



university of  
groningen

faculty of behavioural  
and social sciences

research master behavioural  
and social sciences

28-09-2023 | 1

# Research Master Behavioural and Social Sciences

**Prof. Dr. Rafaele Huntjens**

Director Graduate School Behavioural & Social Sciences

**Oliver Eksteins**

Student Research Master Behavioural & Social Sciences





# Research Master Behavioural and Social Sciences

Prepare for a research-based or a scientist-practitioner career,  
in an academic and/or applied environment





## Next step after graduation:

Alumni of graduation years 2005-2022

All (n= 319)	%
PhD student	62
Researcher	7
Professional career	18
Trainee/student	4
Unknown	9





## Examples of non-PhD positions



- > Researcher at ...  
a university, SCP (Social and cultural planning agency), TNO (research institute), organisation for addiction care, company aimed at research
- > Professional career as ...  
data scientist, clinical psychologist (GZ-opleiding of basispsycholoog), assistant trader at insurance company, consultant
- > Trainee position at ...  
Gasunie, ministry of education



# Location/ type of PhD positions

PhD positions (n=198)	% (of total alumni)
RuG – BSS	57 (36)
RuG – other faculty than BSS	9 (6)
Dutch institution – non-RuG	13 (8)
International	21 (13)

Year	Program
1	Bachelor
2	
3	
4	Research Master
5	
6	PhD
7	
8	
9	





# Research Master Behavioural and Social Sciences

## Researcher in Behavioural and Social Sciences

### Academic research

In a national and/or international university:  
assistant / associate / full professor

### Applied research

- Clinical: science practitioner
- Government: policy researcher
- Independent research organisation: e.g., TNO, CITO
- Industry: consultant, test or journal publisher



# Research Master Behavioural and Social Sciences

## Characteristics:

- Two-year, English taught program
- Research oriented, firm methodological basis
- High degree of specialization possible
- Training in multidisciplinary perspectives

Preparing students to function as specialists in a multidisciplinary context



# Research Master Behavioural and Social Sciences

Based on your interests you choose one **multidisciplinary theme** (at entrance), and (optionally) a **specialization** (during the programme)

## 1. Mental health: Perspectives from Neuro- and Clinical Psychology

What are the mechanisms involved in psychopathological and brain disorders?

## 2. Lifespan Development and Socialization

How do individuals develop across their lifespan?

## 3. Understanding Societal Change

How do individuals and groups adapt to the changing world?

*See videos of each theme on our website!*

<http://www.rug.nl/masters/behavioural-and-social-sciences-research/>





# Research Master Behavioural and Social Sciences

Based on your interests you choose  
one **multidisciplinary theme** (at entrance), and  
(optionally) one **specialization** (during the programme)

## 1. Mental health: Perspectives from Neuro- and Clinical Psychology

**Specializations:** Clinical Neuropsychology\* | Clinical Psychology\* | Psychometrics and Statistics

## 2. Lifespan Development and Socialization

**Specializations:** Developmental Psychology | Pedagogical and Educational Sciences | Orthopedagogy\* | Psychometrics and Statistics | Sociology

## 3. Understanding Societal Change

**Specializations:** Environmental Psychology | Organizational Psychology | Psychometrics and Statistics | Social psychology | Sociology

\* Option to qualify for a postdoctoral clinical training program (e.g., 'GZ-opleiding')



<b>Research Master BSS - Modules</b>			<b>EC</b>
How to Theorize			2.5
Reflecting on science and integrity			7.5
How to write an effective research proposal			5
Multidisciplinary research in action			5
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Advanced statistics			7.5
Applied statistics			10
Methods course (select one, Multilevel analysis, Statistical modelling of single cases, Qualitative Research methods, Structural Equation Modelling, Statistical Analysis of Social Networks)			5
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Seminars			2.5
<b>Theme specific</b>			
<b>Mental health: Perspectives from Neuro- and Clinical Psychology</b>	<b>Lifespan Development and Socialization</b>	<b>Understanding Societal Change</b>	
MH: A multidimensional perspective	Lifespan development	Theorizing change	15
MH: Advanced Research Methods	Modelling interactions between persons and variables over time	From problem analysis to intervention design	
Clinical interventions and e-health for adults and youth OR Neuropsychological assessment	Socialization		
<b>Specialisation</b>			
Elective modules			20 (10)
Traineeship (or: Clinical traineeship)			10 (20)
Master's thesis			30



