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Introduction

Our Program

The Graduate Program in Neuroscience is a multidisciplinary program administered under the Faculty of Medicine and the Brain Research Centre at the University of British Columbia. It offers a coordinated program of graduate studies leading to M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Neuroscience. The objective of the program is to educate graduate students as neuroscientists with intensive experience in at least one area of research, and to ensure that students in the Program develop a broadly based knowledge of the Neurosciences. The program is directed by the Chairman of the Neuroscience Advisory Committee, Dr. Tim O'Connor, and comprises some 100 faculty members representing 13 departments from the Faculties of Medicine, Science and Arts at the University of British Columbia. Laboratory and teaching areas are located across the UBC campus, at the University Hospital and the Vancouver Hospital.

Our faculty have research collaborations that span across departments, industries, and international borders. Although the program is inter-departmental, various regular seminars, journal clubs, and invited lectures provide ample opportunity to meet and discuss current topics in neuroscience. The program encourages its graduate students to participate in the many academic and social events organized by the Brain Research Centre and by the program's student association. The Neuroscience Graduate Student Association (NRSC.GSA) gives a clear voice to the student interests, and is incredibly active in organizing regular events and social activities, including cross-program socials, Pub Nights and BBQs. Visit the NRSC.GSA to learn more.

The program aims for flexibility so that the individual needs, background and interests of each student can be accommodated.

Sites of Research: From Bench to Bedside

Neuroscience faculty are spread among various departments and research institutes affiliated with the University of British Columbia. For more information on specific departments and research institutes, please refer to the relevant websites.

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health

The Graduate Program in Neuroscience is the primary academic program associated with the newly announced Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (CBH). The CBH is the successor to the UBC Brain Research Centre, formed in 2005. The CBH is a partnership between Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute and the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia, and encompasses more than 200 investigators and clinicians with broad expertise in neuroscience. The new CBH building is located on campus at the UBC Hospital.
Life Science Centre, UBC campus
The Life Sciences Institute (LSI) at UBC is the largest such institute in Canada and among the best by any metric. Our vision of the LSI is to maintain and improve on its international standing in basic life science research and to become the technology driver for the implementation of personalized medicine in BC.

UBC Department of Psychiatry
The UBC Department of Psychiatry has a long history of internationally recognized neuroscience research, and continues to be home to some of the most highly respected neuroscience labs in the country. Kinsman laboratory for neurological research, Detwiller Pavilion.

UBC Department of Psychology
The psychology department is home to more than 50 faculty members conduct cutting-edge research across the spectrum of psychology, representing these sub-disciplinary specializations: Behavioural Neuroscience, Clinical, Cognitive Science, Developmental, Health, Qualitative Methods and Social/Personality. Kenny Building, UBC Campus.

Center for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics
At CMMT we advance knowledge to understand and treat major diseases impacting children and adults. Researchers at CMMT explore the genetic basis of disease and translate this knowledge into new prevention, diagnosis and treatment strategies. Among the unique advantages of CMMT are flexibility; the ability to develop, evaluate and incorporate ideas; and to move rapidly into promising areas. We promote research excellence and innovation, provide flexible funding to researchers, and foster a collaborative environment that enhances the ability to reach goals in a time effective manner. We are part of University of British Columbia and are located at the Child & Family Research Institute (CFRI).

ICORD
ICORD is a world leading health research centre focused on spinal cord injury. From the lab-based cellular level of understanding injury to rehabilitation and recovery, our researchers are dedicated to the development and translation of more effective strategies to promote prevention, functional recovery, and improved quality of life after spinal cord injury. Located at Vancouver General Hospital in the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre, ICORD is supported by UBC Faculty of Medicine and Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute.

Michael Smith's Genome Sciences Centre
The Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre is a leading international centre for genomics and bioinformatics research. Our mandate is to advance knowledge about cancer and other diseases, to improve human health through disease prevention, diagnosis and therapeutic approaches, and to realize the social and economic benefits of genomics research.
Prostate Centre & Jack Bell Research Centre
The Vancouver Prostate Centre has a large, multidisciplinary research program that undertakes basic, clinical, translational and patient research. The research focus is aimed at discovering the reasons for cancer progression and treatment resistance at the molecular level and using this information to develop new services and products to improve cancer outcomes.

St. Paul's Hospital
As an Academic Health Science Centre affiliated with the University of British Columbia, Providence Health Care's St. Paul's Hospital has a long history of delivering compassionate patient care, educating future medical professionals and conducting high quality, peer-reviewed research.

Child & Family Research Institute at BC Women's hospital
The Child & Family Research Institute (CFRI) is committed to world-class research spanning a wide range of children's and women's health concerns. It is the largest research institute of its kind in Western Canada. Developmental Neurosciences & Child Health brings together a diverse group of researchers who make discoveries that enable innovative interventions to improve the well-being of children, youth and families. Our diversity promotes synergy among developmental, neurobiological, behavioral, pharmacological, psychosocial and environmental sciences: in short, from neurons to neighbourhoods. Our focus is improved medical and surgical treatments, rehabilitation, prevention and health promotion.

VGH (Vancouver General Hospital)- http://www.vch.ca/home/

Admission

Eligibility

PhD Program
Applicants for the Ph.D. degree must have completed:
1. a Bachelor's degree with First Class Honours (or equivalent); or
2. a Bachelor's degree with one year of study in a Master's program with 12 credits of First Class average, of which normally at least 9 credits must be of First Class standing, and clear evidence of research ability. (Transfer directly into a Doctoral program is not normally permitted beyond the first year of study and will not be permitted after the completion of the second year in a Master's program); or
3. a Master's degree (or equivalent).

MSc Program
Applicants for a Master's degree must hold a Bachelor's degree or its academic equivalent with:
1. (a) Honours in a field related to the proposed Master's courses with First Class standing in at least 12 credits of Third and Fourth Year course work in that field; or
2. (b) First Class standing in at least 12 credits of the course work and at least Second Class standing in the remaining course work at the Third and Fourth Year level prescribed by the department concerned as prerequisite to the Master's program.

Apply online

Application to the Graduate Program in Neuroscience at UBC is done through the UBC Faculty of Graduate Studies website. Please click on the "APPLY NOW" link and follow the instructions to complete your application.

