



# University of Groningen Graduation Fund Regulations 2022-2023

## Part C Financial support for extended Master's degree programmes (7.51a)

### Introduction

Pursuant to Article 7.51a of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW), institutional boards must make provision for financial support for students enrolled in a degree programme for which the student workload is greater than that stipulated in the Central Register of Higher Education Programmes (CROHO; *Centraal Register Opleidingen Hoger Onderwijs*).

These Regulations apply to requests for the 2022-2023 academic year.

The Board of the University approved the regulations set out below concerning the granting of financial support on the basis of these legal regulations after approval by the University Council on 30 June 2022.

### Article 1. Definitions

Academic year:	A period of time that starts on 1 September and ends on 31 August of the following year.
Act:	The Higher Education and Research Act (WHW: <i>Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk onderzoek</i> ).
B:	The nominal duration of a university Bachelor's degree programme.
Board of the University:	The Board of the University of Groningen.
CLRS:	Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights ( <i>Centraal Loket Rechtsbescherming Studenten</i> ).
CROHO:	Central Register of Higher Education Programmes ( <i>Centraal Register Opleidingen Hoger Onderwijs</i> ) managed by DUO.
Degree programme:	A Bachelor's or Master's degree programme.
DUO:	The Dutch Education Executive Agency ( <i>Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs</i> ).
M:	The nominal duration of a university Master's degree programme.
Nominal student workload:	In accordance with Article 7.4 of the Act, the nominal student workload is 60 ECTS credit points per academic year.
Performance-related grant:	Article 5.1 WSF 2000: a travel allowance, possibly with the addition of a supplementary grant and bonus for a single-parent family. A travel allowance, possibly with the addition of a supplementary grant and bonuses. The performance-related grant is awarded by DUO for the combined nominal duration of the Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes. The travel allowance is awarded for the combined nominal duration of the Bachelor's

	and Master's degree programmes, plus one extra year.
Statutory tuition fees:	The tuition fees as referred to in Article 7.45 of the Act for registration as a student, set by the Minister.
Student finance:	A performance-related grant that students receive during the nominal duration of their degree programme, followed by a three-year loan period, in accordance with the WSF 2000.
Student:	A person who has paid tuition fees and is registered at the UG, with all the rights connected to registration as set out in Article 7.34 of the Act.
Study advisor:	The person appointed by the faculty to inform, advise and guide students in their study planning and progress, as well as in their choice of degree programme.
UFC:	University Funds Committee; a committee appointed by the Board of the University which advises the Board with regard to decisions made on the basis of these Regulations.
UG:	University of Groningen.
<i>Wet studievoorschot</i> :	Higher Education Student Loan Act ( <i>Wet studievoorschot hoger onderwijs</i> ). The amendment to legislation including the WSF 2000 (Student Finance Act 2000), following the introduction of a new student finance system: the student loan.
WSF 2000:	<i>Wet studiefinanciering 2000</i> (Student Finance Act 2000).

All other terms used in these Regulations will have the meaning that the Act ascribes to them.

## **Article 2. Conditions for financial support**

The UG provides financial support from the Graduation Fund (*Profleringsfonds*) to students who incur study delay due to exceptional circumstances, and who

- are enrolled as full-time students in a degree programme and have not yet gained their degree
- have paid the relevant statutory tuition fees to the UG
- are or were entitled to a performance-related grant for the degree programme on the basis of the WSF 2000.

## **Article 3. Conditions and amount of compensation**

1. The UG will grant financial compensation to students who are registered at the institution for an extended Master's degree programme with a student workload of 90 or 120 ECTS credit points.
2. Students must satisfy all conditions listed in Article 2 of these Regulations.
3. When the Board of the University decides the amount of financial compensation, it will base its decision on the most recent information or the most recent 'Notification' concerning the performance-related grant, plus any supplementary grant/bonuses in accordance with the WSF 2000. In addition to the payment of the performance-related grant, the financial support will also comprise a sum to cover the costs of the student travel product that is in line with the amount that DUO reimburses for temporary absence abroad. No financial support will be provided for a loan granted under the Higher Education Student Loan Act.
4. Financial compensation will be paid on the basis of the number of months of the academic year that the student was registered at the UG and will not exceed the period corresponding to the student workload over and above 60 ECTS credit points.
5. Students can only qualify for financial compensation for one extended Master's degree

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- programme at the UG.
6. The maximum number of months of financial support per academic year on the grounds of all parts of the Graduation Fund Regulations together is twelve.

#### **Article 4. Request procedure**

1. Students who believe they qualify for financial compensation may submit a digital request through the UG website <http://www.rug.nl/studievertraging>.
2. The request must be submitted within six months after termination of registration. Requests submitted after this period will not be processed, unless there is evidence of force majeure.
3. Decisions will be made by or on behalf of the Board of the University as soon as possible, and in any case within eight weeks. The Board of the University – or someone on its behalf – may consult the relevant Faculty Board, Programme Director or study advisor for advice before coming to a final decision.
4. The requester will be notified in writing of the decision.

#### **Article 5. Lodging an objection**

Students may lodge an objection against a decision taken by or on behalf of the Board of the University on the grounds of these Regulations within six weeks of the date of the decision with the Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights (CLRS) via the website [www.rug.nl/clrs](http://www.rug.nl/clrs) or P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen.

#### **Article 6. Hardship clause**

In some cases a request for financial support may be granted if rejection would result in a situation of unfairness of overriding nature.

#### **Article 7. Deviation from the regulations**

In exceptional circumstances the Board of the University may deviate from the provisions of these Regulations.

#### **Article 8. Date of commencement and validity**

These Regulations will take effect on 1 September 2022 and will apply to requests relating to the 2022-2023 academic year.

#### **Article 9. Citation and publication of these regulations**

1. These regulations may be cited as: ‘University of Groningen Graduation Fund Regulations 2022-2023’, possibly supplemented by ‘Part C: Financial support for extended Master’s degree programmes.’
2. These regulations have been sent to the Faculty Boards for reference, published on the internet and included as an appendix in the Student Charter.

Groningen, 5 July 2022

the Board of the University