

University of Groningen: the Eric Bleumink Fund for development cooperation

RULES AND REGULATIONS

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UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

The University of Groningen (*Rijksuniversiteit Groningen*) was founded in 1614. Since then its growth and development have reflected changing views and social developments. The University's image has gradually changed: where once it was a fortress of stored knowledge, it is now an institution with its doors wide open to society.

At present, the University of Groningen (RUG) has 9 faculties. Both nationally and internationally there are intensive cooperative links between the University and industry, health care, education, other universities and the government. An increasing number of students are making the transition to future employment by means of work experience during their studies. In addition to purely theoretical research, the University also devotes a substantial part of its resources to research directed towards practical and directly applicable results. Today, more than ever before, the University occupies a position at the heart of society.

The University of Groningen, with a current enrolment of 25.000 students, provides one of the fullest ranges of academic and technical education available in the Netherlands. All faculties offer Master's and PhD programmes and degrees or their Dutch equivalent. Currently, 1500 PhD candidates are preparing their theses.

The University of Groningen has a long tradition in the study of international issues and development cooperation in the fields of international law, international economic relations, peace and security, non-Western demography, food security in developing countries and reproductive health, to name but a few examples. Long-term cooperation with a number of universities in Africa and Asia is a major constituent of this international involvement (see Appendix 2). The emphasis lies on improving education, training academic staff and reinforcing the infrastructure of these universities. Contacts with other universities in various countries, including India and Indonesia, are maintained by the faculties in Groningen. A considerable number of students from Africa and Asia follow education programmes in Groningen, and their number is increasing annually.

In 1996, the interdisciplinary Centre for Development Studies (CDS) was established by the Board of the University, with the active and continued participation of all faculties of the University of Groningen. The most important responsibilities of the CDS concern multidisciplinary research on development issues and cooperation research with institutes in developing countries.

These developments are in line with several relevant circumstances: the wish of the universities in the industrialized countries as well as those in the developing countries to strengthen academic teaching and research in developing countries, the role to be played by universities in industrialized countries in development-related issues, the international dimension of the development issue, the knowledge gap between poor and industrialized countries, the responsibility of the University to contribute to international peace and security, and to our own multifaceted society. It is the University's policy to make development issues a vital part of its teaching and research. Scientific cooperation with universities in developing countries is a permanent element of the University's international cooperation policy and it emphasizes long-term relations.

ERIC BLEUMINK FUND

The primary objective of the Eric Bleumink Fund, established on 23 May 2000, is to provide financial support to Master's students and PhD students from developing countries who wish to pursue a Master's degree or a doctorate (see the first two columns of Appendix 1). for the names of the countries that are considered developing countries). This initiative will not only improve the cooperation between the University of Groningen and universities in developing countries, but will also raise the level of academic expertise in these countries.

The name of the fund pays tribute to Prof. Eric Bleumink, a former chairman of the Board of the University.

Prof. Eric Bleumink retired as chairman of the Board of the University on 24 May 2000. Other positions that he held include those of Rector Magnificus of the University and member of the Board of the Faculty of Medical Sciences. Prof. Eric Bleumink set an example of inspired leadership with a distinct personal style. He advocated embedding the university more firmly in society – at regional, national and international levels. His commitment to humanity and *the universitas* is clearly illustrated by his efforts to improve cooperation between the University and its sister organizations in developing countries. His efforts helped to make this cooperation an integrated part of University policy. The academic community and all those around it have shown their appreciation through the establishment of a fund bearing his name.

GRANTS OF THE ERIC BLEUMINK FUND

The funds raised by the Eric Bleumink Fund (EBF) are made available with the intention of:

1. Providing grants to students from developing countries. This concerns promising students who wish to obtain a Master's or a comparable degree. They may be invited to study at the University of Groningen for a period of time. Alternatively, it is possible to study at other universities in developing countries or their neighbouring countries, provided that at least part of the study programme takes place at the RUG. The training of the candidates should make a contribution to increasing the academic capability of the country in question.
2. Providing grants to researchers from developing countries. This concerns PhD students who conduct PhD research within the scope of a cooperation agreement between the University of Groningen and an institution in a developing country. They will be supervised by a senior researcher from Groningen and preferably also by a senior researcher from the country in question. In principle, these grants will be provided for a maximum of four years. Part of the research should be conducted in Groningen and part in the country in question.
3. The Eric Bleumink Fund's primary function is to provide the above-mentioned grants and enable the University to support and supervise the grant recipients. In the future, new initiatives to generate or improve cooperation with universities in developing countries may also be supported.

CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL

In all cases, candidates who are employed and supported by an institute or university in a developing country that has signed a cooperation agreement with the University of Groningen and who receive an income from that institution will be given preferential treatment (see Appendix 2). The criteria for approval are:

1. Academic excellence. This is shown by the academic performance of the students and may be confirmed by letters of recommendation from university professors.
2. The contribution of the candidate's education in terms of strengthening the scientific capacity in the candidate's home country.
3. The perspectives of contribution to long-term links between the university in the developing country and the University of Groningen.
4. A proper balance between male and female candidates.
5. Ranging over various disciplines (faculties).
6. Regional variety over different continents.
7. Motivation: it should be made clear by the applicant that requests for other funding have also been submitted (please submit copies of application forms).

Candidates for the Eric Bleumink Fund should:

- be nationals of and have their permanent residence in a developing country (see first two columns of Appendix 1)
- have a good command of the English language
- be in good health, so that health insurance in the Netherlands can be arranged
- be available for the whole period of the fellowship and be able to take part in the entire study programme
- have no other means of financing the study in question

The decisions concerning approval or rejection of applications are taken by the Board of the Eric Bleumink Fund. It is not possible to appeal against a decision by the Board.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Scholarships for Master's students

In principle, university students from developing countries will be supported for a maximum of two years. Their education should strengthen the academic capacity of the country in question.

See for an overview of the Master's programmes:

<<http://www.rug.nl/prospectivestudents/degreeprogrammes/mastersprogrammes/overviewMastersAlphabetical>>

A step-by-step application guide

1. First the candidate should apply for admission to a study programme at the University of Groningen.
2. When the candidate applies for admission, he or she must indicate on the application form that his or her study performance is excellent and that he or she wishes to be nominated for a Eric Bleumink Fund scholarship.
3. If the study programme agrees with the candidacy for a EBF scholarship, **they** will send a standard application form as well as the candidate's motivational statement to the Board of the Eric Bleumink Fund prior to 1 March. Only two candidates can be nominated per study programme.
4. The Board of the Eric Bleumink Fund will make a decision during their meeting in March.
5. The study programme and the candidate will both be informed of the decision made by the Board.
6. If a candidate is selected the coordinator will contact the candidate with regard to the details of his or her arrival. If necessary he or she can contact the Board of the Eric Bleumink Fund for extra assistance.

Scholarships for PhD students

In the case of PhD researchers from developing countries, the grants will usually be awarded for a maximum period of four years. Part of the research should be conducted in the home country and part in Groningen.

The grant will cover expenses incurred in travelling to and from the Netherlands (a maximum of 4 times) and the living costs during the stay at the RUG. A moderate research budget can be granted if judged necessary by the academic supervisor.

In principle, applications for research grants may only be submitted by individuals from developing countries if endorsed by a professor of the University of Groningen and with the support of the student's home institution/partner university. The application (see Appendix 3) should consist of: 1) an elaborate research proposal or pre-proposal and 2) a letter of recommendation from the academic supervisor describing the benefits of the research for the department and/or the University of Groningen. The application may also be submitted by the academic supervisor at the University of Groningen or at the home institute in the developing country. The academic supervisor in Groningen participates in one of the Research Schools or Research Institutes of the University of Groningen.

See for an overview of the PhD programmes:

<<http://www.rug.nl/prospectivestudents/degreeprogrammes/graduateschools/phd>>

A letter of receipt of the application by the EBF is sent to the applicant by e-mail or, if an e-mail address is not available, by standard mail within 4 weeks.

The Scientific Committee of the Eric Bleumink Fund gives advice to the Board of the Eric Bleumink Fund on the academic quality and feasibility of the proposed PhD research and on the academic qualifications of the PhD candidate. The Scientific Committee may consult researchers or faculty research committees or other experts for this purpose.

Extra criteria for PhD researchers:

- the applicant should be employed by a research institute or university in a

- developing country and should receive an income from the home institute
- the application should also be supported by this organization
- the University of Groningen must be able to provide an academic supervisor who will be responsible for the scientific supervision of the research

THE SCHOLARSHIPS

Travel to and from the Netherlands

- The journeys to the Netherlands and back are included in the scholarship grant.
- The travel costs include the flights between Amsterdam and the airport nearest to the fellowship recipient's (scholarship student's) residence. It includes travel insurance and airport taxes. The maximum fare covered is economy class. Additional expenses such as excess baggage are not covered. For more information see 'Allowances'.
- Fellowship recipients are advised to arrange travel insurance for their journey from their home town and back.

