Annual review 2022-2023*
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.

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
uw.nl/lifesciences

* for master academic year 2022-2023, for PhD calendar year 2023
Master’s Programmes

- Biology of Disease: 107
- Biofabrication: 22
- Bioinformatics and Biocomplexity: 84
- Bio Inspired Innovation: 80
- Cancer, Stem Cells and Developmental Biology: 116
- Drug Innovation: 135
- Environmental Biology: 149
- Epidemiology (postgraduate): 236
- Health and Environment*: 120
- Infection and Immunity: 85
- Medical Imaging: 45
- Molecular and Cellular Life Sciences: 177
- Neuroscience and Cognition: 158
- Regenerative Medicine: 81
- Science and Business Management: 174

PhD Programmes

- Biomembranes: 39
- Cancer, Stem Cells & Developmental Biology: 255
- Cardiovascular Research: 97
- Clinical & Experimental Neuroscience: 221
- Clinical & Translational Oncology: 170
- Computational Life Sciences: 29
- Drug Innovation: 161
- Environmental Biology: 101
- Epidemiology: 148
- Infection & Immunity: 223
- Life Sciences Education Research: 41
- Medical Imaging: 141
- Molecular Life Sciences: 39
- Regenerative Medicine: 112
- Toxicology & Environmental Health: 53
- Not in a programme: 303

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 of Disease 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

2054 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
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.