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Eric Bleumink Fund Talent Grant

Rules and regulations

Revised 29 March 2017



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1 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 has 10 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 fundamental research, the University also devotes a substantial part of its resources to the valorisation of research. Today, more than ever before, the University occupies a position at the heart of society.

The University of Groningen, with a current enrolment of over 30.000 students, provides one of the fullest ranges of academic and technical education available in the Netherlands. All faculties offer Master's and PhD programs 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 programs in Groningen, and their number is increasing annually.

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.



2 Eric Bleumink Fund

The main objective of the Eric Bleumink Fund, established on 23 May 2000, is to provide financial support to Master's students from the poorest developing countries who wish to pursue a Master's degree (see Appendix 1 for the names of these 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, the former President of the University.

Prof. Eric Bleumink retired as President on 24 May 2000. Other positions that he held include those of Rector Magnificus of the University and Dean 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.



3 Grants of the Eric Bleumink Fund

The funds raised by the Eric Bleumink Fund (EBF) are made available with the intention of: *providing grants to students from the least developed 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. The training of the candidates should make a contribution to increasing the academic capability of the country in question.

PLEASE NOTE: the Eric Bleumink Fund receives hundreds of applications each year and only four of them will be awarded with a scholarship.

3.1 Nomination criteria

Candidates for the Eric Bleumink Fund should:

1. Have obtained conditional admission to the program of choice (see: www.rug.nl/masters/alphabetical)
2. Have excellent academic performance, preferably to be confirmed by letters of recommendation
3. Have excellent grades during their bachelor/undergraduate studies;
4. Have excellent English language proficiency, in accordance with the admission requirements of the program of choice
5. Be available for the whole period of the programme and be able to take part in the entire programme
6. Be in good health, so that health insurance in the Netherlands can be arranged
7. Hold the nationality of a country appearing in Appendix 1.
8. Have no other means of financing the study in question

3.2 Criteria for selection by selection committee

The criteria for approval are:

1. The contribution of the candidate's education in terms of strengthening the scientific capacity in the candidate's home country.
2. The perspectives of contribution to long-term links between the university in the developing country and the University of Groningen are preferable.
3. A proper balance between male and female candidates.
4. Ranging over various disciplines (faculties).
5. Regional variety over different continents.
6. Motivation: it should be made clear by the applicant which requests for other funding have also been submitted (please submit copies of application forms).
7. Any other scholarship, offered simultaneously with the EBF Talent Grant, will not be allowed.
- 8.

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 any decision made by the Board.**



4 Nomination procedure

Please note:

It is not possible to actively apply for an Eric Bleumink Fund Talent Grant.

Suitable candidates will be informed about a nomination.

The University of Groningen **Admission Office**, in consultation with the Admission Boards of its faculties, will determine which applicants will be nominated for an Eric Bleumink Fund scholarship.

Only applicants that have received a (conditional) admission offer for a master programme before February can thus be considered. In order to allow for enough time to process the application to a master programme by the Admission Office, such a master application should be completed by the applicant **before 1st of December**.

A step-by-step overview of the nomination procedure

1. The Admission Office selects nominees in the **first week of January**, in accordance with the faculty's admission board.
2. Selected nominees are informed of their nomination and are requested to send an EBF motivation letter to the Admission Office **within one week**.
3. Nomination files are sent by the Admission Office to the EBF committee before the **1st of February**.
4. The EBF selection committee selects the EBF fellows and will inform all nominees of the outcome of the selection procedure before **1st of March**.

Note: If you have not been contacted by the Admission Office about an EBF nomination by 1st of February, this means that, unfortunately, you were not selected as one of the EBF nominees. Any further correspondence about this procedure is not possible.



5 The scholarship grant

Please note:

On behalf of the Eric Bleumink Fund, the Mobility and Scholarship Desk of the University of Groningen (in short: MSD) will take care of all the financial arrangements. For any questions, please contact MSD.

5.1 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. The Mobility and Scholarship Desk will arrange the flights and will reimburse the train tickets
- MSD will arrange travel insurance for their journey from their home town and back.

5.2 Arrival and accommodation in the Netherlands

- MSD will inform the EBF Fellow right after the selection and will give all information regarding the scholarship
- The University of Groningen will provide the EBF Fellows 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.
- MSD will give information on housing and will make advanced payments on your behalf, that should be reimbursed in due time
- EBF Fellows are obliged to report to the Foreign Police Department at the police headquarters. They must report within the time stated on the entry visa. The entry visa will be arranged by the International Students Desk of the university's Admissions Office. MSD will provide the money for 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.

5.3 Allowances

The allowances mentioned are applicable in the Netherlands. Different amounts apply if the student is studying or working in another country.

- The allowances for month m are paid at the end of the month $m-1$
- 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 program 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 program concerned.

Recipients are entitled to the following allowances:

- A living allowance of € 970 per month for food and accommodation, to be paid by the end of the month for the next month.
- A settling allowance of € 275 for extra expenses incurred when arriving in the Netherlands.



