

Spring 2023

Quick links

STAFF ONLY

On the [FSE Education](#) page you will find rules and regulations, info on Brightspace and more

STUDENTS

On the [Student Portal](#) you will find all digital information we provide our student regarding (the organization of) our programme.

E.g. planning your programme, info on Programme Committee, request form for the Board of Examiners.

Hint: bookmark these two pages so you can easily find this information.

LST NEWSLETTER

End of 2022-2023

Welcome to the second LST newsletter!

Programme updates for 2023/2024

As of September 2023, we will change a few things in our schedule:

Year 1: The resit for *Biochemistry* will be after period 2b instead of after period 2a.

Year 2: *Bioinorganic Chemistry* will run in 1B and *Linear Algebra for LST* will run in 1A.

We hope that through these changes, students will have a stronger background in the mathematics required for *Quantum and Classical Mechanics* and *Spectroscopic Tools for Life Sciences*, and that the exam week in 2a will be more feasible.

The schedulers are working on the schedule for 2023/2024.

News from the Programme committee

The [Programme Committee](#) for LST has evaluated several courses from the first semester. Fortunately, most courses seem to be running well with minor points for improvement.

Since this is the first year LST students can do their specialization year, the PC is especially interested in hearing about the experiences with the various specializations. Evaluating those courses is not the PC's responsibility, but the specialization year is still part of the LST study.

Please email bsc.lst@rug.nl (programme secretariat) or pclst@rug.nl (student members) with feedback. All student feedback will remain anonymous. You can also check the [Student Portal page](#) to see who is in the Programme Committee and approach them personally to talk about something.

Course of the Year

GLV Idun are organizing another Course of the Year election for the new LST curriculum. Like last year, [they have set up a poll](#) so that LST students can vote for a Course of the Year from both the first and second year. (Teachers are not allowed to vote!)

Last year's winners were *Organic Chemistry for Life Science 1* for year 1 and *Practical Microbiology* for year 2.

Contact details LST team

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Mentorate

Like all bachelor programmes, Life Science & Technology has mentor students who help the first year students find their way at the start of the year.

But we also have separate mentor groups for second year students in order to help them choose a specialization and master programme. We will continue with this mentorrate for the second years next year.

If you are a second year student and you have tips about this mentorrate or things you think are essential to keep, please contact [the academic advisor](#) and let her know.

ChatGPT

Of course we could simply not mention this in this newsletter that also goes out to students, but that would be like the proverbial ostrich sticking its head in the sand – it's here and it will be used. So what do we, as LST programme team, think about ChatGPT, its use and possibilities? First of all, we would like to stress that we are given quite a bit of freedom in dealing with ChatGPT, there are for now no university- or faculty wide measures that will be implemented for all. On the other hand, this may lead to confusion; both for students as LST students are taught by teachers who do a lot of teaching in other programmes with different practices – and the same goes for teachers who may receive different guidelines from different programmes.

For now, there are some important points we would like to stress:

- 1) It's here, it doesn't go away and we might as well use it since prohibition will be ineffective and very hard to enforce.
- 2) ChatGPT writes both text and program command lines – so make sure that assessment of courses does not only rely on written/coding assignments. Use of ChatGPT is difficult to detect and prove so it is strongly advised to use additional methods of assessment.
- 3) ChatGPT often makes mistakes and is not trained on very recent material – as a student you should be acutely aware of this. As a teacher, you can use this feature to let ChatGPT write bits of text and ask students to spot the errors and suggest alternatives.
- 4) ChatGPT may be a great way to overcome writer's block – one can use a generated text as a starter.
- 5) Being able to write is an essential academic skill, but also a transferable skill that will be important wherever you end up after your studies. Students are strongly advised to make use of the opportunities they get in the programme to train writing skills – letting ChatGPT do it for you may save you time in the short run but it will not help you develop if you don't invest time and effort to learn this skill.
- 6) ChatGPT may make your life a bit easier. It can, for example, write letters of recommendation (apparently, newsletters as well, although this is still a text produced by a human). Feedback or exercise design can also be done by ChatGPT, and, apparently, if given the right rubric it can even grade exams. Support for the use of AI-tools in your education can be found at <https://edusupport.rug.nl>

So – whenever you use ChatGPT – as a student or as a teacher – be careful and check the AI generated output material for mistakes. Good luck!