Motivation Statement Format:

The motivation letter should be uploaded in PDF format. It should not be longer than 500 words, and be structured as follows:

- About 1/3 - Explanation of reasons for interest in Neuroscience / Neurocognitive Psychology;
- About 1/3 - Explanation of reasons for applying to GSN / NCP specifically (if you apply to more than one program, make sure to indicate your motivation for each program and choice of priority);
- About 1/3 - Explanation of reasons for interest in specific Research groups/fields (for PhD applicants) and/or Preferred curricular focus (for MSc & FT applicants) as indicated in your application.

A note on the use of generative AI for your GSN / NCP Application

Generative AI tools may be helpful as template creators, which one can then improve, polish, and fine-tune into a text that communicates your strengths and captures the unique narrative of your academic path. This refining process is a creative one and demands a significant amount of critical thinking and iterations. Only using your own independent thinking (with or without the aid of technology) will allow you to convey your uniqueness and memorability as a candidate.

While the prospect of using generative AI tools to produce or improve a motivation letter or other texts in the application might be an attractive option for GSN / NCP applicants, we encourage you to consider a few critical points before deciding to employ their use in your application:

Accuracy – in the context of an application, where factual accuracy is vital, its lack could seriously misrepresent your candidacy.

Authenticity – an insightful, authentic, and tailored motivation statement is a key element that contributes to the cohesiveness of your application. Generative AI is unable to capture your voice beyond a generic analysis and revamping of prompted data, which may result in unspecific and inauthentic content.

Creativity – generative AI cannot yet know the creative ways you may be thinking about a particular research goal or project, or a novel approach that you would like to introduce in your research, or why you want to study at a particular international institution.

Alignment – establishing an accord between applicants and institutions on levels like values, mission, and vision is impossible to achieve without researching and correctly framing such subtle nuances.

Data security – anything prompted into generative AI tools could be subject to data mining.