



university of
 groningen

faculty of religion, culture
 and society

**Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER)
 for the PhD programme**

Academic year 2023-2024

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The Teaching and Examination Regulations set out the specific rights and obligations that apply to each PhD programme taught at the University of Groningen, for both the PhD scholarship students and the PhD programme. The University-wide section of the Student Charter sets out the rights and obligations that apply to all PhD scholarship students.

These Regulations were decreed by the Board of the Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society on July 20, 2023 and approved by the Faculty Council where required on May 23, 2023.

Section 1 – General provisions

Article 1.1 – Applicability of the OER

1. These Regulations for academic year 2023-2024 apply to the PhD programme offered by the Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society, hereinafter referred to as **the PhD programme**, and to all PhD scholarship students enrolled in this programme.
2. The PhD programme is provided by the Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society of the University of Groningen, hereinafter referred to as **the Faculty**.
3. The UG PhD regulations apply to the PhD programme.

Article 1.2 – Definitions

The following definitions apply to these Regulations:

- a) The Act: the Higher Education and Research Act (*WHW: Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek*)
- b) PhD scholarship student: a student registered as such at the University to follow a PhD programme
- c) University, UG: the University of Groningen

- d) Graduate School: the school offering the PhD programme on behalf of the Faculty
- e) PhD Regulations: the regulations applied by the University of Groningen in respect of PhD programmes
- f) Primary supervisor: the professor or associate professor with a PhD and ius promovendi appointed as such by the Dean of Faculty on behalf of the PhD Board by virtue of Article 7.18(4) of the Act in conjunction with Chapter 3 of these regulations
- g) Special circumstances: special family circumstances, illness, pregnancy, a physical, sensory or other performance disability of the PhD scholarship student or a circumstance related to the organization of the PhD programme that is beyond the control of the student, which has led to delay in the PhD programme
- h) Admissions Board: the Graduate School committee that was established. The director of the Graduate School is a member of the Admissions Board
- i) TSP: Training and Supervision Plan for the PhD scholarship student
- j) Programme Committee: the advisory body set up to fulfil the duties referred to in Article 9.18 of the Act
- k) Certificate: the written proof that the student has passed the teaching component of the PhD programme.

All other definitions will have the meaning that the Act ascribes to them.

Section 2 – Admission

Article 2.1 – Admission

1. Admission to the PhD programme will be granted to anyone who:
 - a. satisfies the conditions of Articles 2.3 and 2.4 of the PhD Regulations of the University of Groningen, with regard to the admissions procedure and requirements,
 - b. successfully defends a proposal for PhD research, written under the supervision or with the approval of the intended primary supervisor, for the purpose of the Admissions Board
2. The Faculty Board will make the final decision on admission to the programme. The Faculty Board of the intended primary supervisor mandates the decision on admissions to the Admissions Board, of which the Director of the Graduate School is a member.
3. Bearing in mind the admissions procedures for the PhD programme, the Faculty Board of the intended primary supervisor assesses the knowledge and skills of the candidate.
4. The Director of the Graduate School is responsible for providing prompt notification of available places on the PhD programme, and for the application procedure that PhD candidates must follow.
5. Students can be admitted to the programme throughout the year.
6. Prospective PhD scholarship students can register for the admissions procedure by submitting the documents mentioned on the website

<https://www.rug.nl/research/gradschool-theology-and-religious-studies/phd-programme/admission-and-application> before the closing date.

7. The Admissions Board decides whether the prospective PhD scholarship student will be admitted to the PhD programme.
 - a. If the prospective PhD scholarship student receives a positive assessment on the basis of the stipulations of Article 2, they will be invited to attend an interview. *This interview can be conducted in the physical presence of the candidate, but this is not compulsory. The interview will be based on the submitted written documentation and may comprise a presentation on an academic subject related to the chosen programme.*
 - b. If, on the basis of the submitted documentation, the Admissions Board is of the opinion that the prospective PhD scholarship student does not stand a chance for admission and that there is therefore no need for an interview, the Admissions Board will notify the Director of the Graduate School, who will subsequently inform the prospective student of this decision in writing on behalf of the Faculty Board.
8. All prospective PhD scholarship students whose applications are assessed on the basis of the procedure set out in Article 5 will be informed whether they have qualified for admission at least one month before the starting date of the programme. Students who have qualified will also receive proof of admission at this time. This message will be sent to the prospective PhD student one month before the start of the degree programme at the latest, thereby providing written notification of whether the decision is positive or negative. Students who have qualified will also receive proof of admission at this time. Reasons will be provided if an application is refused. The prospective PhD student in question will be informed about the possibility of lodging an appeal to the University of Groningen Disputes Committee.
9. Prospective PhD scholarship students must register as PhD scholarship students at the University of Groningen and pay the tuition fees due before being allowed to start the programme. In certain cases, the Board of the University can decide to reduce or waive the tuition fees.
10. Prospective PhD students who have not yet obtained their Master's or a comparable degree at the time of the selection procedure admission, but who would normally be expected to do so before the PhD programme begins, may be granted provisional admission. These students must then pass their final assessment before the starting date of the PhD programme.

Section 3 – Organization and content of the programme

Article 3.1 – Aim of the degree programme

1. The aim of the PhD programme is to prepare PhD scholarship students as well as possible for both academic positions and positions in society for which experience with academic research is required.