There is an FAQ online at https://www.grad.ubc.ca/contact-us. For more information regarding applying to UBC for Graduate Studies, you can email UBC-Grad.App@ubc.ca. If you are applying or in the middle of completing an application, please note that you should contact the Faculty of Graduate Studies for the following reasons: credit card payment problems, persistent log in problems with the online application. Questions pertaining to the Neuroscience program directly, such as application status, references, transcripts, deadline extensions and missing documents, can be directed to the NRSC program secretary (see directory).

Submitted applications goes to the office of the Graduate Program in Neuroscience. The Neuroscience Admission committee will determine which applicants to accept, and then accepted applications are forwarded to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for final approval and subsequent notification of admission is done by the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Course Work

**Comprehensive Core Courses**
http://neuroscience.ubc.ca/current/courses

The Neuroscience Graduate Program requires all students to complete two core courses: NRSC 500 and NRSC 501. These course requirements are generally completed within the first year of study. The two courses provide a comprehensive multidisciplinary overview of the field of Neuroscience.

Neuroscience 500 (Fall Semester): This course focuses primarily on the study of Neuroscience at the molecular and cellular level, including systemic and behavioral approaches to studying the nervous system. This course is divided into four modules: (1) The Biophysics of Ion Channels, (2) Synaptic Transmission and Ligand-Gated Ion Channels, (3) Second Messengers and Gene Expression, and (4) Development. Permission of Neuroscience Chair is required. Normally to be taken in conjunction with NRSC 501. Credits: 6

Neuroscience 501 (Winter Semester): This course focuses on the study of Neuroscience at the systems level, including behavioral analysis and clinical diagnosis. This course is also divided into four modules: (1) Sensory Systems, (2) Motor Systems, (3) Learning & Memory, and (4)
Disorders of Cognition, Communication, and Emotion. Permission of Neuroscience Chair is required. Normally to be taken in conjunction with NRSC 500. Credits: 6

Grading Scheme in NRSC 500 & 501

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problem Set / Written Critique</td>
<td>2.5% each (10% total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>2.5% per module (10% total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation of Critique</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(once per semester)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIHR-style Grant</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Textbooks

Consult your lab to see if there are spare lab textbooks available, especially for the recommended texts as these are used sparingly.

Required:
Principles of Neural Science, ER Kandel, 2012

Recommended:
Ionic Channels of Excitable Membranes by Hille, 3rd Edition, 2001
Introduction to Neuropsychopharmacology, Iversen, Iversen, Bloom & Roth 2008
Molecular Biology of the Cell, Alberts, Johnson, Lewis, Raff, Roberts & Walter

Problem Set / Written Critique / Oral Presentation
http://neuroscience.ubc.ca/current/courses/requirements#critique

With the exception of module 1 in NRSC 500, each module assigns a written critique of a scientific paper. Critiques are 2 pages excluding references, and should explain what problem the paper is addressing and why it is important, with reference to previous work on the topic. Strong critiques address both strengths and weakness in the paper. Full instructions for critiques are available in the shared folder.

Each student will be required to present one of their critiques to the class per term in a 10-minute oral presentation with an accompanying powerpoint presentation. Students will be expected to answer questions following their presentation, and ask questions on other students’ presentations. The oral presentation is in addition to the written component, and does not replace it.
CIHR-Style Grant

Students will be asked to prepare a CIHR-style grant on a topic covered in one of the four modules of the course. The goal is to broaden your knowledge, and thus the topic must be distinct from previous work you carried out for an honours thesis, summer research, etc, as well as from the main focus of your graduate research. This assignment should be planned ahead and worked on throughout the semester as it accounts for 25% of your final grade and is great practice for pursuing funding opportunities that students will encounter throughout grad school.

Early in the term students must choose a topic and get approval from the module leader. It is in your best interests to contact a module leader early if have a particular interest, as module leaders are limited as to the number of students they can accept. It is also important that you have an open dialogue with your module leader as they can help you tailor your grant to the scope of the course. The approved topic must be submitted to the GPN office early in the term.

Your topic must be narrowed into a specific research question that can be examined via testable hypotheses. Students will be required to submit a one page proposal part way through the term (specific due dates will be provided in class) that should include relevant background, methods, and rationale for their proposal. The proposed experiments should be both logical and feasible within the scope of a standard CIHR. Module leaders will provide feedback on the one page proposal with time for you to modify and improve your ideas before completing the full grant. Successful grants often undergo many iterations before being submitted, and this should be no different. Detailed information regarding the formatting and sections required, as well as example grant applications will be provided in class.

The full assignment is an 11-page proposal plus references and figures if applicable. A one-page abstract, which will be a revised version of your one page summary, is also required. The assignment does not require a budget or CV attachment as would a regular CIHR grant. The assignment is due near the end of term.

In the research proposal you should address the following:
- What you want to do (central hypothesis, research question, specific aims and objectives)
- Why this is a reasonable thing to do (review of previous work done on the subject matter, rationale)
- Why this is important (novelty, new knowledge to be obtained, improvements to health which will result)
- How are you going to do it (work plan, timelines, detailed descriptions of methods, analysis and discussion/interpretation of results, pitfalls, ways around the pitfalls, alternatives)
- Why you should do it (relevant prior experience and skills, collaborators for technical gaps, preliminary data showing feasibility)
Example grants will be available. 1 page abstract. 11 page, Single space, 12pt font, 1” margins. J Neurosci Reference Format. Late submissions are deducted 2% per day (including weekends). Deadlines will be posted in the course schedule. References and figures not included in the page limit.

Midterm / Final Exam
There will be two non-cumulative exams in both NRSC 500 and 501. The midterm exam will cover Modules 1 & 2, while the final exam will cover Modules 3 & 4. Exams will consist of any combination of fill in the blank, matching, short answer, long answer, and diagram questions.

Electives
Students in the Master’s programs are also required to complete an additional 6 credits of elective courses. There are a large number of interesting courses available that can be completed for elective credit, and students should take advantage of the courses that interest them or augment their research that are offered by the different departments around campus. No more than 6 credits of 300- or 400-level coursework will count towards the Master’s degree, however registering in additional courses does not affect your tuition fees. This is a great opportunity to take additional courses that may benefit your research, however it is important to discuss course selection with your supervisor.

