

Master of Science in Neuroscience

Student Handbook (2024/2025)

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This Student Handbook contains useful information for students enrolled in the Master of Science in Neuroscience programme offered by the Department of Neuroscience. Students are advised to familiarise themselves with this Handbook so as to obtain a general overview of the Department and its taught courses. The information contained in this Student Handbook is correct at the time of publication. Please note that there may be changes to the information from time to time without prior notification. Students are advised to visit relevant websites for updated information. In the event of any discrepancy between the information on the University website and the contents of this handbook, the Department of Neuroscience reserves the right of final decision and interpretation.

© August 2024 Department of Neuroscience, City University of Hong Kong.

1. Introduction

Master of Science in Neuroscience 理學碩士（神經科學）

Neuroscience is the study of the nervous system, its functions and structure. The nervous system controls human behaviour, emotions, thinking, physical functions, conscious and unconscious movements. Even now, we still do not fully understand this most complex system, and many questions remain to be answered. Moreover, much awaits to be discovered about how the dysfunction of nervous system can lead to neurological and psychiatric disorders.

1.1 Programme Aims

- Provide students with diverse background of undergraduate education with updated knowledge and practical techniques of basic and translational neuroscience;
- Provide students with knowledge and encourage them to critically think about emerging neuroscience and neuroscience-related interdisciplinary research, technology, education, and industries, and to prepare them for a career in this growing multi-disciplinary field;
- Educate healthcare and non-healthcare professionals with updated relevant knowledge of neuroscience and neuropsychiatric diseases.

1.2 Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs)

- Understand how the anatomy and physiology of our nervous system enable the various functions such as learning and memory, sensory and motor function, and emotion;
- Understand how dysfunction of the nervous system can lead to neurological and psychiatric disorders, and how new therapeutics can be developed to treat them;
- Critically evaluate the latest research literature and apply it to provide solutions to current issues in nervous system health;
- Critically analyse, interpret, discuss and justify neuroscientific data; and
- Communicate effectively, manage skillfully, and work closely with people from diverse education and professional background and experience. Communicate complex translational neuroscience concepts effectively to a variety of audience.

1.3 Career Prospects

After graduating from this programme students will have the skills to work in a range of disciplines and settings such as:

- Education and research
- Private sector (health care organisations, pharmaceutical industry, consultancy etc.)
- PhD studies in Neuroscience

2. Programme Curriculum

2.1 Programme Requirements and Courses List

Students are required to complete **30 credit units (CUs)** for graduation from this Master of Science in Neuroscience (MSN) programme, which comprises of **5 core courses (15 credits) & 4-5 elective courses (15 credits)**.

MSN will be organized as an interdisciplinary programme with Department of Biomedical Sciences (BMS).

Core Courses (15 CUs):			
Course Code	Course Title	Level	CUs
NS5001	Research Methodology and Ethics	P5	3
NS5002	Neurobiology of Disease	P5	3
NS5003	Neural Basis of Learning and Memory	P5	3
NS5004	Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience	P5	3
NS8002	Advanced Neuroscience	R8	3

Electives (15 CUs):				
Course Code	Course Title	Level	CUs	Remarks
NS5005	Sensory and Motor Neuroscience	P5	3	
NS5006	Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience	P5	3	
NS5007	Human and Artificial Intelligence	P5	3	
NS5008	Neuropharmacology	P5	3	
NS6001	Research Project in Neuroscience	P6	6	Maximum: Two Semesters (Semester A & B)
NS6002	Advanced Computational Neuroscience	P6	3	
BMS8106	Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine	R8	3	
BMS8110	Genomics and Bioinformatics	R8	3	

*Remarks:

- Elective courses will be offered subject to sufficient enrolment.
- Some of the elective courses will be offered in every two years.

2.2 Course Syllabus

You can download the course syllabus on the website of Master's Degree Catalogue:

<http://www.cityu.edu.hk/catalogue/pg/202425/programme/MSN.htm>

2.3 Mode of Attendance and Programme Duration

Master of Science in Neuroscience: Combined mode[†], Self-financing

	Full-time Mode	Part-time Mode
Normal Study Period	1 year	2 years
Maximum Study Period	2.5 years	5 years

Note:

[†] Combined mode: Local students taking programmes in combined mode can attend full-time (12-18 credit units per semester) or part-time (no more than 11 credit units per semester) study in different semesters without seeking approval from the University. For non-local students, they will be admitted to these programmes for either full-time or part-time studies. Non-local students must maintain the required credit load for their full-time or part-time studies and any changes will require approval from the University.

2.4 Tuition Fees

Local Student: HK\$6,400 per credit (2024/2025)

Non-local Student: HK\$6,400 per credit (2024/2025)

2.5 Medium of Instruction and Assessment

English

2.6 CGPA Banding for Master's Degree Award Classifications

Students will be awarded the following classifications based on their CGPA attained upon completion of all appropriate graduation requirements:

Master's Degree	CGPA
Distinction	3.5 or above
Credit	3.20 – 3.49
Pass	2.00 – 3.19

2.7 Academic Regulations and Guidelines for Master's Degree

Students should observe the University's related regulations and guidelines on assessment at all times. More information can be available by referring to the websites maintained by Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies.

http://www.cityu.edu.hk/qac/assessment_policy/university_assessment_policy.htm

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/sqs/student/tpg/regulation>

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/sqs/student/tpg/regulation/acadreg>

2.8 Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is central to the conduct of academic work. Students are responsible for knowing and understanding the Rules on Academic Honesty. As part of the University's efforts to educate students about academic honesty, all students are required to complete an online tutorial, take an online quiz and fill out an online declaration **by 30 November 2024** in order to access their course grades online.

