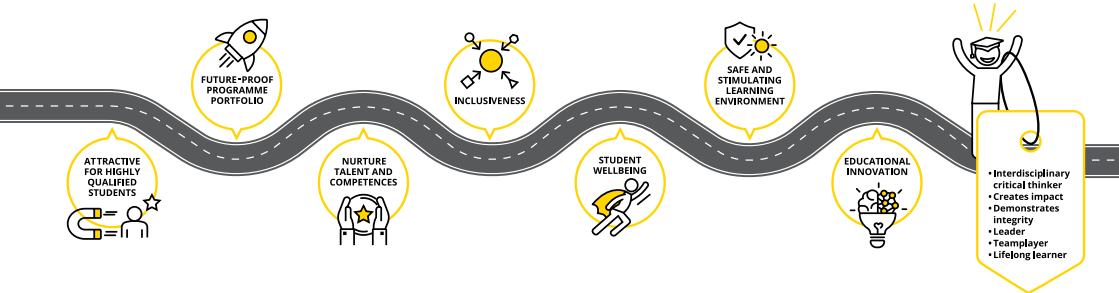




# Annual review 2021-2022\*

## Graduate School of Life Sciences



**Our mission is to improve life, by providing an inspiring and innovative academic environment that enables our graduates to thrive in the dynamics of life sciences and society.**



Utrecht University



UMC Utrecht

\* for master academic year 2021-2022, for PhD calendar year 2022

**Organised by**  
 Faculty of Science  
 Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
 Faculty of Medicine (UMC Utrecht)

