



# The University of Groningen & Mexico

## Are you interested in a PhD?

The University of Groningen (UG) may be the place for you! UG (founded 1614) is one of the largest comprehensive research universities in the Netherlands with about 35 thousand bachelor & master students and more than two thousand PhD candidates. UG consistently ranks among the Top-100 of the world's best universities (ARWU Shanghai & THE World University). UG has a broad offer of teaching and research programs at eleven faculties, ranging from Health Sciences, Life Sciences, and Science & Technology to the Social Sciences & Humanities.

We are always interested in talented PhD students in any of those broader fields mentioned. UG and the Mexican Council for Science & Technology (CONACYT) have an agreement to co-fund selected Mexican PhD students.

## PhD in numbers

In 2021, a record number of nearly 650 students successfully defended their PhD thesis at UG (number 1 in The Netherlands!). Approximately 50% of the PhD population is international and the large majority of PhD theses is written and defended in English. In those cases, no knowledge of Dutch is required. Currently, we are home to more than fifty Mexican PhD students.

## Admission to a PhD

In the Netherlands, only research universities may award PhD degrees and they do so based on their institutional accreditation as per Dutch law. This means that there are no separately accredited PhD programs as there are in Mexico. Instead, your admission to a UG doctoral program is based on two main criteria:

- › the availability of research expertise in the field of your interest, and the pre-acceptance by a supervisor affiliated to UG;
- › the availability of funding for the duration of your PhD program (about 4 years for a full PhD program).

## How do I locate a supervisor?

In order to locate a researcher with expertise in your field:

- › review the UG website [www.rug.nl](http://www.rug.nl) (all fields) or [www.groningenbiomed.com/conacyt](http://www.groningenbiomed.com/conacyt) (for biomedical/health sciences) and contact a potential supervisor;
- › if you need help or have questions, contact Joyce Fongers via [j.e.fongers@rug.nl](mailto:j.e.fongers@rug.nl) with an English-language CV and a summary of your research project/interests and the name of any potential supervisor you may already have identified yourself



## Funding

UG was the first Dutch university to sign an agreement with CONACYT for the funding of Mexican PhD students, already in 2009. Since then, Groningen has hosted many Mexican students with a CONACYT PhD scholarship. We expect this number only to increase, in particular because of the close collaboration with Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), including our double degree PhD program.

UG is unique in The Netherlands because it provides admitted PhD students with a top-up of their scholarships (conditions apply): externally funded doctoral students currently receive a combined total of nearly €2.000 per month! In practice, this means that all Mexican PhD students admitted to UG and who successfully acquire a CONACYT grant for full PhD studies abroad will receive at least €650 extra per month from UG.

## The Strategic Partnership Groningen & UNAM

The University of Groningen and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México have a strong collaboration in research & education, including a double degree (DD) PhD program. In 2019, UG opened its first international representative office at UNAM. If you are enrolled in an UNAM PhD program, you may be eligible to apply to our DD PhD program. Contact our representative Luis Andrés González (below) for more information.

## More information?

- › General information & matching with potential supervisors:  
Joyce Fongers, [j.e.fongers@rug.nl](mailto:j.e.fongers@rug.nl)
- › General information & information on the collaboration with UNAM:  
Luis Andrés González Gutiérrez, [l.a.gonzalez.gutierrez@rug.nl](mailto:l.a.gonzalez.gutierrez@rug.nl)
- › Contact with a former Mexican student who obtained her PhD from Groningen:  
Andrea Monroy, [a.monroy.gonzalez@umcg.nl](mailto:a.monroy.gonzalez@umcg.nl)

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