**Elective modules, ordered per Specialization – most modules are open to ALL ReMa students**

**Clinical neuropsychology**

- Research in Clinical neuropsychology
- Literature study

**Clinical psychology**

- Experimental psychopathology
- Evidence-based interventions

**Developmental psychology**

- Complexity, dynamics and development
- Development, learning and instruction
- Research in Clinical neuropsychology

**Environmental Psychology**

- Environmental psychology
- Literature Study

**Organizational psychology**

- Researching power and leadership
- Understanding working life: Major Theories and Research Trends in Organizational Psychology

**Orthopedagogy**

- Contextualized Assessments & Interventions
- Development Learning & Instruction

**Pedagogical and Educational Sciences**

- Development, learning and instruction
- Literature study

**Psychometrics & statistics**

- Multilevel analysis
- Statistical analysis of social networks
- Statistical modelling of single cases
- Structural equation modelling

**Social psychology**

- Cultural psychology
- Diversity in society: current issues and challenges

**Sociology**

- Economics and society: Critical transitions in Advanced Industrialised Societies
- Solidarity and social contexts

**All**

- Literature study

**Courses not related to a specialization:**

- Qualitative Research Methods
- Writing in English



# Traineeship

**Research** (10 ECTS): learn and practise conduct of scientific research

- internal
- external, at another university or research institute

Or

**Clinical** (20 ECTS): diagnostic and treatment skills

- in a mental health setting
- only for students specialising in clinical psychology, clinical neuropsychology or orthopedagogy
- you need to apply at a mental health institution – they decide whether to accept you
- requirement to qualify for postdoctoral clinical training program

Please note: clinical traineeship for non-Dutch speaking students are difficult to find/ organize.





# Master's thesis

## Complete research project

- From selecting your research topic to reporting your results, and all steps in between



### Examples of external projects:

- *Austin, U.S.A.*, about wellbeing of lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) individuals
- *Centre of Social and Cultural Psychology in Leuven*, about cultural differences in emotion practices
- *Vodafone Headquarters Düsseldorf, Germany*, involving data analysis of an employee survey about leadership and job satisfaction
- *RIEC Noord-Nederland, The Netherlands*, about subsidy fraud



# Teaching staff

All affiliated with the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences at the University of Groningen

- Renowned researchers, inspiring teachers

List at:

<https://www.rug.nl/research/gradschool-behavioural-and-social-sciences/research-master/academic-staff->



# Mental health: Perspectives from Neuro- and Clinical Psychology

## Prof. dr. Marieke Pijnenborg

Discipline: Clinical neuropsychology, psychiatry

Expertise: Psychotic disorders

Education: PhD, GZ-psychologist

Position: Head of research department of psychotic disorders GGZ Drenthe





# Lifespan Development and Socialization

## Prof. dr. Tina Kretschmer



Discipline: Pedagogy

Expertise: Young people's development in the social context

Projects: ERC Starting Grant:

CAPE – Consequences of Adolescent Peer Experiences  
across Social Contexts and Generations

ERC Consolidator Grant:

PAR2 - A new science of parenthood, which focuses on  
the question of how people change when they become  
parents

see <https://kretschmertina.wordpress.com>





## Understanding Societal Change

# Prof. dr. Rafael Wittek



Discipline: Sociology

Expertise: Sociology of organizations, sociology of work,  
sociological theory, economic sociology

Project: SCOOP - Sustainable Cooperation:  
Roadmaps to a Resilient Society  
See [www.scoop-program.org](http://www.scoop-program.org)



## Understanding Societal Change

### Prof. dr. Linda Steg

Discipline: Social psychology  
Expertise: Environmental psychology,  
sustainable energy transition



Known worldwide as one of the most innovative and influential pioneers within the field of environmental psychology.