The list below is meant as a guideline only, and is not exhaustive. Note, not all elective courses are offered each semester or year (some tend to be offered every other year). Consult the UBC calendar or the course instructor for more details and for any pre-requisites. Other courses not listed may also be appropriate for some students in the Graduate Program in Neuroscience. If you wish to take a course not listed above, approval by the Chair of GPN is required.

Additionally, you can fulfill your credit requirements by taking a directed studies course (self-guided research study) in the department of your choice. For more information, contact one of the module leaders or other faculty with whom you are interested in working with and they will direct you to the relevant department for registration and can help determine how to fulfill course requirements.

Details regarding the various courses are available on the respective department websites as well as the Student Service Centre (SSC) website. You MUST register for all the courses you are taking on the SSC, including NRSC 500 and 501. Once you are done with courses and are working exclusively towards completing your research, you will be required to register for the NRSC 549 thesis (Masters) or NRSC 649 thesis (Doctoral) to continue being enrolled at UBC (Note: Summer registration is also required).

SSC: https://ssc.adm.ubc.ca/sscportal/servlets/SRVSSCFramework
Course descriptions of all courses are available at:
http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/
Registration and current course schedule are available at:
https://courses.students.ubc.ca/

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<th>Dept.</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
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<td>ANAT</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Functional Human Neuroanatomy: Central Nervous System</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOC</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Membrane Structure and Function</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOC</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Biochemical Aspects of Cellular Regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Laboratory in Animal Cell Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Animal Cell Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Comparative and Molecular Endocrinology</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Developmental Neurobiology</td>
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<td>CELL</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Fluorescence Microscopy</td>
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<tr>
<td>CELL</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Human Disease</td>
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<td>MEDI</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Molecular Regulation of Cell Growth and Differentiation</td>
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<td>OBST</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Reproductive Endocrinology I</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Experimental Techniques in Reproductive Biology</td>
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<td>PATH</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Diagnostic Histochemistry</td>
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<td>PHYL</td>
<td>426</td>
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<td>Physiological Basis of Central Nervous System Functions</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYL</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Neurophysiology</td>
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<td>PHAR</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Central Nervous System Pharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCTH</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Molecular Aspects of Drug Action at the Membrane Level</td>
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<td>PCTH</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Drugs and Intercellular Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCTH</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pharmacology of Anaesthesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC</td>
<td>460</td>
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<td>Behavioural Neuroendocrinology</td>
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<td>PSYC</td>
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<td>Neurophysiology and Cortical Plasticity</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Psychoneuroendocrinology</td>
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For more basic background on particular Neuroscience and Biological topics, students may also take the following undergraduate courses, although these may not necessarily count towards the completion of a MSc or PhD degree. Note: graduate students do not incur additional fees by signing up for supplementary courses.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept.</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>Comparative Neurobiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>Comparative and Molecular Endocrinology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BIOL 458  Developmental Neurobiology  
PATH 404  Diagnostic Histochemistry  
PHYL 426  Physiological Basis of Central Nervous System Function  
PHAR 408  Clinical Pharmacokinetics  
PCTH 404  Drug Assay and Pharmacometrics  
PSYC 401  Clinical Psychology  
PSYC 402  Research in Anxiety Disorders  
PSYC 407  Cognition and Culture  
PSYC 417A Special Topics in Psychology  
PSYC 431  Special Topics in Forensic Psychology  
PSYC 460  Behavioural Neuroendocrinology  
PSYC 462  Drugs and Behavioural Neuroscience  
PSYC 465A  Computers in Psychology  
PSYC 469  Psychoneuroimmunology

Graduate Programs

MSc Program

A Master's student will normally spend 2-3 years of full-time study at the University. In the first year, the student takes the required coursework (NRSC 500 & 501 and 6 additional elective credits) and begins research under the supervisor's direction. A Supervisory Committee comprised of the student's supervisor and 3 additional individuals, who are normally faculty members, provide guidance on research and may also recommend additional course work. It is the student's own responsibility to organize committee meetings and to nominate an individual from the Committee to serve as Chair during meetings. It is suggested that the first committee meeting, which serves to introduce a research proposal for approval by the Committee, be held by the start of the second year of study. Near completion of the research project, a second committee meeting may be called before the student begins writing up their thesis. The written thesis must be submitted to the Committee and an External Examiner (requested from within the UBC Neuroscience department) at least 2 weeks before the date of the final defense. At the final defense, the External and the Committee will be present and if necessary, one member of the Committee may be absent. Following a successful oral defense and submission of the finalized thesis to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, the student is eligible for graduation.

The minimum course requirements are 30 course credits of which at least 24 must be numbered 500 to 699 (including a 12 credit research thesis). A maximum of 6 credits at the undergraduate level in courses numbered 300 to 499 may be counted toward the requirements of a master's degree. See below for a suggested example MSc timeline.
Transferring from the MSc to the PhD Program
Transferring to the Ph.D. program may be permitted after one year of study in a Master's program with 12 credits of First Class average (i.e., ≥80%), of which normally at least 9 credits must be at the 500 level or above and at least 9 credits must be of First Class standing, and clear evidence of research ability. In order to transfer into the PhD program, students must establish a committee (generally includes the Supervisor, Chair and 1 – 2 additional members), and committee members are responsible for approving the transfer. The decision is generally made following the first committee meeting. Note: transfer directly into a Doctoral program is not normally permitted beyond the first year of study and will not be permitted after the completion of the second year in a Master's program.

MSc Defense

PhD Program

A Ph.D. student admitted with a Bachelor's degree normally will spend a minimum of four years in full-time status at the University. The Maximum time allowed for completing a doctoral degree is six years. During the first year the student will normally complete the core course work including NRSC 500 and NRSC 501, establish a supervisory committee, and begin research in his/her Supervisor's laboratory. The student's Supervisory Committee gives ongoing advice and guidance, and may recommend further course work. In the second year the student will complete any remaining course work and hold at least one supervisory committee meeting, while continuing research. UBC graduate student policy recommends successful completion of the comprehensive exam by the end of second year, which includes approval of the research proposal. The deadline for completion of the comprehensive exam is the end of third year. In the third and fourth years, the student will continue research work and is expected to have one supervisory committee meeting every year to monitor and guide research progress. The deadline to transfer down to a Master degree is the end of the third year of PhD. Students typically begin preparation of their PhD thesis during their 5th year in the program, after having gained approval to begin writing from their Supervisory Committee and Primary Supervisor. Once the thesis has been approved by the Supervisory Committee and the External Examiner, the student presents his/her oral Defense before the University Examiners and the academic community. See below for a suggested example PhD timeline.