2. The programme provides a framework for learning to conduct academic research and for training general and research-specific skills, so that students can fill academic positions or positions in society for which experience in conducting and publishing academic research is essential. The programme focuses on developing verbal and written skills for reporting research results, with a view to writing and defending a thesis.
3. In addition to the stipulations of Article 3.1.3, PhD scholarship students must also successfully complete the teaching component of the Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society PhD programme as agreed in the TSP, including the Career Perspectives learning pathway (or part thereof).

Article 3.2 – Language of instruction

1. The PhD programme is taught in Dutch and/or English.

Article 3.3 – Student workload

1. The student workload is 120, 180 or 240 ECTS for a two, three or four-year PhD programme respectively. In certain cases, the Board of Examiners may agree to deviate from this rule.
2. The PhD programme referred to in Article 3.3.1 includes the teaching programme described in the TSP, with a student workload of 30 ECTS (or more if necessary).

Article 3.4 – Aim of the degree programme

The faculty's PhD programme is organized as follows. There is a research programme of 210 ECTS credits and a teaching programme of 30 ECTS credits in a four-year PhD track.

The TSP states which components individual PhD students must finish in order to complete the educational part of their PhD programmes.

Article 3.5 Assessment

The manner of testing and assessment in the research programme takes place as set out in the PhD regulations. The individual components of the teaching programme are approved by the supervisor in Hora Finita.

Section 4 – Final assessment of the degree programme

Article 4.1 – Assessing course completion

1. The Faculty Board sets up an independent body (e.g. a Board of Examiners) that determines whether individual PhD scholarship students have the knowledge, understanding and skills required to complete the programme.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 4.1, the authority to award a PhD degree in line with the PhD Regulations of the University of Groningen lies with the PhD Examining Committee.
3. The Faculty Board appoints the members of the independent committee as outlined in (1) on the basis of their expertise in the field of the programme.
4. The committee must comprise at least:
 - a. one member who is a professor attached to the programme
 - b. one member from outside the degree programme.
5. The independent and expert functioning of the committee must be guaranteed by the Faculty Board

Article 4.2 – Teaching programme and certificate

PhD scholarship students who successfully complete the teaching programme taught by the Graduate School of the Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society as agreed in the TSP, including the Career Perspectives learning pathway (or part thereof), will be awarded a certificate signed by the committee and/or the Director of the Graduate School.

Compulsory parts of the teaching programme which is part of the TSP are Introductory Event (1 ECTS), Project management (0.5 ECTS), Career Perspectives (0.5 ECTS) and Academic integrity and Research Ethics (1 ECTS).

Article 4.3 – Academic integrity

1. Students must comply with the integrity codes for academic research, as stipulated in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Academic Practice and the University's own Regulations for the Protection of Academic Integrity.
2. If a student cheats, the committee as outlined in Article 4.1 can invalidate the relevant teaching component or take other measures.
3. In the event of serious cheating, the committee may advise the Board of the University to terminate the PhD scholarship student's registration definitively and withdraw from that student the right to a PhD from the University of Groningen.
4. Decisions taken on the basis of Articles 4.2 and 4.3 shall be sent to the PhD student in writing, stating the reasons. The prospective PhD student in question will be informed about the possibility of lodging an appeal to the University of Groningen Disputes Committee.

Section 5 – Study progress and study progress supervision

Article 5.1 – Study progress administration

The PhD student shall register the achieved individual study results in Hora Finita and submit them for approval to the first supervisor.

Article 5.2 – Study progress supervision

The Graduate School, mandated in this by the Faculty Board, is responsible for organizing the introduction and study progress supervision of PhD scholarship students, including with a view to potential study options within and outside the degree programme.

In case of study delay due to special circumstances, the specific regulations as stated in the general scholarship regulations apply, see <https://www.rug.nl/education/phd-programmes/phd-scholarship-programme/conditions-application/>.

Article 5.3 - Termination of participation in the PhD Scholarship Programme

1. In the TSP, agreements are made about the PhD student's training and study progress.
2. If the PhD student does not keep to the agreements made regarding study progress as laid down in the TSP, this can lead to the termination of the PhD programme and therefore the PhD track by the Dean of Faculty. Before proceeding, the Dean of Faculty shall offer the PhD student at least once the opportunity to fulfil the agreements made within a reasonable period of time. This deadline is confirmed in a letter.

Section 6 – Dispute settlement procedure

Article 6 – Disputes

The current complaints and disputes regulations of the University of Groningen will apply to all complaints and disputes concerning admission and other decisions. See <http://www.rug.nl/education/laws-regulations-complaints/>.

Section 7 – Transitional and final provisions

Article 7.1 – Amendments

1. Any amendments to these Regulations will, in consultation with – and where necessary upon the approval of –the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
2. Any amendments to these Regulations will not apply to the current academic year, unless it may be reasonably assumed that the amendment in question will not harm the interests of PhD scholarship students.
3. In addition, an amendment may not influence the following to the detriment of PhD students:
 - an approval granted pursuant to Articles 3.1 and 3.2;
 - any other decision taken within the meaning of these Regulations.

Article 7.2 – Publication

The Faculty Board shall duly publish these Regulations and any amendments to these documents.

Article 7.3 – Date of commencement

These Regulations will take effect on 1-9-2023.