

## NESACS-GDCh German Exchange Program 2024: Program Report



We are pleased to report that the 2024 NESACS-GDCh German Exchange Program was a great success!

This exchange provided a week-long academic and cultural exchange for NESACS student delegates in Ulm and Stuttgart, Germany. The annual exchange was held in conjunction with the JungesChemieForum and was centered around the keynote event; Frühjahrssymposium, one of Europe's largest scientific conferences for young scientists. NESACS sponsored eight student delegates to participate in the exchange along with two committee member hosts. The program was consistently described by their own personal feedback as high-impact, professionally transformative, and exceptionally well organized, combining exposure to world-class research with meaningful intercultural engagement.

Students reported substantial scientific value through visits to leading research institutions and industry partners. At the Helmholtz-Institut Ulm (HIU), participants learned firsthand about research in electrochemical energy storage, including post-lithium-ion technologies and other emerging battery systems. At Universität Stuttgart, students were exposed to a wide range of academic research areas, including nanomaterials, advanced laser systems, cleanroom facilities, and specialized instrumentation. The industrial visit to Boehringer Ingelheim was repeatedly identified as a program highlight. Delegates observed highly automated medicinal chemistry and screening workflows, including automated synthesis, purification, compound storage, and biological testing. Delegate feedback emphasized how this visit expanded their awareness of industrial research careers and demonstrated the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration across chemistry, biology, analytics, and data science.

Participation in the Frühjahrssymposium was a central component of the exchange. Students attended plenary lectures, panel discussions, and student presentations, and several delegates presented posters or oral talks to a large international audience. These presentation opportunities were described as major professional milestones, strengthening scientific communication skills, confidence, and global visibility. A recurring theme across feedback was the strength of the networking environment fostered by the program. Delegates formed meaningful professional

connections with members of JCF, the European Young Chemists Network, and the International Younger Chemists Network. The informal interactions during receptions, conference dinners, and social events were noted as particularly memorable. Students consistently praised the cultural immersion aspects of the exchange and the hospitality of the JCF hosts. Exploring the historic cities of Ulm and Stuttgart, visiting cultural landmarks such as museums and cathedrals, and experiencing regional cuisine were all highlighted as memorable components.

The 2024 NESACS-GDCh German Exchange Program provided significant scientific exposure, meaningful professional development, and cultural exchange to all involved. Delegates reported lasting benefits, including expanded international networks, broadened scientific perspectives, and a newfound appreciation for global career pathways. The strong collaboration between NESACS, GDCh, JCF, and partner organizations made the exchange a uniquely impactful experience that will continue to influence participants' professional trajectories.





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