A Ph.D. student admitted with a Master's degree normally will spend a minimum of three years in full-time study at the University. Course work requirements are normally completed during the first year of study. Ensuing studies follow the schema outlined above.
Students who enter directly into the Ph.D. program may apply for exemption from the 6 credits of electives. Students are not eligible to sit the Comprehensive Examination until these course requirements have been met.

Note: Students that fail to achieve a mark of 80% or higher in NRSC 500 or 501 will be required to answer questions regarding these core NRSC courses at their comprehensive examination (Tim O'Connor will be present).

Supervision and Work Policies

Graduate Supervision
Your supervisor is the key person in your graduate degree program. Graduate education is greatly affected by the nature of the supervision and the quality of communication between graduate students and their supervisors. When students work closely and effectively with their graduate supervisors, they will improve the quality of their dissertations or theses and their educational experiences.

Supervisors should be available to help their graduate students at every stage, from formulation of their research projects through establishing methodologies and discussing results, to presentation and possible publication of dissertations. Graduate supervisors must also ensure that their students' work meets the standards of the University and the academic discipline.

More information can be found in the Handbook of Graduate Supervision, here.

Vacation policies

Graduate students are entitled to 15 working days of vacation, not including major holidays, from their academic obligations per academic year. Students are expected to arrange time off such that it is minimally disruptive to their research and other academic obligations, and to seek supervisor approval of their vacation and work schedule. Supervisors are expected to approve and accommodate all reasonable requests for time off as is consistent with this policy. For detailed information see the UBC FOGS Vacation Policy.

Supervisory Committee

With support from their supervisor, students choose their supervisory committee members and arrange to hold their first committee meeting in their first year of study. Students should take the initiative to select prospective committee members, with the input and approval of their supervisor. It is the responsibility of the student to contact prospective faculty and request that they act as committee members. Be aware that not all faculty are able to honor every request for committee membership.
One member of the committee will act as the Chair. This can be decided by the committee at the first meeting. The chair represents the Graduate Program for Neuroscience on the supervisory committee, and serves the functions of monitoring and reporting on the student’s progress. The chair may ask the student questions and offer advice, but is additionally responsible for ensuring that the student is being supervised adequately and fairly. If the chair has any concerns in this regard, they should be communicated immediately to the Graduate Program for Neuroscience.

Consistent with UBC Graduate Studies policy, the committee must include at least two members in addition to the student’s supervisor. In general, UBC faculty members at least at the rank of Assistant Professor are eligible. Committee members may be from outside the student's degree program. If circumstances dictate, the committee may include non-members of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, but this requires specific approval. See the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for details.

Committee Meetings
It is the responsibility of the student to initiate and arrange committee meetings. This includes finding a suitable time for all members of the committee and booking an appropriate meeting space. Many faculty have significant travel schedules, so committee meetings are best arranged well in advance (2-3 months). Doodle or similar scheduling tools are useful and often necessary to find a suitable time.

The following are general guidelines for conducting a supervisory committee meeting. The committee is given considerable latitude to alter this format as they see fit:

Generally, the student provides the committee with a written review of their progress 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

At the committee meeting, the chair calls the meeting to order, and the student is asked to present their recent progress, and then a general discussion of the project ensues.

The chair completes and signs the checklist with the input of the supervisory committee (see appendix) at the conclusion of the meeting. The meeting progress form is co-signed by the student’s supervisor, and must be returned to the Graduate Program for Neuroscience by the student. Completion and return of this form is required for documentation of the supervisory committee meeting.

Assuming that progress is satisfactory, no further action must be taken by the committee until the next meeting. If the student’s progress is not deemed satisfactory, the chair directs either the student or the supervisor to address these issues in writing to the Director of the Graduate Program and all members of the supervisory committee, and includes a note at the bottom of the progress form indicating that such a document will be forthcoming.
Admission to Candidacy

A student normally will be admitted to Candidacy when he or she has completed all of the required course work, and passed the Comprehensive Examination, which includes approval of the thesis Research Proposal. Detailed information is provided in the Faculty of Graduate Studies website.

As per UBC Graduate Studies policy, it is recommended that students gain admission to candidacy within 24 months from the date of initial registration. A student who is not admitted to candidacy within 36 months from date of initial registration must withdraw from the program. Extension of this period may be permitted by the Dean of Graduate Studies in exceptional circumstances. See appendix for the candidacy extension form.

Research Proposal

All students (M.Sc. and Ph.D.) are required to present a Research Proposal to their Supervisory Committee not later than 2 years after entrance into the Program. For students entered into the Ph.D. program, the written component of the Comprehensive Examination consists of the Research Proposal. Acceptance of the written Research Proposal by the candidate’s Supervisory Committee is a necessary condition, together with passing the oral Comprehensive Examination, for admission to candidacy.

Comprehensive Exam

Purpose and Scope
In order to be admitted to candidacy and to continue in the Program, the candidate must have their Research Proposal accepted and successfully pass the oral comprehensive examination. Normally this will be completed by the start of the third year of enrolment in the graduate program. The purpose of the examination is to ensure that candidates have a comprehensive knowledge in their area of specialization and related fields of neuroscience. The comprehensive examination has both a written and an oral component. The written exam requires that the student prepare a grant application according to the Medical Research Council of Canada Operating Grant Application format. The topic of the grant application is decided upon by the student and his/her supervisor and is normally based on the student's immediate area of scientific interest. The scopes and levels of the oral exam will be discussed and mutually agreed by the Examining Committee and the student in the preliminary meeting.
Format of Examination
A comprehensive examination is held after completion of all required coursework. The student will initiate the process by informing the Neuroscience office to set up the comprehensive examination. The student will first establish an Examining Committee including two faculty members in the same department as the student and two from outside of the student's department. Two meetings will be held: The preliminary meeting, and the comprehensive exam.

