



university of
 groningen



Dear [name of the stakeholder],

I am [your name], a [your study] student at the University of Groningen and also the [your position within the team] at iGEM team Groningen 2021. Together with 8 other students, I will represent the University of Groningen this year in the iGEM (international Genetically Engineered Machine) competition. I am reaching out to you since you have experience with [field of expertise of the stakeholder], which is what our project is also about! I was therefore wondering if you would be open to having a conversation with us about your insights and experience with [topic you want to talk to the stakeholder about].

The iGEM competition is a global contest in which over 360 student teams of various disciplines compete to address real-world, local problems using synthetic biology. During this competition, students thus have the opportunity to create their own interdisciplinary project to gain experience in synthetic biology. Synthetic biology is the research field concerned with redesigning organisms for useful purposes by designing them to have new capabilities. Researchers and companies can then use these new capabilities to solve problems in medicine, industry and agriculture. At the end of the competition, after 8 months of hard work, the teams will present their research to over 6000 participating young scientists and engineers from top universities and professionals from leading companies within the field at the Giant Jamboree in Paris, France.

During the iGEM competition, teams not only work in the lab, they are also working on how their project can best be used 'in real life'. This is why 'Human Practices' is a big part of iGEM: teams have to explain how they determined that their project is safe, responsible, and good for the world, both in- and outside the lab. Our team however believes that some of this valuable information cannot be found in the literature, but is better sought in the field itself. We are therefore happy to meet with stakeholders/people from the field to gain more insights into the economic, social, political and environmental aspects of [name the field you want to talk about]. And this is exactly why we are approaching you!

For our project, we aim to find an innovative solution to the nitrogen crisis in the Netherlands. More specifically, we want to see if it is possible to capture the ammonia that is emitted by farms, and by using synthetic biology, turn it into something useful, which can then be given back to the farms. And because of your experience with

[state what they have experience with that is relevant to our project] we think you can teach us valuable things about [state what they can teach us/give us insight into]. Therefore, we would love to have a conversation with you about [state what you want to talk to them about]. And we were wondering: would you be open to that as well?

If you do have any questions beforehand, you can of course always reach me at this email address (igemteam@rug.nl). If you would first like to know more about iGEM itself, then the website of [iGEM](#) including [the section about the iGEM competition](#) are also highly recommended.

Your help would be of paramount significance to us, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Thankyou for your time in advance and best regards,

[your first and last name]

[optional: your function within the team]