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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 the most important issues regarding the start of your BSc degree programme in 2022/2023.

Introduction Package

This letter is part of the information package we have put together to help students prepare for the start of their studies at FSE. It includes:

- [Welcoming letter from the degree programme](#)
- Brochure [Information and communication channels](#)
- [Welcoming letter from the study association](#)
- [Information about the introduction camp](#)
- [Information about the book sale](#)
- [Information about the study association](#)
- [Education primer](#)

Kick-off Week

To help you make a great start here at the Faculty of Science and Engineering at the University of Groningen and specifically in your programme, we have organized a number of activities around the start of your programme, collectively called the 'Kick-off Week'. We strongly encourage you to attend these.

- 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.
- The FSE organizes introduction events for all first-year Bachelor's degree students. During the Kick-off Week, and other introductory activities in the weeks thereafter, you will be introduced to the faculty, the degree programme, the study association, and most of all, to your fellow students. Please check the [schedule](#) and the [information package](#) of your degree programme for the details of your kick-off events and additional introductory activities.

Introduction camp

Another great way to get to know your fellow students as soon as possible, is the Introduction camp, organized by the study association of your degree programme. Details and instructions to sign up are provided in a separate document in the [information package](#) of your degree programme.

Registration for your BSc degree programme

Please ensure that you complete your university registration on time, including the payment of your tuition fees. 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](#).

Start of the programme

Your bachelor degree programme will officially start on 5 September, 2022. You can find [all locations](#) of our Faculty online. [Timetables](#) will be published online as well, usually from 15 July onwards.

Study books and lab coat

It is possible to order your study books (and lab coat, if applicable) via the study association. Relevant information is provided in a separate document in your [information package](#).

Personal account and computer applications

You 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 the computer applications mentioned in a separate document in the information package. Please use the same document to familiarize 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 lose 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 about your degree programme, **before** the start in September. We expect all students in the programme to know the contents of this information. 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 and provide information about the degree programme. They are here to help you find your way in and around your degree programme. Moreover, the academic advisors are there to help you if you have personal issues or problems that might influence your study (progress), so

do not hesitate to contact them, even before the start of the programme. Please note: everything you discuss with the academic advisor is strictly confidential.

Students can contact the academic advisors via: academicadvisorBScBiology@rug.nl. Note that they will not be available throughout the entire summer holidays. 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.

The academic advisors of the degree programme will also be personally available during the Introduction Day.

Mentor

Each student is assigned to a mentor group, led by a senior student of the programme. Your mentor is there to help you adjust to life at university and your programme in particular, with (group) mentor meetings, individual talks and social activities. During the first half year of the programme there will be several meetings where you can ask them anything! You can find more information about the mentor meetings in the welcoming letter from the mentors that is part of the information package. Feel free to contact them if you have any (practical) questions about the start of the programme via: headmentorbio@rug.nl.

Safety instructions

All first-year students receive safety instructions during the second lecture week. Depending on your degree programme, the safety instructions consist of one or two parts. Students from all degree programmes must participate in the theoretical part. Students from degree programmes with laboratory practicals, e.g. Biology, Biomedical Engineering, Life, Science and Technology and Pharmacy, also must participate in the practical part. Timetables will provide information about when and where you will receive the safety instructions.

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

Best regards,

Sander van Doorn (Deputy director)
Renate Jansen (Programme coordinator)
Karin Weel (Academic advisor)
Anna Henkel (Academic advisor)