Pre-Comprehensive Meeting
The preliminary meeting of the student and the Examining Committee to set up parameters for the exam. The student will submit a title and one-page summary (subject to modification) of the Research Proposal at least one week before this initial meeting. At the meeting, the Examining Committee and the student will discuss and mutually agree upon the guidelines, scope and level of understanding required to complete the written and oral components of the examination satisfactorily. Among the issues which should be clarified at this point is whether or not the examination will begin with a brief oral presentation by the student; although this may increase the duration of the examination, many students find that it provides an excellent mechanism for easing their considerable performance anxiety. The student will act as secretary at the meeting, and will provide each member of the committee and the GPN office with a written summary of the discussion no later than one week following the meeting; any discrepancies in interpretation should be resolved at this time. The due date for the research proposal will be set at this meeting and will be no later than three months following the preliminary examination meeting. As with MRC grants, if the student fails to meet the deadline for submission of the research proposal, the comprehensive examination will be automatically postponed for six months. The date of the oral component of the comprehensive examination will also be determined at the preliminary meeting, and in all cases will be within 14 days of the student submitting a copy of the completed grant application to each member of the Examining Committee.

The supervisor may provide guidance and feedback to the student in the preparation of the grant application. However, the research proposal and the essential experimental design should be written by the student.

Comprehensive Exam
The second meeting is the comprehensive exam. In this oral examination the student may be questioned on any aspect of the grant application and will be asked to elaborate upon or defend issues arising from the literature review and the research plan contained in the application. The range of questioning may include topics that are not discussed directly in the application but that are deemed relevant by individual members of the Examining Committee. The purpose of the oral examination is to have the student demonstrate to the Examining Committee that he/she has a thorough understanding of those areas of neuroscience relevant to the research proposal, can expand upon and defend those ideas verbally, and has attained sufficient intellectual understanding of the subject matter to proceed with primary research likely to lead to
submission of a competent Ph.D. thesis. In the event that the student has not achieved a score of first class in both NRSC 500 and 501, the scope of the comprehensive examination will be wider: under such circumstances the examination committee has a mandate to determine whether or not the student has sufficient breadth and depth of understanding of general topics in neuroscience to permit advancement to the candidacy. The examination will normally include a round of 20-minute questioning from each examiner, followed by another round of questioning, as appropriate. A student may be given the opportunity to re-sit either or both components of the examination if he/she is considered inadequately prepared at the first sitting. In the event that re-examination is required, it must take place within 6 months of the first attempt. No student is permitted to sit this examination more than twice.

Guidelines for Chairs of Comprehensive Examinations
The chair represents the Graduate Program for Neuroscience on the examining committee, and serves the functions of monitoring and reporting. The neuroscience program will assign a chair for the comprehensive exam once a written summary of the pre-comprehensive meeting has been submitted to the program secretary. In the event that the student has not achieved a score of first class in both NRSC 500 and 501, the head of the program will chair the comprehensive examination. At the preliminary meeting: The chair's primary responsibility is to insure that the Examining Committee and the student mutually agree upon the guidelines, scope and level of understanding required to complete the written and oral components of the examination satisfactorily. At the comprehensive exam, the chair has the prerogative of asking questions, but is primarily responsible for ensuring that the examination is fair. The chair calls the meeting to order, assures that each member of the committee has had sufficient opportunity to read the proposal (normally two weeks), and reminds all members of the committee of the scope and purpose of the examination.

The chair then assigns an order to the questioning, allowing each member of the examining committee ~20 minutes to question the student. After this initial round of questioning, the chair may ask questions (optional), and then each member of the committee is asked whether they have any further questions for the student. Such questioning continues until all members of the committee have satisfactorily arrived at a conclusion regarding the suitability of the candidate for progressing to candidacy. Throughout, the chair should insure that questioning is fair and relevant, and that the student has adequate opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of the field.

At the conclusion of the exam, the student (and supervisor, if present) is then excused from the room, and the committee discusses the performance of the candidate. The examination is pass/fail: each examiner (including the chair) is asked to rate the student's performance. If all members of the committee rate the student's performance as passing, the student is called back to the room and informed of the committee's decision. At this time, the student should also be given constructive feedback on specific areas of strength and weaknesses. If a minority of members of the examining committee rate the student's performance as failing, the student should be informed that they have attained a conditional pass, and that further examination on a
subset of the topics covered is required - since these situations are rare, the committee is given considerable latitude in designing such remedial work as it sees fit. If a majority of members rate the student’s performance as failing, the student has failed the first sitting of the comprehensive examination, and they must be re-sit the exam within six months' time. If the student fails the second sitting of the comprehensive examination, they must withdraw from the program.

Although the thesis proposal is used as a vehicle for the comprehensive examination, passing the exam does not necessarily indicate acceptance of the thesis proposal. The key criterion to be applied is whether the student has a viable and well-considered research program, likely to lead to generation of high quality Ph.D. thesis (the committee should not necessarily expect that the research proposal as written would be funded by MRC). If the research program is sufficiently well designed, the research proposal is accepted and the chair should so indicate in their letter to the GPN office. If it is not sufficient, then the examining committee may suggest re-evaluation of the thesis proposal by the supervisory committee. The student is admitted to candidacy following obtaining a passing grade in the comprehensive examination and acceptance of the thesis proposal by either the examining or supervisory committees. The chair should send a brief memo to the Graduate Program in Neuroscience indicating the outcome of the comprehensive examination.

**Thesis, Defense and Graduation**

**Thesis Preparation**
Students must consult the Faculty of Graduate Studies website on the instructions for the preparation of graduate thesis. Students must contact the Faculty of Graduate Studies or Special Collections with queries before beginning their final draft. The supervisor should read the complete thesis in draft form, and the appropriate revisions be made before the other members of the student's Supervisory Committee read the thesis. The examination copy of the thesis should not be prepared before the revisions suggested by the rest of the Committee have been incorporated.
Doctoral candidates should begin preparation for the thesis defense at least 3 months before the completion of the theses. Prior to submission to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, the thesis must be read by at least 2 of 3 supervisory committee members of which one (1) will be on the final thesis examination committee.

**PhD Thesis Oral Defense**
Students must follow the Faculty of Graduate Studies oral defense procedures as posted on their website. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all these procedures are carried out by the appropriate person (the student, the Research Supervisor, or the Chairman of the Graduate Program in Neuroscience), as indicated in the website, and in a timely fashion. Application for Graduation Students must follow the graduation procedures on the Faculty of Graduate Studies website: [http://www.grad.ubc.ca/current-students/graduation/applying-graduate](http://www.grad.ubc.ca/current-students/graduation/applying-graduate)
The Neuroscience GSA provides free mock defense service. If students need help, please feel free to contact us.

