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school of science and
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Date
1 July 2022

Dear prospective student,

With this letter we would like to welcome you to the Faculty of Science and Engineering (FSE) of the University of Groningen (UG) and inform you about some important issues regarding the start of your MSc degree programme in 2022/2023.

FSE Introduction events

Several introduction activities are organized around the start of your programme. We strongly encourage you to be present there, in order to make a solid start in Groningen and to be optimally informed about your degree programme.

- All newly arriving international students are invited to attend the [Welcoming Ceremony](#) of our university on **Thursday, 1 September**. Visit the above mentioned website for up-to-date information.
- All prospective Dutch and international MSc students are invited to attend their [programme-specific introduction](#). Please check your [schedule](#) as well as your welcoming package for specific information. At this event, you will receive important information about your degree programme and the FSE in general.
- **On Friday, 2 September at 13:00 hours** there will be a **welcoming event** for the Faculty of Science and Engineering. **Afterwards at 15:00 hours**, there will be a welcoming event for MSc Astronomy students in the Kapteynborg room 161.
- **On Tuesday, 6 September** from 10.00 to 16.00 hours you can visit the Information Market in the hallway of the Energy Academy. There you can talk to representatives from various support services, including the Honours College, International Office, Language Centre, Study Associations, Welcome Centre North and the Study Support Centre (SSC).

Preparation for your MSc degree programme (information package)

A special [information package](#) from your degree programme is available for you. Please read all documents carefully (and act where necessary!) to be optimally informed and prepared at the start of your MSc degree programme. Last but not least, please also read all digital content from your degree programme on the internal Student Portal (see below).

Registration for your MSc degree programme

Please ensure that you complete your university registration on time, including the payment of your tuition fee. You can always check the status of your registration in Studielink, or contact [Student Information and Administration](#) in case you have questions about this issue.

Accommodation

Finding somewhere to live can be daunting, especially if you are moving to the Netherlands for the first time. Around 20,000 students will all be looking for a room at the same time in Groningen so start your search as soon as possible. It is your own responsibility to find somewhere to live. The University of Groningen does NOT provide accommodation for students. We advise that you start looking for accommodation as early as possible since it will be very difficult to secure somewhere to stay if you wait too long. Tips on looking for accommodation can be found on the University [website](#).

Personal account and computer applications

You have received an email with information about your username and password (representing your personal computer account), after enrolling for the programme through Studielink. The username is identical to your student number, preceded by the letter 's'. Your computer account provides access to the university computer applications. Please follow the instructions in that email to activate your account, and also check if your account is working correctly: you can log on to one of the computer applications that are explained in a separate document in the information package. Please also use the same document to familiarise yourself with the most important computer applications of our university, such as [the Student Portal/Brightspace](#), [Ocasys](#), [ProgressWWW](#) and the [University email service](#). If you experience problems, or lost your account details, please contact the [CIT service desk](#).

Student portal

The [Student Portal](#) serves as the primary source of information for students. When you log in, you will automatically arrive on the 'Today' tab. Please also visit the 'Study Info' tab: it provides detailed information about your degree programme and the tracks/ specializations therein, course units in the programme, etc. Please use your computer account to log on to the Student Portal, and read the relevant information from your degree programme, before the start in September. The contents are expected to be known by every student in the programme. Extensive information about the programme will also be provided during the introduction days.

Academic advisor

[Academic advisors](#) assist students in finding solutions to any problem encountered while studying. They also provide information about the degree programme: basically, they are a walking encyclopaedia, available for you to find the way in and around your degree programme. The academic advisor is also available for assistance, in case you have questions about (the preparation for) your degree programme. He/she will be personally available during your programme introduction, and can be contacted by email as well: academicadvisor.astronomy@rug.nl. Note that he/she is not available during the summer holidays, from mid July to mid August. If you encounter problems or have questions during the summer, please first check our [online contact information](#) to find out how/where you can find a solution or answer.

We wish you a pleasant summer, and hope to welcome you in August/September!

Best regards,

Rien van de Weygaert, Programme Director Astronomy
 Niels Bos, Programme Coordinator Astronomy
 Diandian Guo, Academic Advisor Astronomy
 Steffany Weerts, Programme Secretary