Arrival and accommodation in the Netherlands

- The University of Groningen will provide the fellowship recipients with the necessary information regarding their arrival in Amsterdam and their further travel to Groningen. The local currency (Euro) is required for this journey within the Netherlands. At the airport, any international convertible currency can be changed into Euros.
- In Groningen, students can find accommodation through the Housing Office. The University of Groningen assists fellowship recipients in finding accommodation by sending application forms and by explaining the procedures to the recipients. They are advised to make arrangements well in advance.
- Recipients are obliged to report to the Foreign Police Department at the police headquarters. They must report within the time stated on the entry visa.
- A clothing allowance is not included in the fellowship. Recipients are advised to bring warm clothing – it can be quite cold in the Netherlands during the winter.

Allowances

The allowances mentioned are applicable in the Netherlands. The amounts will change if the student or researcher is studying or working in another country.

- The allowances are paid per month at the beginning of the month.
- The allowance is paid for the duration of the fellowship, starting on the day of arrival in the Netherlands. The day of arrival should not be more than 1 week before the start of the programme concerned. The allowance is paid until the recipient's day of departure from the Netherlands, which should be no later than 5 days after the end of the programme concerned.

Recipients are entitled to the following allowances:

- A living allowance of € 970 per month for food and accommodation for Master's students and € 1,190 for PhD candidates. In the case of a short stay in the Netherlands, the University of Groningen will make lodging arrangements for this period. The costs of rent, amounting up to a maximum of € 450 for master's students and € 475 for PhD candidates will be deducted from the living allowance. In that case € 520 remains of the monthly allowance for Master's students and € 715 for PhD candidates.
- A settling allowance of € 275 for extra expenses incurred when arriving in the Netherlands. This lump sum is paid along with the first monthly allowance.
- Travel costs for the journey from Amsterdam Airport (Schiphol) to Groningen and back.
- A study allowance of € 310 per year for books and other study material.
- The expenses for the visa at the Netherlands Embassy and the Foreign Police Department in the Netherlands will be reimbursed.
- PhD candidates may receive a research budget of up to € 2,300 per year. The research budget should be approved by the supervisor of the study programme.
- All tuition fees for the Master's programme or the PhD programme will be covered by the Eric Bleumink Fund.

Extensions of the fellowship are approved only in cases of:

- serious illness during the student's study in the Netherlands
- the recipient having to return home as a result of the death or serious illness of an immediate relative
- the recipient not being able to finish his or her study in time due to circumstances beyond the control of the recipient or the University of Groningen – this determination will be made by the Board of the EBF

Expenses refund

- Occasional travel in the Netherlands in connection with the programme or research will be refunded. Such travel has to be approved by the supervisor of the study programme.
- In the case of excursions or field trips, extra expenses will be paid over and above the cost of standard accommodation if these trips involve at least one overnight stay.

Insurance

- Within the framework of the Eric Bleumink Fund, the fellowship recipients are insured through a private insurance company. The Eric Bleumink Fund pays the insurance premium. The insurance policy is handed over to the fellowship recipient upon arrival or shortly afterwards. The insurance policy covers certain expenses related to:
 - Medical treatment
 - Personal accidents
 - Extra flight home in case of emergency
 - Legal liability for private persons

- Recipients are covered from the day of arrival in the Netherlands until the day of departure.
- The insurance is valid in all West European countries.
- Costs not paid by the insurance must be paid by the recipient.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

- Any person who accepts a fellowship agrees to the objectives, rules and regulations of the Eric Bleumink Fund.
- The fellowship begins on the date stated in the letter containing the offer, and will end 5 days after the termination of the programme.
- The fellowship makes provision for the expenses of international travel, training and subsistence, as specified in these regulations.
- The allowance is considered to be sufficient for one person's subsistence in the Netherlands.
- Recipients of fellowships must undertake, to the best of their ability, to follow and complete the programme for which the fellowship was granted. They must be prepared to provide the Eric Bleumink Fund with information concerning their education and cooperate fully with any form of programme evaluation.
- Recipients of fellowships staying in Groningen must obtain an authorization for temporary residence (in Dutch: *MVV – Machtiging tot Voorlopig Verblijf*). This will only be valid for the duration of the fellowship. The University of Groningen will act on behalf of the candidate and will apply to the Dutch Ministry of Justice for the MVV.
- Recipients of fellowships state that they will return to their own countries at the end of the fellowship or at the end of the training programme for which the fellowship was granted.
- The University of Groningen accepts no responsibility for illness, accident, etc., nor for any other risk that the acceptance of the fellowship may entail.
- The fellowship will be terminated before it takes effect if the personal particulars and/or circumstances are different from the information that was provided on the application form on the basis of which the fellowship was awarded. In that case, the fellowship will be terminated and the recipient may be required to return any fellowship payments made, if the recipient:
 - a. makes a false declaration
 - b. commits a criminal offence
 - c. fails to observe the rules and regulations of the EBF or refuses to act according to oral or written instructions from the EBF in connection with the fellowship
 - d. arrives in the Netherlands too late to join the programme
 - e. withdraws from the programme
 - f. fails to make the expected progress during the programme
- Recipients of fellowships staying in the Netherlands are to refrain from commercial or political activities and may not enter into paid employment in the Netherlands.
- The fellowship does not provide for the cost of bringing any members of the recipient's family to the Netherlands or for supporting them.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Eric Bleumink Fund is managed by the Ubbo Emmius Fund Foundation (*Stichting Ubbo Emmius Fonds*). This foundation was established by the University of Groningen to improve the relationship between the University and society at large, and to raise funds for special initiatives.