Large scale projects, aiming to understand how to realise a sustainable energy. She made important contributions to the latest IPCC report on climate change.

2020 Stevin award



# Research Master Behavioural and Social Sciences

## Facilities for research master students

- High quality training, active participation in research groups
- Individual supervision by internationally renowned researchers
- Each student offered a research assistantship (paid, 4 hours/week, max. 9 months in total)
- Scholarships: Talent grant for non-EU students





# Research Master Behavioural and Social Sciences

## Requirements:

1. Qualifications that support the expectation of successful completion of the program (e.g., above average grades, i.e., weighted average BA grade of at least 7.5 or equivalent).
2. Motivation and interest to pursue a career in research.
3. Sufficient knowledge of the English language
4. Application before May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

For details on entry requirement, see:

<https://www.rug.nl/masters/behavioural-and-social-research/#!requirements>





## Research Master or Master program at BSS RUG?

> **Mental health: Perspectives from Neuro- and Clinical Psychology**

**Specializations:** Clinical Neuropsychology | Clinical Psychology | Psychometrics and Statistics

> **Lifespan Development and Socialization**

**Specializations:** Developmental Psychology | Orthopedagogy | Pedagogical and Educational Sciences | Psychometrics and Statistics | Sociology

> **Understanding Societal Change**

**Specializations:** Environmental Psychology | Organizational Psychology | Psychometrics and Statistics | Social psychology | Sociology

- > Clinical Forensic Psychology and Victimology
- > Clinical Neuropsychology/Klinische Neuropsychologie
- > Klinische Psychologie

- > Learning in interaction
- > Onderwijsinnovatie
- > Ethics of Education: philosophy, history and law
- > Youth 0-21, Society and Policy
- > Sociologie

- > Applied Social Psychology
- > Environmental Psychology
- > Sociologie
- > Work, Organizational, and Personnel Psychology
- > Talent Development and Creativity



## Research Master or Master program?

- > Two-year program
- > A research perspective on theoretical and practical issues
- > Firm training in advanced methodology, statistics and science theory
- > Multidisciplinary perspectives
- > Specialization
- > One-year program
- > A research perspective on practical issues
- > Some training in methodology and statistics
- > Focus on specialization



# Research Master Behavioural and Social Sciences

## Interested?

- Check our website:  
<http://www.rug.nl/masters/behavioural-and-social-sciences-research/>  
including a blog of recent graduates
- Questions: ask after this presentation
- Or contact the Graduate School BSS via rem





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# A Student Perspective on the Research Master Behavioural and Social Sciences

