

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS – CONACYT FULL PHD 2023

In the 2023 call for applications to the “*doctorado en el extranjero*” CONACYT requests specific information that may require the input of the relevant Graduate School and/or supervisor(s) at the University of Groningen. The below information clarifies some of the doubts applicants to the PhD program of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences (GSMS) may have. Note that the information below only concerns those parts of the application that may require input from the University of Groningen.

1. General requirements

- a. Submit a Letter of Acceptance (LoA) provided by the GSMS
- b. Submit a PhD project proposal, signed by the applicant & supervisor (max. 10 pp.);

Ad a) The GSMS ensures that the LoA fulfills the requirements set by CONACYT. In order to be able to issue the LoA, the UMCG supervisor should provide the GSMS with the information as requested on our website www.groningenbiomed.com/conacyt.

Ad b) A requirement for admission to the GSMS is that you (or your supervisor on your behalf) submit a research proposal for your PhD project. Considering that this is also a requirement of CONACYT, we suggest you use the research proposal template available for download [on our website](#) to avoid double work. If needed, you may adjust the GSMS template (i.e. add or delete sections), to ensure that you meet CONACYT requirements.

Note that as of 2023, it is a hard requirement to **submit proof of proficiency in English**, as part of your admission to the GSMS PhD program. Minimum score tests: TOEFL iBT 92 (minimum skill score 20) or IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum band score of 6.0 on each individual part); TOEFL iBT Home Edition tests are acceptable.

2. Specific requirements

- a. Fill out the field with information on the name of the PhD program (field: “*programa de estudios*”)
- b. Fill out the table “*Estructura Curricular*” with information on courses you will take per semester
- c. Information on tuition for our PhD program and the CONACYT-Groningen fee waiver policy
- d. A document that the language of instruction is different from the national language in The Netherlands

Ad a) We suggest that you fill out this field with “**PhD at the Graduate School of Medical Sciences**”. In the Netherlands, unlike in Mexico and many other countries, we do not have individually accredited PhD programs (e.g. in “Biology”, “Engineering”, “Chemistry”, etc.). Instead, the University of Groningen is allowed to award PhD degrees based on its institutional accreditation as one of a very limited number of research universities as established per Dutch law. Each PhD student at the University of Groningen is enrolled at one of our “Graduate Schools” depending on the affiliation of your PhD supervisor. In the case of a supervisor at the University Medical Center Groningen, you will be registered at the GSMS.

Ad b) A PhD in The Netherlands is output-based rather than course-based, and we have a flexible approach to the courses you may take. In general, you and your supervisor decide on this and do so in accordance with the needs of your development and research project. Many students take about 30 EC of courses during their PhD (1 EC represents a workload of about 28 hours, one semester is 30 EC). In regards to filling out this section, **we recommend two things:**

1. Discuss with your supervisor a **tentative schedule for courses** you will take (but mention these are tentative!) in each semester. For this, you may use the PhD Study Guide available for download on www.groningenbiomed.com
2. Make reference in the table to the **expected progress of your research project** per semester, as for example copied from a Gantt chart that is likely to be part of your PhD project proposal (see 1b).

Ad c) The GSMS will issue a **standard information letter** regarding official fees and waivers.

Ad d) The GSMS will issue a **standard letter** that the language of instruction for the PhD program is English.