**Affiliated partners**  
 Hubrecht Institute  
 Princess Máxima Center

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**16** MSc Programmes

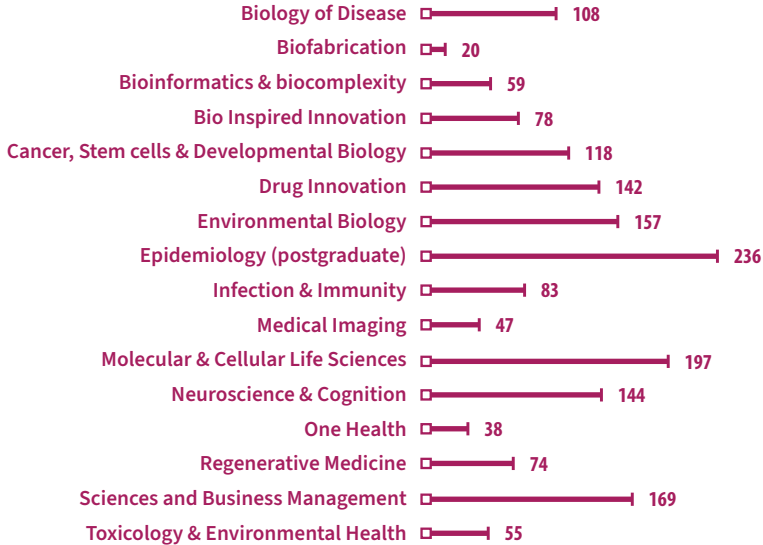
**15** PhD Programmes



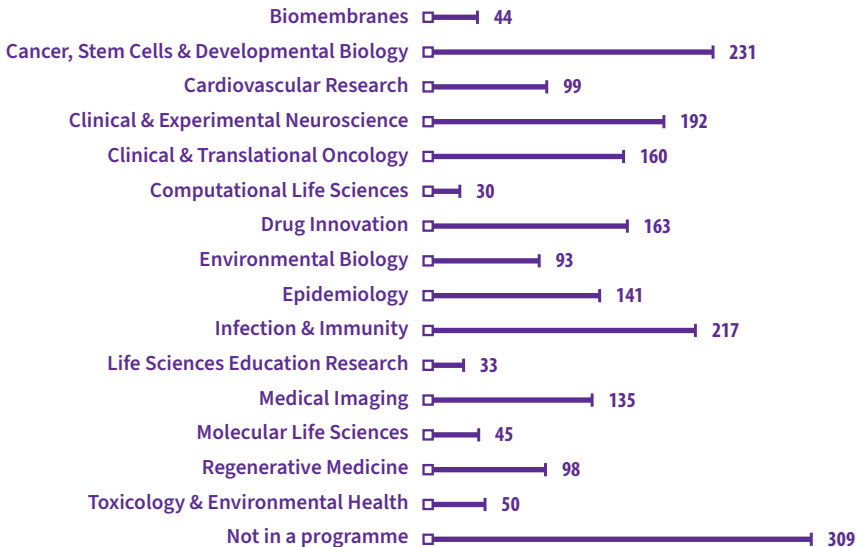
**1.725** active MSc students

**2.040** active PhD candidates

## Master's Programmes number of active students



## PhD Programmes number of active candidates





## Master in numbers

**2.247** Applications

**597** Starters

**30%** Internationals

**190** Programme courses

**27** GSLS elective courses

**8** Profiles within programmes

Up to **96** EC individual research

**429** (40 cum laude) MSc Degrees

## Highlights Master

### Admissions

- ☑ **Continuous high interest of students** in Life Sciences programmes; higher numbers of visitors to (online) open days and increased numbers of applications, also internationally.
- ☑ Optimization of an **assessment matrix** for a fair, transparent and evidence-based selection process.

### Curriculum content

- ☑ Masters *Toxicology and Environmental Health* and *One health* were merged into a **new master's programme *Health and Environment***.
- ☑ Successful start of two new profiles of 33 EC each: *Life Sciences and Society* and *Translational Life Sciences*.
- ☑ **New academic skills courses:** *Logical argumentation in science: publishing, proposals* and *pitching* and *Introduction in designing and teaching in higher education*.
- ☑ New courses to reduce the use of lab animals in electives: *Better science with less animals* and *Replacing animal testing challenge*.

### Educational and policy procedures

- ☑ Projects on **improvement of quality assurance**; new quality assurance plan, optimized evaluation system and new tool for project approval.
- ☑ The newly designed online **step by step guide** helps GSLS teachers design new master courses and fulfill quality control standards.

### Community and communication

- ☑ New **online Student and teacher guides** with a great look and feel fitting the GSLS community.
- ☑ **Radio life sciences:** a podcast series for community building with a special series on student wellbeing.
- ☑ Live exhibition of the '**I art my science**' event for all students, PhD candidates and staff of GSLS.



## PhD in numbers

**89** Training certificates

**318** Thesis defences

**117** PhD Course Centre Courses

**1.729** Participants

**94%** of the participants recommended our courses

**1.869** Subscriptions to the biweekly PhD Update

## Highlights PhD

### Courses

- ☑ The second and third module (year 2) of the course on [Responsible Conduct of Research](#) was launched.
- ☑ The PhD Course Centre offers a new, second course on [supervision of master students](#) ('starter kit').
- ☑ The [support for PhD supervisors](#) was extended with a comprehensive toolkit.
- ☑ Eight new [Bioinformatics courses](#) were launched in the second half of 2022.

### Events

- ☑ The PhD Council organised the [annual PhD Day](#) on June 22nd, which was attended by 189 PhD candidates. This year's theme was Communication in science: what is your story?
- ☑ On October 7th the PhD Council elected [Marcel van der Heyden \(UMC Utrecht\)](#) as [PI of the year 2022](#) and [Jeanine Roodhart \(UMC Utrecht\)](#) as [daily supervisor of the year 2022](#).
- ☑ After two years of cancellation the GSLS-initiated pitch competition [Breaking Science](#) was organised again in spring, with 36 participants. Parnassos proved to be the ideal venue for this event.

### Social safety

- ☑ The Hubrecht Institute organised a [pilot of proactive conversations](#) between the PhD confidential advisor and all PhD candidates, which was highly appreciated by PhD candidates.

### Quality Assurance

- ☑ The GSLS published the first comprehensive [guide for PhD candidates and PhD supervisors](#).
- ☑ During the [audit of the Science 4 Life research programme](#) in november 2022 PhD education was evaluated. 'In general, the committee is impressed by the new PhD guide and the other measures that were recently installed to safeguard high-quality training of PhD candidates at the GSLS.'