Oliver Eksteins

<http://www.rug.nl/masters/behavioural-and-social-sciences-research/>



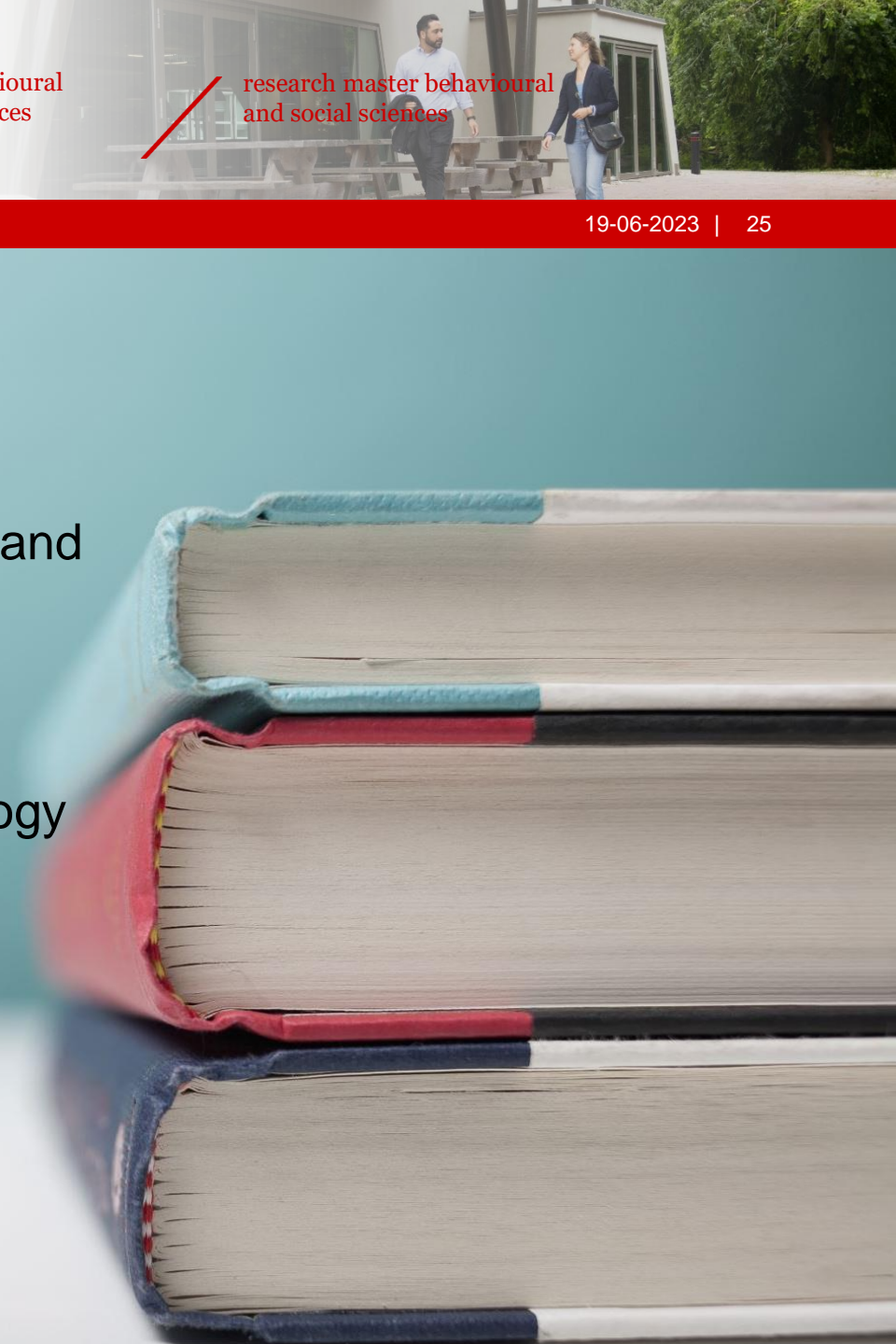


# About me:

- Second-year ReMa student
- Theme: Lifespan Development and Socialization

## Research interests

- Complexity Science in Psychology
- Positive psychology, meaning in life





# How did I get here?

- Bachelor in Philosophy (psychology minor)
- Wanted to pursue a psychology Master program
- Found the ReMa through online search
- Became enthusiastic about the potential





# Why did I choose the ReMa?

Being able to do research and also learn practical clinical skills and knowledge

And also:

- Small-group education
- Working closely with staff
- Traineeship Opportunities
- Statistical and methodology training
- A challenge!
- Broader career options





# Experiences until now:

- Year 1: intense, but very rewarding and interesting
- Research Assistantship
- Close contact with peers
- Year 2: Research Traineeship + MA thesis





# Only for doing a PhD?

- > No, as long as you are interested in research and you love to learn new things, it is great.
- > But if you want to do a PhD, this program provides excellent preparation.







# Questions?

Contact me!

[o.eksteins@student.rug.nl](mailto:o.eksteins@student.rug.nl)



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## Research Master Behavioural and Social Sciences

Contact: [rema.bss@rug.nl](mailto:rema.bss@rug.nl)

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# Research Master Behavioural and Social Sciences

## Labour market of PhD holders



Labour participation among all PhD holders, aged 25-60: 95%  
In a research position: 82%

### Sectors:

- University/ higher education: 27%
- Industry/ business: 37%
- Private non-profit: 27%