- Travel costs for the journey from Amsterdam Airport (Schiphol) to Groningen and back (by train 2nd class fare)
- A study allowance of € 310 per year for books and other study material.
- Tuition fees for the Master's program will be paid by the Eric Bleumink Fund

5.4 Extensions of the Fellowship

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

5.5 Expenses refund

- Occasional travel in the Netherlands in connection with the program will be refunded. Such travel has to be approved by the supervisor of the study program. This written approval should be sent to the Mobility and Scholarship Desk, before refund takes place
- In some cases, excursions or field trips may be refunded. Such excursions or trips has to be approved by the supervisor of the study program. This written approval should be sent to the Mobility and Scholarship Desk, before refund takes place.

5.6 Insurance

- Within the framework of the Eric Bleumink Fund, the EBF Fellows are insured through a private insurance company, at this moment the AON. *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 the Netherlands
- Costs not paid by the insurance must be paid by the recipient.



6 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 program.
- 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.
- The allowance will expire:
 - on the first day of the month, when graduation takes place on or before the 15th day of the month of graduation
 - on the first day of the following month, when graduation takes place the 16th day, or later, of the month of graduation.
- Recipients of fellowships must undertake, to the best of their ability, to follow and complete the program 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 program 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, by the acceptance of the grant, that they will return to their own countries at the end of the fellowship or at the end of the training program 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 program
 - e. withdraws from the program
 - f. fails to make the expected progress during the program
- 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.



7 Further information

The Eric Bleumink Fund is a named fund of the 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.

7.1 Eric Bleumink Fund

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

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

7.2 Eric Bleumink fund Talent Grant

For questions about the Eric Bleumink Fund Talent Grant, please contact:

Mobility and Scholarship Desk
University of Groningen
P.O. Box 72
9700 AB Groningen
The Netherlands
E-mail address: msd@rug.nl

7.3 General information about scholarships:

Please see <http://www.rug.nl/scholarships>



8 Appendix 1: DAC List of ODA Recipients - Least Developed Countries¹

Least Developed Countries <i>first preference (see appendix 2)</i>	Other Low Income Countries (per capita GNI <= \$1,045 in 2013) <i>second preference</i>	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI \$1 046-\$4 125 in 2013) <i>third preference</i>
Afghanistan	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Armenia
Angola	Kenya	Bolivia
Bangladesh	Tajikistan	Cabo Verde
Benin	Zimbabwe	Cameroon
Bhutan		Congo
Burkina Faso		Côte d'Ivoire
Burundi		Egypt
Cambodia		El Salvador
Central African Republic		Georgia
Chad		Ghana
Comoros		Guatemala
Democratic Republic of the Congo		Guyana
Djibouti		Honduras
Equatorial Guinea ¹		India
Eritrea		Indonesia
Ethiopia		Kosovo
Gambia		Kyrgyzstan
Guinea		Micronesia
Guinea-Bissau		Moldova
Haiti		Mongolia
Kiribati		Morocco
Lao People's Democratic Republic		Nicaragua
Lesotho		Nigeria
Liberia		Pakistan
Madagascar		Papua New Guinea
Malawi		Paraguay
Mali		Philippines
Mauritania		Samoa
Mozambique		Sri Lanka
Myanmar		Swaziland
Nepal		Syrian Arab Republic
Niger		Tokelau
Rwanda		Ukraine
Sao Tome and Principe		Uzbekistan
Senegal		Viet Nam

¹ Source: DAC list of ODA Recipients, Effective for Reporting on 2014, 2015 and 2016 flows, OECD 2014



Least Developed Countries <i>first preference (see appendix 2)</i>	Other Low Income Countries (per capita GNI <= \$1,045 in 2013) <i>second preference</i>	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI \$1 046-\$4 125 in 2013) <i>third preference</i>
Sierra Leone		West Bank and Gaza Strip
Solomon Islands		
Somalia		
South Sudan		
Sudan		
Tanzania		
Timor-Leste		
Togo		
Tuvalu		
Uganda		
Vanuatu		
Yemen		
Zambia		

Please note:

*The University of Groningen has signed agreements or NICHE-contracts with universities in **appendix 2**, talented prospect students of these universities will be preferred.*



9 Appendix 2: Universities and Institutes in least developed countries

(Which signed an agreement or have a NICHE-contract with the University of Groningen)

	Country	City	University
AFRICA	Angola	Luanda	Universidade Agostinho Neto
	Benin	Cotonou	L'Université Nationale de Benin
	Eritrea	Asmara	University of Asmara
	Madagascar	Antanarivo	Université d'Antanarivo
	Mozambique	Beira	Universidade Zambeze
		Maputo	Eduardo Mondlane University
			Universidade Pedagógica de Mocimboa do Reino
	Senegal	Dakar	Université Cheikh Anta Diop
	Tanzania	Dar el Salaam	Ifakara Health Institute
			Institute of Financial Management
			Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences
	Uganda	Morogoro	Mzumbe University
		Gulu	Gulu University
		Kyambogo	Kyambogo University
		Makarere	Makerere University
Mbarara		Mbarara University of Science and Technology	
Nkozi		Martyrs University	
Zambia	Lusaka	Zambian Higher Education and Research Network	
ASIA	Cambodia	Phnom Penh	University of Health Sciences
	Myanmar	Nay Pyi Daw	West Yangon Technological University
		Yangon	Medicine 1 University of Yangon

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