

Guidelines for the Master's program Neurosciences

Master's curriculum

For a general overview, please carefully read the module handbook which is available at our download area of the LMU GSN homepage ("MSc Modulhandbuch"). In general, students can apply for substituting mandatory courses. Applications have to be approved by the Head of the Examination Board and handed in to the GSN office!

Guided lab work overview

Within the LMU Master program in Neurosciences several courses offer guided lab work. Especially, in modules P3, P7, P8, P9 and P12 students are introduced into all aspects of individual guided research projects. In general, students choose guided lab work courses according to the LMU Online Directory (<https://lsf.verwaltung.uni-muenchen.de>) or contact faculty members (<http://www.gsn.uni-muenchen.de/people/faculty>) directly.

Research Projects (modules P3, P7, P9)

Research Projects (RPs) must be performed in each semester before beginning the MSc thesis project. A RP is worth 6 ECTS (180 hours of workload). The goal is to obtain essential research skills, which include not only experimental skills, but also practice in completing a literature search, producing informative figures from raw data, writing reports in the form of a scientific manuscript. Students should be entrusted with small projects, ideally parts of ongoing research within the lab, which can be dealt with in the given amount of time (one semester). Most RPs will be completed as a full-time lab internship, but other arrangements are possible depending upon the project. In order to certify successful completion of a research project, please download the form sheet "Certificate Research Project.pdf" from the GSN website:

https://www.gsn.uni-muenchen.de/download/st_forms_checklists/msc/res_proj_certif.pdf

Important things to keep in mind regarding Research Projects:

- The project workload should not exceed 6 ECTS! (full-time internships: app. 6 weeks; no more than 8 weeks).
- RP lab time should not overlap with other coursework.
- Two consecutive RPs in the same lab are not recommended but ok if the MSc Thesis will be performed in this lab. (Exception: Preparatory year Fast Track students).

A report (20 – 30 pages) and a presentation within the group seminar has to be delivered and graded by the project supervisor.

Lab Rotation (module P8)

According to the standard schedule of the MSc Program in Neurosciences, each student has to perform a lab rotation in his/her 3rd semester. As the course is worth 3 ECTS (= 90 hours of workload), it should not cover a substantial part of a scientific project, rather the goal is to participate in the daily lab routine. The focus should therefore be on methodical skills. A written protocol (20 – 30 pages or a presentation of about 45 minutes) must be handed in and will be graded by the supervisor. In order to certify successful completion of a lab rotation, please download the form sheet "ConfirmationCourseParticipationMSc.pdf" from the GSN website:

http://www.gsn.uni-muenchen.de/download/study_regs/index.html

Special Topics in Neuroscience (module P11)

According to the study regulations, the students have to actively participate in the group seminars of the supervising lab or chair, including attending and discussing the presentations of other group members and providing a presentation (30-45 min.) of own progress.

Master's Thesis (module P12)

According to the LMU Study Regulations, the master's thesis should demonstrate a student's ability to independently cope with an adequately demanding scientific question within a given time frame. **The time frame for a master's thesis is 24 weeks** (6 months). There is usually only one examiner, subject to approval by the Head of the Examination Board. An extension can only be given once upon official request, and only if the student is not responsible for being unable to meet the thesis due date. This is very strictly regulated. Please, also note that you must be officially registered for the semester in which the thesis is submitted to the university.

The study regulations require to complete the following modules before beginning with the thesis: P1-P5, P7 and 24 credits from modules WP1-WP10.

The elective courses are not included and can be finished after registration of the master thesis.

Students must hand in the following:

- Pdf version of the MSc Thesis uploaded into the MSc Biocloud (individual links are communicated within the Confirmation of Registration Master Thesis)
- 3 bound books in DIN A4 (hard or soft cover) – no spiral bounding
- Abstract (1 – 1 ½ pages max.)
- Limit of 40 – max. 60 pages
- Affidavit included in the printed versions (signed by the candidate)
- Last page signed by the supervisor(s); LMU Logo and GSN Logo should appear on the front page (<https://www.gsn.uni-muenchen.de/download/general/index.html>)
- No change of MSc-Thesis-Title possible – not even slight changes! There is only the possibility to add a description in the subtitle – keep the main title as general as possible

After the master's thesis has been handed in to the GSN examination office, the head of the examination board will send a request of assessment to the examiner. Be sure to include the required MSc thesis pages and complete all required forms, which you can download from the GSN website:

http://www.gsn.uni-muenchen.de/download/study_regs/index.html

Module P 11: In addition to the thesis lab work, the master student should regularly visit the host lab's progress report/lab meetings while conducting their thesis work. Students are also required to give an oral presentation of their master's project (P12.2 "Disputation"). Student performance during this presentation must be graded by the project supervisor, the results of which are reported using the same form as for a lab rotation ("ConfirmationCourseParticipationMSc.pdf"):

http://www.gsn.uni-muenchen.de/download/study_regs/index.html

Publishing the MSc Thesis:

Highly recommended after successfully finished the Msc studies: MSc Thesis can, with permission by the thesis supervisor, be published with a DOI on the LMU UniBib Homepage via openAccess:

<https://epub.ub.uni-muenchen.de/help/studienabschlussarbeiten.html>