

General Guidelines

1. By the end of your **PhD program** you are expected to have accomplished the following:

- Earned **18 credits**. Bear in mind that you must acquire:
 - a) A **basic knowledge** in various fields of neurosciences, recognizing the **FUNDAMENTAL** and **CLINICAL** aspects of your research. You should step out of your comfort zone and sample courses that fall outside of your own area of expertise in a range of subjects spanning from:
 - **molecular and cellular neuroscience** to
 - **systems, behavior and cognitive neuroscience**
 - b) **Additional, specific knowledge** in your research topic, gained through advanced doctoral courses, workshops or advanced MSc courses. You can choose courses from our program or from other programs, **as long as the topic is relevant to your research, and not part of your former curriculum**. Please send us the description of the course or workshop, together with a complete list of courses that you took during your BSc and MSc. The doctoral school coordinator/directors will evaluate if the course can be validated.
 - c) Training in the **statistical tools** used for the analysis and interpretation of your results.
- Demonstrated that you are able to plan and execute an **original research project independently**.
- Written and defended your **thesis**.

2. At the **MID-TERM EVALUATION**, 2-3 semesters after the beginning of the PhD program, you will be asked to present your research plan, results obtained, the next steps in your project, and the state of your publication(s). A jury of 3-4 experts will ask you questions about those points.

Questions touching on topics other than your thesis will be asked in order to evaluate your basic knowledge in the various fields of neuroscience.

The mid-term evaluation jury will write a report specifying if there is a need for additional introductory MSc courses and/or adjustments to the research plan.

Note: The LN doctoral school expects students who are the end of their PhD program to be able to discuss multidisciplinary neuroscience research with colleagues coming from different research backgrounds.

3. At the time of your **REGISTRATION** the LN doctoral school coordinator and directors will study your academic profile in detail. Candidates entering the LN doctoral school are expected to have a broad basic knowledge in neuroscience. Nevertheless, candidates coming from different backgrounds may be accepted upon the condition that they take a number of introductory MSc courses during their 1st year. For example:

Candidates with a broad knowledge in Neuroscience (e.g. MSc in Neuroscience): no introductory MSc courses required.

Candidates with knowledge in Life Sciences (e.g. MSc in Biochemistry, MSc in Psychology): requested to take **2 introductory MSc courses** during the 1st year.

Candidates without previous knowledge in Life Sciences (e.g. MSc in Electrical Engineering): requested to take **4 introductory MSc courses** during the 1st year.

Every CV is different, so this decision will be made by the LN doctoral school coordinator/directors on a case-by-case basis. Regardless, introductory MSc courses will be validated for a maximum of 4 credits.

After receiving the acceptance letter from the LN doctoral school, the PhD student, together with his/her thesis director, should select various doctoral and masters courses from those available at the LN program or other local programs. Within one month after acceptance into the LN doctoral school the thesis director will need to inform the LN coordinator, with the PhD student in copy, about the choice of courses for the 1st year, and for successive years if possible.

Note: Please note that the LN doctoral school offers this option, instead of forcing students to acquire basic knowledge in neuroscience BEFORE they enter the program, in order to facilitate the integration of candidates with various backgrounds.

A few tips to help you attain these goals

1. Discuss in advance with your thesis director which courses you should take. We insist that you copy your thesis director when you sign up for a course, so all parties are aware of your education. Many thesis directors are not aware of all the courses that are available, so please read all the information that is provided (online and attached to this email), and do not hesitate to ask the LN coordinator for advice.

2. In its evaluation of your curriculum the LN doctoral school will weigh in the following factors:

a) Do the courses help you to reach the **goals** listed above under point 1 of the program?

b) Do the courses provide you with additional **professional skills** in academic and non-academic careers?

Be aware, these courses come in many different flavors, often not very well tailored to our type of science. If you find potentially interesting courses outside our program carefully review them, discuss it with your thesis director and contact the LN coordinator for advice.

3. Validation: when selecting courses, please keep in mind that we do not always award the same number of credits as compared to MSc programs. In many cases we give less credits for the same course. On the list of MSc courses on our website the number of obtainable credits are indicated for each course.