or whether we need additional information to assess your admissibility. Visit this [webpage](#) for more information about the entry requirements.  
If you do not have a VWO certificate or do not study at a VWO school, your admissibility must be assessed by the Admissions Office of the University of Groningen. You must have received a decision letter from the Admissions Office before 16 February 2019. Therefore, register in time in Studielink and the Office's Online Application System. *Note that the selection procedure and the admission procedure are two different things!* For more information about the application procedure for candidates who do not have a VWO certificate, go to the [Admission](#) and [Selection, Admission, Requirements and Deficiencies](#) pages.
- Saturday 16 February 2019 or Sunday 17 February 2019: selection procedure in Groningen.
- On 15 April 2019 we will publish the outcome of the procedure and send you your rankings via Studielink.
- An explanation of the results will be sent to all candidates by e-mail. The results will be presented in the form of a ranking table reflecting the candidates' test scores. Each candidate will receive a study place ranking and a learning community ranking. A maximum of 120 places are available in each learning community. If there are more applicants for a particular community, candidates who are admitted to the medical degree programme based on their study place ranking may be placed in another learning community (preferably their second choice).
- Using Studielink, the University of Groningen will then offer you a place in the medical degree programme based on your study place ranking. You will have ten working days to accept this offer. If you do not accept the offer, 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 medical degree programme in Groningen. The University will offer study places from April 2019 to mid-August 2019.
- For more information about this procedure, go [here](#) and [here](#) (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 e-mail to [selectionmedicalbachelors@umcg.nl](mailto:selectionmedicalbachelors@umcg.nl).