**Sample Neuroscience Timeline**

**Year 1**

MSc/PhD

Course Work (NRSC 500- Fall, NRSC 501- Winter)

Begin training and research.

Form Supervisory Committee and have first meeting

Additional course work

**Year 2**

MSc

Research

Thesis Work

Eligible for thesis submission, defense, graduation.

Limit to transfer to Ph.D.

Additional course work

PhD

Research

Comprehensive Examination Suggested (end of year 2/beginning of year 3)

**Year 3**

MSc

Defense and Graduation time limit

PhD

Continue research and begin thesis work

Comprehensive Examination Required

**Year 4**

Thesis Work

Eligible for thesis submission, defense, graduation.

**Year 5**

Defense and Graduation

* Supervisory Committee should meet at least once a year. ++ If no courses are being taken student must register for NRSC 549 (M.Sc.) or NRSC 649(Ph.D.)
Finance

Tuition and Student Fees

Research Master's Degree Program
Every student enrolled in a master's program is required to maintain continuous registration by paying tuition installments according to Schedules A or B, plus authorized student fees. Failure to pay fees will result in a financial hold and an interest penalty.
All graduate students are automatically assessed fees according to Schedule A. Students who are planning on taking a master's degree through part-time study (Schedule B) must obtain approval from their Graduate Program Advisor and the Faculty of Graduate Studies prior to the beginning of the term in which fees are first assessed. To do so, please complete the "Application for Part-time Payment" form.
Only students planning to take their degree through part-time study are permitted to select Schedule B. Students who select Schedule B are advised that, by virtue of their part-time status, they are ineligible to receive government loans, interest-free status, and University fellowships or scholarships. Students are not permitted to switch from Schedule B to Schedule A after the due date of the first installment.
Students who have paid more than the minimum installments for the degree will have their tuition fees prorated to the end of the month in which the Faculty of Graduate Studies confirms that all degree requirements have been completed. This includes the submission of either their major paper or final project to their department or their thesis to the Faculty of Graduate Studies Office.
For up to date tuition fees, refer to the graduate studies website:
https://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/tuition-fees-cost-living/graduate-tuition-fees

Research Doctoral Degree Program
Every student enrolled in a doctoral program is required to maintain continuous registration by paying tuition installments, plus authorized student fees according to the appropriate tuition fee schedule.
All students are "full-time" for the assessment of tuition and authorized student fees. Authorized student fees apply to all doctoral programs regardless of credit load or place of residence.
Students who have paid more than the minimum for the degree (the first six (6) installments) will have their tuition fees prorated to the end of the month in which the Faculty of Graduate Studies confirms that all degree requirements have been completed. This includes the submission of their dissertation to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Student fees are not prorated.
For up to date tuition fees, refer to the graduate studies website:
https://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/tuition-fees-cost-living/graduate-tuition-fees
Student Fees
Student fees include fees authorized by student referendum, the UBC Board of Governors, the AMS, and other student societies and organizations. They are collected by the University at the request of the organization. Student fees are due annually, and charged to all students. Fees are calculated according to full-time or part-time status, session, and study level. Refer to the UBC calendar for up to date student fees:
http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/?tree=14,267,784,0

Graduate Student Society (GSS) Fees
As a graduate student at the University of British Columbia, you are automatically a member of the Graduate student society. Refer to the UBC Calendar for up to date GSS fees:
http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=14,267,785,0

Funding
Research Supervisors in the NRSC program must commit to supporting graduate students financially through the course of their training. The minimum level of support is $18,000 per year for a minimum of 2 years (MSc students) or 4 years (PhD students). Financial support to a minimum level can be made up from several sources including external governmental awards (i.e. CIHR, NSERC), UBC awards and scholarships, research assistant (RAships) funded through supervisor grants, TAships etc. In general it is expected that financial support will continue until the completion of a student’s degree as long as performance is satisfactory and the student remains in good academic standing.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies is responsible for merit-based graduate awards at the Vancouver campus of the University of British Columbia. Graduate Awards manages a number of award competitions each year and administers payment of both internally- and externally-funded awards. Incoming students are automatically considered for some scholarships such as the Graduate Entrance Scholarships, while international students are eligible for International Partial Tuition Scholarship. Major award competitions (NSERC, CIHR) are held annually with submission deadlines in early September, and students are expected to submit applications for these awards.

Graduate students at UBC Vancouver campus who have questions about need-based funding should visit the Student Financial Assistance and Awards website.
(http://www.students.ubc.ca/finance/index.cfm).
Major Awards
The Faculty of Graduate Studies has a comprehensive list of available awards, which can be found at: http://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/scholarships-awards-funding.

Tri-agency funding (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC)
Annual Value: $17,500 to $35,000
Eligibility - Citizenship: Canadian, Permanent Resident
Degree: Masters and Doctoral.
Application Status: Incoming and continuing students.
http://www.grad.ubc.ca/awards/cihr-graduate-scholarships

Four Year Fellowship
Annual Value: minimum $18,200 stipend plus full tuition coverage.
Eligibility: - Citizenship: Canadian, Permanent Resident, International.
Degree: Doctoral.
Application Status: Incoming and continuing students.
A small number of 4YF are made available to the program from the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and are awarded primarily to exceptional Doctoral students in the first year of entering the program. 4YF awardees are decided by the NRSC Graduate Program Admissions Committee. Students holding CIHR or NSERC Doctoral Scholarships automatically become 4YF designates and may be eligible for tuition fee coverage.
http://www.grad.ubc.ca/awards/four-year-doctoral-fellowship-4yf

Affiliated Scholarships
Annual Value: $300 - 27,500
Eligibility - Citizenship: Canadian, Permanent Resident, International.
Degree: Masters and Doctoral.
Other requirements may apply.
http://www.grad.ubc.ca/awards/affiliated-fellowships

Graduate Student Initiative
The Graduate Support Initiative is a program for funding graduate students through entrance scholarships, multi-year funding packages, tuition awards and scholarship top-ups. The Graduate Program in Neuroscience is responsible for distributing allocated funds. GSI funding is primarily used to provide Entrance Scholarships to the first year class in the program. Entrance scholarships between $2000 to $5000 are given to all students entering the program. The level of GSI funding per first year student is decided by the NRSC Graduate Program Admissions Committee.
Teaching and Research Assistantships

Both teaching and research assistantships are available at the graduate level at UBC. If you choose to pursue a teaching assistantship, be sure to find out how your teaching assistant (TA) duties will fit in with your graduate program work by speaking with your supervisor. Also clarify the expectations of the instructor you are working for, and whether you will be expected to lecture, lead tutorials or discussion groups, hold office hours, invigilate exams, mark papers or supervise students, and whether there are any conflicts with schedules (work or times you will be away) for which you need to make alternative arrangements.

