



Guidelines for Fast-track (Preparatory Year) Students

v. 2025

Students entering the PhD program with a BSc degree are, generally, obliged to participate in a preparatory year program, before starting full-time work on their PhD project. These guidelines elaborate on the process and the obligations for students and thesis committee during this time.

FT Advisory Committee

All Preparatory Year (PY) students will have one common FT Advisory Committee. The advisory committee will denote the curriculum in the training objectives for each PY student (see below). After two semesters, the FT Advisory Committee will perform the mid-term evaluation and determine whether the PY student may continue directly with the PhD work or must change to the master program.

The committee members are:

- Prof. Benedikt Grothe (Head of the GSN Doctoral Commission)
- Dr. Alexander Kaiser (Teaching Coordinator at GSN-LMU)
- Prof. Anton Sirota (Head of Examination Committee for the MSc Neurosciences)

Mid-Term Evaluation

After the second semester of studies, the progress of the student is evaluated. To be able to continue with the PhD program, students must achieve a grade average of 2,0 or better. If this not the case, the student will be transferred to the master program.

Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC) and Training Objectives (TO)

After the preparatory year, the research-oriented Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC) will be installed, based on the TAC Initial Request submitted by the student in accordance with their supervisor and approved by the Examination Committee. The TAC regularly reviews and updates the student's TOs.

Curriculum for the Preparatory Year at GSN-LMU

Students entering the program with a BSc degree are obliged to earn 60 ECTS during their preparatory year, which correspond to the MSc Neurosciences program first year curriculum. Individual adjustments according to previous education may be made by the Advisory Committee upon the student's request.

After finishing the preparatory year, students must earn another 30 ECTS through curricular events during the further course of their PhD education. These can be achieved by regularly attending progress reports of their host labs, journal clubs, invited scientific talks, conference visits and a variety of courses offered by GSN-LMU or the LMU Graduate Center. Please read through the "Guidelines PhD" for further clarification.

GSN-LMU Forms

All important GSN PhD and Fast-track student forms may be found on our website:

www.gsn.lmu.de/download/st_forms_checklists/index.html

Important forms specifically for PhD and Fast-track students are:

- TAC Initial Request – initiate and submit in MyGSN by the end of the preparatory year (30.09.).
- Training Objectives (TO) Form – filled out in connection with every TAC Meeting, at least once a year.