



rijksuniversiteit  
groningen

## Student Entrepreneurship Scheme

The Board of the University is committed to supporting students who start up, manage, or operate a business during their academic career. For this reason, the Board of the University has adopted the UG Student Entrepreneurship Scheme (SOR).

The Student Entrepreneurship Scheme offers a support framework for student entrepreneurs at the University of Groningen (UG). The scheme recognizes the unique needs of students who own and operate a business during their academic career, and outlines the benefits and responsibilities that come with qualifying as a student entrepreneur.

### Definitions

- *Student entrepreneur*: a student who has been granted student entrepreneur status by the Coordinator, balancing business endeavours with academic commitments.
- *Coordinator*: the Head of the UG's Incubator. The role of Coordinator of the Student Entrepreneurship Scheme has been assigned to the Head of the UG's Incubator. The Coordinator monitors policy implementation and provides guidance and support to student entrepreneurs where possible and needed.
- *Accommodations*: flexible class scheduling and exam arrangements to allow the student entrepreneur to undertake business activities, as granted on behalf of the relevant faculty board or by the relevant board of examiners.

### Criteria

To qualify for student entrepreneur status, a student is required to:

- Be enrolled at the UG as a full-time student.
- Have received a positive study advice for said degree.
- Have registered their business with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce (or a similar foreign organization).
- Provide the Coordinator with a business plan outlining business, market, and financial information.

### Application procedure

A student can apply for student entrepreneur status by sending an email to the Coordinator on [entrepreneurship@rug.nl](mailto:entrepreneurship@rug.nl). Together with the application, the student is expected to submit proof of registration with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce or a similar foreign organization, a recent transcript listing completed courses, proof of full-time enrolment, and the required business plan. Within five working days, the applicant will be invited to an interview with the Coordinator, who will review the application based on the submitted documents and the interview.

Support: if the student has not already done so, the student is expected to contact the study advisor of the degree programme when submitting its application for student entrepreneur status.

### **Duration and renewal**

The status will be granted for the academic year in which the application is made, subject to renewal every academic year. The student entrepreneur will engage with the Coordinator at the start of each academic year as a minimum, at which point the Coordinator will review whether to continue or discontinue the status.

### **Review**

A student will qualify for student entrepreneur status if the following conditions are met:

1. Enrolment at the UG as a full-time student.
2. Has received a positive study advice for a degree.
3. Business registration with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce (or a similar foreign organization).
4. Realistic and substantial business plan.
5. Significant time commitment to the business.
6. Significant conflict with academic responsibilities.

The interview with the Coordinator can serve to clear up, and elaborate on, any of the above aspects. The status decision will be communicated to the student in writing within four weeks of the interview date.

### **Possible accommodations**

Students with student entrepreneur status potentially qualify for the following flexible arrangements:

- Academic exemption or optional attendance
- Additional exam attempts
- Alternative assessment
- Adjusted deadlines
- Integration of business activities in degree programme, e.g. self-directed internship

Students qualifying as student entrepreneurs can apply for flexible class scheduling and exam arrangements with their Programme Director or Board of Examiners, respectively. The Programme Director (acting on behalf of the Faculty Board) or the Board of Examiners will review whether there is scope for customization without compromising the learning outcomes of the course and the degree programme's final assessment. In addition, student entrepreneurs are always expected to discuss changes to their academic progression plan with their study advisor.

### **End of status**

Revoked by Coordinator:

If the annual review should show that a student entrepreneur no longer meets the criteria or fails to fulfil their responsibilities, the Coordinator may decide to revoke their student entrepreneur status.

Surrendered by student:

Student entrepreneurs are free to surrender their student entrepreneur status at any time by so notifying the Coordinator.

*Adopted by the Board of the University of Groningen in its meeting of 16 July 2024.*