For specific questions or more information about the Eric Bleumink Fund, please contact:

Postal address:

Eric Bleumink Fund
University of Groningen
P.O. Box 72
9700 AB Groningen
The Netherlands

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS:

www.rug.nl/grantfinder

APPENDIX 1

List of Developing Countries

Least Developed Countries	Other Low Income Countries	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories
	(per capita GNI < \$935	(per capita GNI \$936-\$3705
	in 2007)	in 2007)
Afghanistan	Côte d'Ivoire	Albania
Angola	Ghana	Algeria
Bangladesh	Kenya	Armenia
Benin	Korea, Dem.Rep.	Azerbaijan
Bhutan	Kyrgyz Rep.	Bolivia
Burkina Faso	Nigeria	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Burundi	Pakistan	Cameroon
Cambodia	Papua New Guinea	Cape Verde
Central African Rep.	Tajikistan	China
Chad	Uzbekistan	Colombia
Comoros	Viet Nam	Congo, Rep.
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Zimbabwe	Dominican Republic
Djibouti		Ecuador
Equatorial Guinea		Egypt
Eritrea		El Salvador
Ethiopia		Georgia
Gambia		Guatemala
Guinea		Guyana
Guinea-Bissau		Honduras
Haiti		India
Kiribati		Indonesia
Laos		Iran
Lesotho		Iraq
Liberia		Jordan
Madagascar		Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of
Malawi		Marshall Islands
Maldives		Micronesia, Fed. States
Mali		Moldova
Mauritania		Mongolia
Mozambique		Morocco
Myanmar		Namibia
Nepal		Nicaragua
Niger		Niue
Rwanda		Palestinian Administered Areas
Samoa		Paraguay
Sao Tome & Principe		Peru
Senegal		Philippines
Sierra Leone		Sri Lanka
Solomon Islands		Swaziland
Somalia		Syria
Sudan		Thailand
Tanzania		Tokelau
Timor-Leste		Tonga
Togo		Tunisia
Tuvalu		Turkmenistan
Uganda		Ukraine
Vanuatu		Wallis & Futuna
Yemen		
Zambia		

Source: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) September 2008,

APPENDIX 2

Universities and Institutes in developing countries

(which signed an agreement or have a NPT-contract with the University of Groningen)

Country	Institution
Bangladesh	International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research
Benin	University of Benin
Brasil	University of São Paulo
Burkina Faso	Centre National de Recherche Scientifique et Technologique
	University Ouagadougou
China	Wuhan University
	Peking University
	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
	The East China University of Politics and Law
	Tsinghua University, Beijing
	Peking Union of Medicine College
	Fudan University, Shanghai
Egypt	The Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo
Eritrea	University of Asmara
Ghana	NCTE, NAB, NABPTEX
India	Delhi School of Economics
	Institute of Economic Research, Karnatak University, Dharwad
	Population Research Centre, Kerala University, Kerala
Indonesia	Universitas Indonesia
	Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta
	Universitas Katolik Parahyangan
	Airlangga University
	Institut Teknologi Bandung
	Universitas Surabaya (Ubaya)
	Universitas Gadjah Mada
	Universitas Hasanuddin
	Sam Ratulangi University
	Universitas Padjadjaran
Morocco	Universiteit Chouaib Doukkali
Mozambique	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane
Peru	University Peruana Cayetano Heredia
	University of Lima
Philippines	Balayan University of St. La Salle
Surinam	Anton de Kom University
Tanzania	Institute of Finance Management
	Mzumbe University
Uganda	Makerere University

Country	Institution
	Martyrs University
Vietnam	Can Tho University
	Hanoi University for Pharmacy
Zambia	Copperbelt University
	University of Lusaka
Zimbabwe	University of Harare

APPENDIX 3

Application form for PhD grants

Applications for grants may be submitted by academic supervisors of the University of Groningen and/or by the home institution/partner university in the developing country or by individuals from a developing country, provided that the application is endorsed by the academic supervisor in Groningen or in the developing country.