For more information on TA and RA positions see the Faculty of Graduate Studies policies and procedures for teaching and research assistantships, the UBC policy on student service appointments, the UBC policy on appointment of graduate students to teach a course in which a Board of Governors appointment is required, and the free workshops for teaching assistants from the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology (CTLT).

As the Neuroscience program is not directly affiliated with an undergraduate degree program, most opportunities for TAships will be typically found with affiliated departments. The graduate program can fund a limited number of partial teaching assistant positions for NRSC 500 and 501 each year. Module leaders for the NRSC 500 and 501 courses are responsible for identifying an appropriate teaching assistant.

Travel and Travel Awards

Graduate Student Travel Fund

Graduate students are eligible for reimbursement from the Graduate Student Travel Fund once per degree program. The Travel Fund provides travel support to a maximum of $500 per graduate student who presents a paper or poster at an official conference or symposium (student workshops are ineligible). The conference or competition must take place while the student is enrolled full-time in a graduate degree program. Students on official on-leave status are not enrolled full-time. Full-time enrollment ceases at the end of the month when all degree requirements are completed, not at the time of convocation.

- Citizenship: Canadian, Permanent Resident, International.
- Degree: Masters and Doctoral.
- Application Status: Continuing students.
Other requirements apply.

Full application information can be found on the faculty of graduate studies website. However, please note that all application forms should be sent to the Graduate Program in Neuroscience, not the FOGS.
iGSN Travel Fund  
Annual Value: maximum of $400 per graduate student per degree program  
Eligibility:  
  Citizenship: Canadian, Permanent Resident, International.  
  Degree: Masters and Doctoral.  
  Application Status: Continuing students.  
Other requirements apply.  

Other funding  
Various external sources for funding are available by disease research foundations. Students should consult with their supervisors for opportunities for funding based on their area of research.  
A complete list of UBC based award and scholarship opportunities is available at grad.ubc.ca/awards  
Two email lists frequently send out extra funding opportunities. To sign up please email Liz Wong for the UBC-PSYT Neuroscience list and Bethany Becker for the neurophys list, respectively.  

Chinese Government Award  
For more information please contact the Education Office of the Chinese Consulate General in Vancouver, or email Jenny Phelps here.  

Directory  

Contact Information  
Contact Information available  

Liz Wong - Secretary  
Graduate Program in Neuroscience  
ubc.neuroscience@ubc.ca  

General neuroscience matters  
• application status  
• references  
• transcripts  
• extensions to application deadline  
• missing documents
• external examiners
• logistics
• fundings

Tim O’Connor - Director
Graduate Program in Neuroscience
jimo@interchange.ubc.ca
General neuroscience matters

Neuroscience Graduate Student Association
(NRSC GSA)
nrsc.gsa@gmail.com
NRSC GSA email listserv, suggestions, activities, mentorship, getting involved

UBC Graduate Student Association (UBC.GSS)
VP Academic
vpexternal@gss.ubc.ca

UBC Umbuds Office
http://www.ombudsoffice.ubc.ca/
ombuds.office@ubc.ca
Difficulties that cannot be resolved within the neuroscience program

**Mailing Lists and Web Groups**

NRSC GSA Facebook group
UBC Neuroscience Graduate Student Association (NRSC GSA)
Listserv: neuroscience-gsa@interchange.ubc.ca
Important announcements, student directed seminars, talks, social and sports activities, etc.
Neuroscience students should be automatically subscribed. If not, please send a request to
nrsc.gsa@gmail.com

Centre for Brain Health newsletter
Sign up at http://www.brain.ubc.ca/news

Neurophysiology seminar, talk, and event notifications***
Neuro-phys@interchange.ubc.ca

The mailing list with a *** mark can be subscribed by user:
To subscribe for mailing list such as “xxx@interchange.ubc.ca”, send an e-mail to
majordomo@interchange.ubc.ca with the following command in the body of your e-mail
message: subscribe [xxx].
To unsubscribe, send an e-mail to majordomo@interchange.ubc.ca with the following command in the body of your e-mail message: unsubscribe [xxx].

**Seminars**

Neuroscience Research Colloquium  
Every Friday 3pm-4pm CBH  
Invited speaker, including 1-2 Neuroscience Alumni speaker per year

Synaptic Journal Club  
Thursday, 12 pm – 1 pm, CBH Room 3402 (Third Floor)  
The weekly discussions at meetings of this seminar series focus around the research of Brain Research Centre PIs or recent journal articles. For more information or to subscribe to the seminar distribution list, please contact Beibei Song: bs2462@mun.ca.

Neuroscience Pizza Lab Seminars  
5pm on Wednesdays, once a month  
These monthly meetings are a series of short talks highlighting unpublished work by UBC neuroscience labs. Following a short introduction by the supervisors, each presenting student and postdoctoral fellow gives a 10 minute talk. 2014-2015 schedule:

MS Seminars and Journal Club  
Every Tuesdays, 8 am – 9 am, BRC.  
All are welcome to this journal club to hear about the latest research and developments in MS. For more information, contact Michelle Eisner at 604.827.3111 or meisner@brain.ubc.ca.

Neurobiology of Psychosis Journal Club  
Every other Tuesday, 9 am- 10 am, Boardroom of the BC Mental Health and Addictions Research Institute.  
This journal club provides an opportunity to discuss recent research and issues pertinent to severe mental illness. A multidisciplinary perspective on psychosis is promoted, with discussions related to genetics, imaging, animal models, biochemistry/molecular biology, as well as clinical research. For more information or to be notified of the papers discussed, please contact: psychosisjournalclub@hotmail.com.

