



Annual review 2022-2023*

Graduate School of Life Sciences



- Interdisciplinary critical thinker
- Creates impact
- Demonstrates integrity
- Leader
- Teamplayer
- Life long learner

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 2022-2023, for PhD calendar year 2023

Organised by

Faculty of Science
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Faculty of Medicine (UMC Utrecht)

Affiliated partners

Hubrecht Institute
Princess Máxima Center

Contact

gs.lifesciences@uu.nl
uu.nl/lifesciences



16 MSc Programmes

15 PhD Programmes



1.739 active MSc students

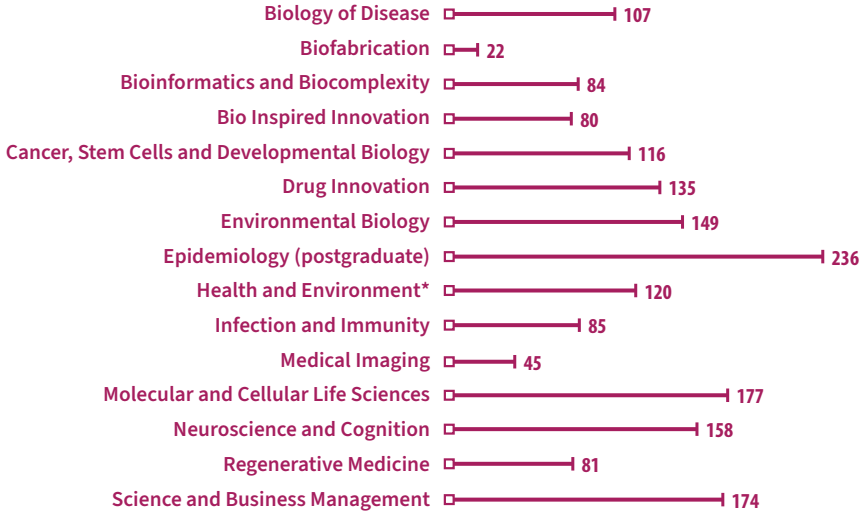
2.133 active PhD candidates

Faculty of Medicine: **1500**

Faculty of Science: **401**

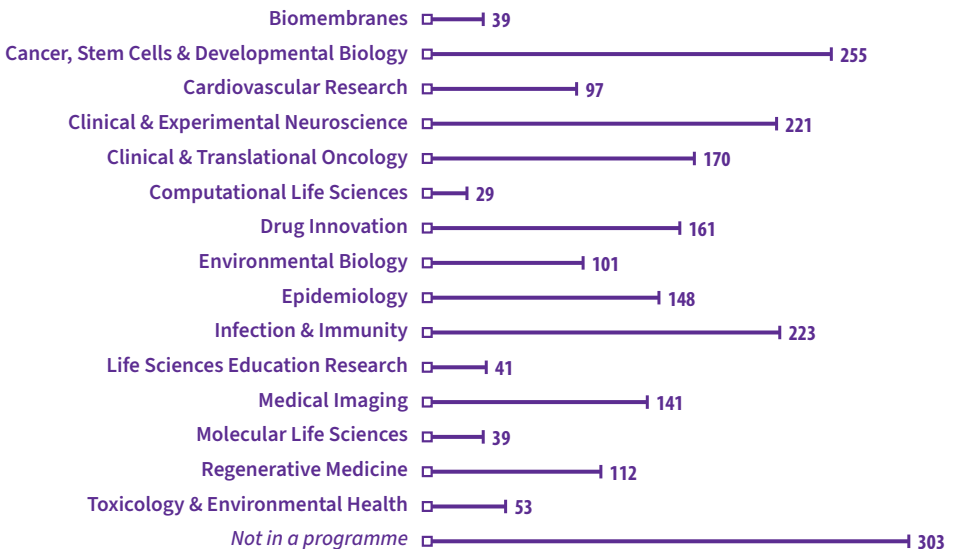
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine: **232**

Master's Programmes number of active students



**incl. One Health and Toxicology and Environmental Health*

PhD Programmes number of active candidates



Numbers obtained from MyPhD, December 4, 2023

Highlights General

- ☑ Start of our third and **new domain**: Continuing education.
- ☑ Second edition of the creative '**I art my science**' event for all students, PhD candidates and staff of GSLS.
- ☑ The **GSLS strategy day** to connect and collaborate cross faculties and domains towards future goals.

Highlights Master

Admissions

- ☑ **Continuous high interest of students** in Life Sciences programmes with more than 3300 applicants to (online) open days.
- ☑ New process to **increase conversion rate**: from admitted applicants to registered starters.

Curriculum

- ☑ Master's programme **Biology** gained a new focus and was renamed **Cardiovascular Health and Disease** starting 2023-2024.
- ☑ Successful pilot of a new master course to improve soft skills: **Professional Identity Education**
- ☑ Launch of the **Supervision Expectations and Evaluation Dialogue (SEED)** tool for bidirectional feedback during research projects.
- ☑ Creation of a serious game for understanding **Challenge based learning: the grand CBL game**.

Community and communication

- ☑ New **overview** of all programme related and elective GSLS courses on the Students' site.
- ☑ Many interesting new episodes of the podcast series **Radio life sciences**.

Master in numbers

2.054 Applications

559 Starters

27% Internationals

190 Programme courses

27 GSLS elective courses

8 Profiles within programmes

Up to **96** EC individual research

505 MSc diplomas





PhD in numbers

100 GSLS training certificates

313 Doctoral thesis defences

157 PhD Course Centre courses

2.847 Course participants

91% of the participants recommended our courses

1.948 Subscriptions to the biweekly PhD Update

Highlights PhD

Courses

- ☑ Start of [monthly introduction meetings](#) for new GSLS PhD candidates.
- ☑ Launch of the third module of the 4-year training [Responsible Conduct of Research](#).
- ☑ The portfolio of Bioinformatics courses has been extended with [bring-your-own-data training](#).
- ☑ [Courses of the UU Development Guide are open](#) to all types of PhD candidates that will graduate at the UU.
- ☑ At the end of 2023 a [new version of the PhD Course Guide](#) and a [new Course Guide for PhD Supervisors](#) was compiled.

Events

- ☑ The last week of May the first [GSLS Life Sciences PhD & Postdoc Career Days](#) was organised with over 200 participants.
- ☑ June 23rd the annual [GSLS PhD Day](#) with theme 'Skilling me Softly' was organised with 170 participants.
- ☑ During spring the sixth edition of [Breaking Science](#) was organised with 20 participants from the GSLS. Winner was [Kulsum Dawoodhboy](#) from the PhD programme Infection and Immunity and member of the GSLS PhD Council.
- ☑ October 12th the GSLS PhD Council awarded good PhD supervision during a festive event. [Renske de Kleijn \(UMCU\)](#) was awarded as co-supervisor of the year and [Bas Weusten \(UMCU\)](#) as supervisor of the year 2023.
- ☑ November 27th [the first event for trainers of the PhD Course Centre](#) was organised to connect and exchange experiences.

Quality Assurance

- ☑ The director and coordinator of doctoral education have [visited all PhD programmes](#) to be informed about the current situation including successful activities and current challenges.
- ☑ In May/June [the first PhD Supervisor Survey](#) was organised with >350 completed responses.
- ☑ In December the [Life Sciences deans visited the PhD council](#) to discuss their recommendations based on the GSLS PhD survey results.