Frequently asked questions: M20 PhD Programme 2027

Submitting your proposal

1. **How will I know that my application has been processed successfully?**
   After submitting the project proposal through the application portal, you will receive a confirmation email on the email address listed under the main applicant.

2. **Is it possible to save the application form to fill in for later?**
   No, the application portal does not save your progress to be filled in later. Please be aware of this while submitting an application through the portal.

3. **When will I receive further updates about my proposal?**
   The UEF office will scan the proposal to verify whether it is eligible for an M20 PhD grant as soon as the application deadline has passed. You will be informed whether your project has passed the eligibility check or whether the UEF office needs additional information. Please check the timeline in the call document.

4. **Which documents do I need to submit to the application portal?**
   All applications must contain a filled in application form, which can be downloaded directly from the UEF website. Applications that do not follow the fixed format will not be considered for funding.
   If the main applicant is a (recently graduated) student, a statement of enrolment or graduation must be included in the application as a separate PDF. Additionally, an academic CV of the prospective PhD candidate must be included as well.

5. **Is there a proposal template?**
   The proposal template can be downloaded directly from the UEF website. Any proposals that do not adhere to this format will not be considered. The completed proposal must be submitted via the application portal.

6. **How to use references in the proposal?**
   Either use text citations or upload a bibliography in the annex.

7. **Can changes be made to the proposal after it is submitted to the portal?**
   Once you have submitted your proposal, no changes can be made.

Themes

8. **Is it possible to submit a proposal outside of the suggested themes?**
   The proposal should address (at least) one of the research themes of one of the four Schools for Science and Society. Proposals that do not align with the research agendas of the schools will not be considered for funding. When submitting a proposal, please indicate which school best aligns with the content of the project.

9. **Are there any thematic areas that are excluded from the M20 program?**
   Due to the terms and conditions of the donation for the M20 program, proposals that focus on the study of religion are excluded. The exclusion only relates to the contents of the proposal, it does not mean that supervisors/candidates from the Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society are excluded. All other thematic areas are welcome, given that they align with the research agendas of the Schools for Science and Society.

Applying as a prospective PhD candidate

10. **What are the requirements for proposals that include a (research) master student?**
    The M20 program is open to proposals that include a (research) master student as a co-applicant. This is only possible for students from the University of Groningen, including students who are still in the process of obtaining their degree. In this situation, the student must find at least two suitable supervisors before submitting their application with the same general rules: at least one of the supervisors needs to possess *ius promovendus* and at least two different faculties must be represented by the supervisory team.

11. **Who should submit a proposal that includes a (research) master student?**
    In the case that the proposal has a prospective PhD candidate, this person must be the main applicant and must list the proposed supervisors as co-applicants.

12. **Can I submit a proposal with a regular MA or MSc degree?**
    Yes, prior editions of the M20 PhD programme only allowed research master students to be involved in the application process. This process has changed to include all RUG master students (including recently graduated students).

13. **What is the cutoff point for recently graduated students?**
    UG graduates may apply for an M20 PhD grant if they have graduated within three years of the application deadline (i.e., no earlier than February 2024).

Rules & Regulations

14. **Is it mandatory that one of the supervisors must possess *ius promovendus*?**
    Each proposal must include at least one supervisor who has *ius promovendus*. Applications submitted without a supervisor who has *ius promovendus* status will not be considered.

15. **The research should be interdisciplinary, how many faculties should be involved?**
    Each proposal should include supervisors from at least two different faculties. It is possible to include more than two faculties in a proposal.

16. **I am interested in combining a PhD with an MD trajectory, is this possible with an M20 grant?**
    The M20 PhD grant does not allow for the combination of an MD/PhD trajectory.

17. **Is there a maximum number of supervisors per proposal?**
    University of Groningen regulations stipulate that a maximum of three supervisors may be involved in a PhD trajectory. However, for proposals involving more than three supervisors, the Dean of the Faculty Graduate School where the PhD student will be enrolled must give permission to allow for more supervisors.

18. **Can I submit more than one proposal within the call for proposals?**
    Prospective PhD candidates may not be involved in more than one proposal.
    One supervisor may be involved with more than one proposal, but we advise to avoid this.

19. **Should the applicants be members of the relevant Schools?**
    The applicants do not need to be linked to the Schools at the time of application.

20. **Is it possible to submit an application if I am not employed at the University of Groningen?**
    All applicants must be members of staff or (recently graduated) master students at the University of Groningen. Applications by external individuals will not be considered.

21. **When submitting our proposal do we need to have a PhD candidate appointed?**
    It is not required to have a prospective PhD candidate appointed before the grant is awarded, though the committees will extend their preference to projects submitted by prospective PhD candidates.

22. **When does the PhD candidate have to start the project?**
    All candidates must be able and willing to start by 1 December 2027. Supervisors must keep this in mind when no prospective PhD candidate is involved in the proposal and a recruitment process must be initiated.