Parkinson's Disease Research Journal Club  
Weekly (TBA), BRC.  
The discussions at meetings of this journal club focus on the latest findings in Parkinson's Disease research. For more information, please contact Scott Mackey: michael.scott.mackey@gmail.com.

Prefrontal Cortex Journal Club
Wednesday, 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm, BRC.
The prefrontal cortex (PFC) represents the final frontier toward understanding complex human behavior. Discussions span all levels of research from molecules to behavior, and from in vitro to in vivo work. For more information, please email pfcjournalclub@gmail.com.

Behavioral Neuroscience Seminars
Tuesday, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm, Suedfeld Lounge of Kenny Building.
Weekly seminar presented by graduate students.

CPS Seminar
Thursday, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm, LSI.
Presentations from invited speakers, current students, and supervisors in the Department of Cellular and Physiological Sciences.

Research Commons
http://koerner.library.ubc.ca/services/research-commons/

Program Research Days

Neuroscience Extravaganza
http://www.brain.ubc.ca/events/extravaganza.htm
The Neuroscience Extravaganza is an annual poster competition for neuroscience students and postdoctoral fellows. Check the website http://www.brain.ubc.ca/events/extravaganza.htm for updated information on poster registration deadlines.

UBC Department of Psychiatry Research Day
http://www.psychiatry.ubc.ca/Events.htm

Conferences

Society for Neuroscience (SfN)
http://www.sfn.org/
Neuroscience is the premier venue for neuroscientists from around the world to debut cutting-edge research on the brain and nervous system. Check site regularly for updates and announcements. Advance registration usually opens mid-July; online registration is cheaper and faster. Check http://www.sfn.org/am2011/ for updated information.
Note: Reduced registration price for members
- Student membership costs $55; to become a member, sponsorship by two Regular or Emeritus active members of SfN is required. Membership benefits can be found here: http://www.sfn.org/index.aspx?pagename=membership_AboutMembership_Benefits.
Abstract submission: (usually late April – mid-May).

Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN)
http://www.can-acn.net/
International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)
http://www.ibro.org/Pub/Pub_Front.asp

Other Conferences
http://www.arvo.org
http://www.strokecongress.ca/
http://www.cshl.edu/
http://fens.mdc-berlin.de/
http://www.grc.org/
http://www.ibnshomepage.org/
http://www.isdp.org/
http://www.keystonesymposia.org/meetings/listmeetings.cfm
http://nips.cc/
http://www.neurodevnet.ca/
http://www.rsoa.org/
http://www.visionsciences.org/

Workshop/Courses

Let talk Science?

http://www.embl.org/
http://www.ebi.ac.uk/training/onsite/
http://www.ibro.org/Pub/Pub_Front.asp
http://www.mbl.edu/
http://www.brain.riken.jp/

NRSC GSA

About Us
The Neuroscience Graduate Students’ Association (NRSC GSA) was founded in June 2009 by two graduate students, Conny Lin and Vilte Barakauskas. The association organized two departmental socials in the inaugural year. In its second year (2010/2011), the NRSC GSA established an executive team to meet the expanded goals of building an academic and social support network for students.

The NRSC GSA currently consists of a committee of graduate students who are dedicated to improving the experience of graduate studies in neuroscience. We aim to connect students in the program and foster a collegial and supportive environment through organized academic and social events.
Executives
The executive team for 2015/2016 is comprised of the following positions and individuals:
President:
VP Academic:
VP Communications:
VP Finance:
VP Events:
VP External:
Alumni Network Coordinator:
Monthly Pub Night Coordinator:
Neuroseminar: Open
Recreation Coordinator: Open
Entrance Members: Open

Please feel free to contact ubcnrscgsa@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the team!

Events Organized by the NRSC GSA

Orientation and Socials
Biannual social events are organized by the NRSC GSA, one at the beginning of the fall semester and another in late spring/summer. These events are meant to bring together NRSC students from the many research locations on and off campus. Food and drinks are provided. Several other events are hosted throughout the year, either directly by the GSA or in collaboration with faculty.

Mentorship
Beginning graduate studies may be a daunting task for students for many reasons: new school, new city, the need to build a new community. To facilitate the transition into the Neuroscience program, the NRSC GSA has established the Neuroscience Mentorship Program. This program pairs incoming students (mentees) with senior graduate students or postdoctoral fellows (mentors). The program aims to provide academic and social support to new students who will now have someone to whom they are able to direct questions and receive guidance throughout their first year of graduate studies. Some common questions from mentees may include: When to have committee meetings? Is it better for me to transfer to PhD program or to complete my Master’s first? Where is a good place to go during the weekend? How do I choose the “field of expertise” in the Common CV? Additionally, this program also offers mentoring opportunities for interested individuals in Neuroscience. The overall goal of the program is to foster a sense of community and belonging within the department. All incoming neuroscience students are required to be mentees. Mentees and mentors are asked to contact INSERT NEW NAME AND
EMAIL for more details or to receive a mentorship package including the mentoring agreement, code of conduct guidelines, and application forms.

Monthly Pub Nights
Neuroscience Pub Nights are generally held on the third Friday of every month. Students gather at Mahoney and Sons pub on campus (5990 University Blvd) in order to wind down with other Neuroscience students after a busy week. In addition to being a social event, students can use this opportunity to seek advice and guidance and discuss issues on a wide range of matters with their peers. This also allows students to build their academic network by meeting and interacting with students outside of their lab and classroom setting.

Recreation
This program was developed in recognition of the importance of a balanced lifestyle which includes recreational activities in addition to graduate studies and research. Activities are proposed at executive meetings and are organized by the Sports Coordinator. Over the past year, students in the department have participated in indoor rock climbing, skiing, and skating. Contact the NRSC GSA for more details.

Appendix

General Student Resources
SSC
Payroll
UBC GSS
Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Network (iGSN)
UBC Calendar
Counselling, health and wellness
Health insurance: I have a plan
U-Pass

Faculty of Graduate Studies
Forms
Deadlines
Publications
Handbook of Graduate Supervision
Intellectual Property Guide

Graduate Program in Neuroscience Forms
Committee Meeting
MSc to PhD Transfer Form
Candidacy Extension Form
Mentorship Application