1. Applicant

- Position
- Address
- Postcode/city
- Telephone/fax

2. Project title

3. Project outline

4. Composition of the research group

- Supervisor in the Netherlands
- Supervisor or co-supervisor from home institution
- Researcher

5. Duration of the project

6. Detailed description of the project, including at least the following aspects – max. 5,000 words:

- a. scientific significance/innovative aspects
- b. research
- c. history of the project
- d. cooperation with other national and international universities/research groups

7. Detailed description of the relevance of the project for the development of the country involved, including at least the following aspects – max. 3,000 words:

- a. relation to development in that country
- b. capacity building of policy-related research
- c. scientific capacity building
- d. direct usefulness of expected results on local or macro level
- e. effectiveness of proposed dissemination of research results, both in scientific as well as in policy circles

8. Timetable of the project (by year and month)

9. Research locations

10. How and where will the results of the project be published

11. Previous publications of relevance to the project

12. Other sources of financial assistance

13. Researcher:

a.

- Name
- Address
- Date of birth
- Degrees
- Date of graduation
- University
- Fields of academic specialization
- Academic awards

b.

Qualifications relevant to the project (at least the following aspects)

- Former
- Actual and future activities concerning the research theme
- Scientific qualifications relevant to the project

c.

Other relevant information

15. Scientific networks involved

16. References

17. Signature of applicant

Place

Date

.....

.....

.....

18. Signature of professor from the University of Groningen

.....

19. Signature from the home institution or partner university

.....

APPENDIX 4

Tasks of the Scientific Committee

In line with the statutes of the Eric Bleumink Fund (EBF), the Board compiles a Scientific Committee whose responsibilities include advising the Board on scholarship applications.

The EBF recognizes four application categories:

1. *scholarships for students from developing countries*
2. *scholarships for young researchers from developing countries*
3. *scholarships for short-term visits by academics from universities in developing countries, with which the University of Groningen already has, or is going to establish, a cooperative relationship*
4. *the funding of other initiatives to reinforce cooperation with universities in developing countries*

Ad 1. *Scholarships for students from developing countries*: those who wish to follow part of their Master's training in Groningen. Applications for Master's training in a developing country may also be submitted, provided that at least part of the study programme will take place at the RUG. The scholarship grant will be awarded for a maximum period of two years. The Master's study degree programmes (such as the International Master's Programmes of the RUG) generally have their own admission and selection criteria and procedures to assess the suitability of candidates. The provision of advice on the suitability of candidates with regard to their participation in such study programmes is the responsibility of the programme supervisors.

In other cases, advice may be requested from the Scientific Committee. In that case, advice is requested on the suitability of the candidate in view of his or her study results and motivation.

Ad 2. *Scholarships for young researchers from developing countries*: those who wish to perform doctoral (PhD) research. The scholarship grant is awarded for a maximum of four years. The PhD research is preferably carried out in the form of a 'sandwich' construction, in which a part of the research is executed in the relevant developing country. A comprehensive research proposal should be submitted along with the application. In special cases, the first six months can be used to work out the PhD research proposal, in conjunction with the intended supervisor or other academic supervisor at the RUG. The application then has the status of a 'pre-proposal'.

The Scientific Committee is requested to provide an assessment of the quality of the pre-proposal and proposals and to advise the Board of the Eric Bleumink Fund on the desirability of honouring the application and/or reviewing it once more. The Scientific Committee bases its assessment and advice on the following criteria:

1. the academic quality of the research proposal, including the innovative nature of the research
2. developmental relevance
3. feasibility
4. adequate academic supervision
5. the suitability of the candidate

Ad 3. *Scholarships for short-term visits by academics*: from universities in developing countries with which the University of Groningen already has, or is going to establish, a cooperative relationship. The Scientific Committee may be asked for advice on the academic significance and the developmental relevance of the research to be performed or of other activities during the short-term stays.

Ad 4. *The funding of other initiatives to reinforce cooperation with universities in developing countries*: these applications are submitted to the Scientific Committee, which comments upon the academic significance and feasibility of the initiatives and the consequences for the RUG and the universities in the developing countries. The Scientific Committee may request expert advice from third parties.

The members of the Scientific Committee receive the minutes of the meetings of the Board of the EBF. The Scientific Committee may also provide advice, either on request or spontaneously, to the Board on general policy, priorities, criteria, presentation, etc.

For reasons of efficiency, the Scientific Committee of the EBF will have the same composition as the Scientific Committee of the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) of the RUG.