

PhD Scholarship (1.0 fte) at University of Groningen / Campus Fryslân:

Theory and technology for remote neurological examination

Organization

Founded in 1614, the University of Groningen enjoys an international reputation as a dynamic and innovative institution of higher education offering high-quality teaching and research. Flexible study programmes and academic career opportunities in a wide variety of disciplines encourage the 31,000 students and researchers alike to develop their own individual talents. As one of the best research universities in Europe, the University of Groningen has joined forces with other top universities and networks worldwide to become a truly global centre of knowledge.

Campus Fryslân is the ambitious eleventh and newest faculty of the University of Groningen, located in Leeuwarden. Campus Fryslân is an interdisciplinary faculty that works closely together with regional, national and international partners on worldwide (sustainability) challenges and local solutions. The sustainable development goals of the United Nations thus serve as an important guideline.

We offer challenging bachelor's, master's and PhD degree programmes. The research institute covers four research domains: Governance, Sustainable Economy, Culture, Language & Technology and Health & Food. In the summer of 2019, Campus Fryslân has moved to the new faculty building De Beurs: the first all-electric, monumental educational building in the Netherlands.

Scholarship opportunity

The University of Groningen offers a four-year PhD student scholarship opportunity to complete a dissertation on a topic related to "Theory and technology for remote neurological examination". The PhD candidate will be supervised by Prof Valentina Gallo and will be a member of the "Health and Food" Flagship team at Campus Fryslân, which is comprised of several PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and interdisciplinary staff.

The PhD candidate will be enrolled in the Graduate School Campus Fryslân (GSCF) and can benefit from affiliations at other faculties at the University of Groningen (Aletta Jacob School of Public Health, among others depending on the scope of the project). If interested, the PhD candidate could also have a role to play in the new Master's program in Health and Sustainability currently under development.

Topics of interest for the doctoral research include (but are not limited to):

- *Generation of an algorithm for effectively assess the neurological function of a person optimizing time, resources, and number of tests*
- *Study of software and/or devices which could help automating some of the tests collecting data in real time (i.e. for tremor)*
- *Generation of an app to be used by trained health workers (non-neurologists)*
- *Validation of the app with neurological impaired patients with different conditions*

Of particular interest are proposals that consider optimizing data collection in a standardized way in low-resource settings.

Interdisciplinary proposals that involve expertise from neuroscience (clinical manifestation of the nervous system impairment), the IT/engineering field (software and technological device development) and/or some data management and analysis are very welcome.

Qualifications

Please add and change where necessary

The candidate should have the following qualifications:

- Undergraduate degree in medicine or neuroscience or related disciplines;
- Master's degree in neuroscience or related disciplines;
- Very good record of undergraduate and graduate studies;
- Research experience is an asset;
- Some experience of data management and analysis;
- App and/or device development experience or knowledge are an advantage;
- Highly developed conceptual capacity and analytical skills;
- Very good command of spoken and written English;
- Very good individual and collaborative working skills;
- Presentation skills;
- Planning and organizing skills;
- Strong motivation to complete a PhD dissertation in four years.

Conditions

The PhD Scholarship student will be enrolled in the PhD Scholarship Programme and receives a scholarship of €2,181 per month (gross) from the University of Groningen. For more information on the RUG PhD scholarship programme and its benefits please check the website at <https://www.rug.nl/education/phd-programmes/phd-scholarship-programme/conditions-application/>.

The PhD Scholarship contract is offered for four years. A successful candidate will first be offered a temporary contract of one year with the option of renewal for another three years. Prolongation of the contract is contingent on sufficient progress in the first year to indicate that a successful completion of the PhD thesis within the contract period is to be expected.

A PhD training programme is part of the agreement and the successful candidate will be enrolled in the Graduate School of the Faculty. As part of the programme, the PhD student will take part in the Career Perspectives Series, which provides a thorough preparation on the career after the PhD, inside or outside academia. During the course of the doctorate, the student will develop research and teaching competencies as well as leadership skills. For this, the PhD students will receive a tailor-made programme from the GSCF.

Application

Candidates may apply for this opportunity before June 15th 2020 Central European Time by using the Apply button.

Candidates must submit the following documents:

- a recent curriculum vitae;
- a motivational letter of a maximum of two A4 pages;
- a copy of your diplomas with a list of course grades;
- reference letters from two academic referees;
- A research proposal of up to 2000 words, covering state of the art, main research question, key objectives, and relevance, the proposed (methodological) approach, a brief description of the relevant literature, and a provisional timetable;
- a writing sample of no more than 5000 words, e.g. an essay or part of a Master's thesis.

Please provide the documents in pdf format.

Interviews will be scheduled in June 2020. Candidates may be asked to give a presentation.

The intended starting date is 1 September 2020. An earlier start is possible by mutual consent.

Unsolicited marketing is not appreciated.

Information

For information about the PhD scholarships offered contact

Supervisor's information

Dr J. Houtman, coordinator Graduate School Campus Fryslân, j.houtman@rug.nl.

Information about the University of Groningen (www.rug.nl) and the Faculty Campus Fryslân (www.rug.nl/cf) is available at internet.

Please do not use the above e-mail addresses for application.