For details, please refer to the Office of the Provost and Deputy President's website:

http://www.cityu.edu.hk/provost/academic_honesty/university_requirement_on_academic_honesty.htm

3. Information to New Students

3.1 Electronic Mail account for students (e-mail)

Information relevant to your studies will disseminate to you via your CityU student electronic mail. You should check your e-mail account frequently for the messages and updates news announced by the University and Department. You are also encouraged to communicate with Programme leaders, Course leaders and lecturers through e-mail. Please state your name, student number and contact telephone number in your emails clearly.

To learn more about the student email services, please visit the following website:

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/csc/deptweb/support/faq/email/o365/o365.htm>

3.2 Canvas (e-Learning Platform)

Students are encouraged to use the Canvas, an e-learning platform, to communicate with the Course instructors/leaders, as well as among their fellow classmates. The Canvas also serves as the platform for instructors to disseminate course-related information to students.

Canvas and other e-learning information: <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/its/services-facilities/learning-management-system>

3.3 CityU Announcement Portal (CAP) at Student Intranet

Please check the CityU Announcement Portal (CAP) **EVERYDAY** for the announcements from the University, your College and your Department. A Daily announcement digest (summary) will send to you by email everyday.

CAP: <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/portal> > CAP (after log-in)

You may also download the “CAP App” which you can download from the iOS and the Android apps stores.

3.4 How to Check your Personal Class Schedule

- i) Login [AIMS](#). ([CityU Homepage](#) → Quick Links → AIMS)
- ii) Click “Course Registration” menu.
- iii) Click “My Detail Schedule” to display details of your class schedule.

3.5 How to get Instructors’ handouts through Canvas

- i) Log on to [Canvas](#). ([CityU Homepage](#) → Quick Links → Canvas)
- ii) Click “My Courses”.
- iii) Click “Files”.

3.6 Leave of Absence

Students intending not to register for any courses in a semester (except in Summer Term) because of health problems or other personal reasons, but who will subsequently continue their studies, may apply for a leave of absence to be away from their studies temporarily while maintaining a valid enrolment status with the University.

Please study the Academic Regulations in detail:

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/sqs/student/tpg/records/leave>

3.7 Postgraduate Course Registration for Semester A 2024/25

For Semester A 2024/2025, students will be pre-registered in required courses and programme electives in most cases if possible.

The date for release of your class schedule is **30 July 2024**. Please check your curriculum requirements, review your study plan and then make appropriate adjustments to your pre-registered courses.

Add/Drop of courses can be made through AIMS for web-enabled courses during the web registration period. For non-web-enabled courses, approval is required from the major department and you can submit your change request by using the Add/Drop Form in [AIMS](#). You are also advised to visit <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/sqs/student/tpg/coursereg/web> for course registration details

For courses which are web-enabled:

Add/drops can be performed during the web registration period **27 August - 9 September 2024**.

Registration time tickets are assigned to space out students so that they will not be logging in at the same time for web registration. Students can check their personal registration time tickets in AIMS for the assigned start time of web registration from **13 August 2024**.

For courses which are not web-enabled:

For courses which are not web-enabled, students can use the **Add/Drop Form** in [AIMS](#) from **12 August - 9 September 2024** to submit change requests to the home academic unit for approval. (An integrated electronic form, replacing the paper forms for course add/drop and study load adjustment, will be available for use. Details can be found [here](#).)

3.8 Credit Transfer

Applications for credit transfer must be made before a semester begins. For **Semester A 2024/25**, the application period is **from 11 July to 30 August 2024**. For details, please refer to SGS website: <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/sqs/student/tpg/records/credittransfer>

4. Other Information for Master's Degree Students

4.1 Information for Master's Degree Students

Please check for the information and updates announced by SGS on:

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/sqs/student/tpq>

4.2 Forms for Master's Degree Students

The forms of applying certifications or change of personal information can find on the SGS webpage:

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/sqs/student/tpq/form>

4.3 NS Department Website

You can access to NS Department website at <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/neuro/> for more information and updates of our Department.

4.4 Useful Websites

Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies (SGS)

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/sqs/>

Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences (JCC)

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/jcc/>

Department of Biomedical Sciences (BMS)

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/bms/>

CityU Digital Learning

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/dlsupport/>

Run Run Shaw Library

<http://www.cityu.edu.hk/lib/>

Creating a Sexual Harassment-Free Campus

http://www.cityu.edu.hk/cash/cityu_sexual_harassment.htm

Tutorial for Students on Preventing Sexual Harassment

https://www.cityu.edu.hk/cash/studentlan/Online_Tutorial/

Academic Calendar

https://www.cityu.edu.hk/arro/ac_calendar.asp

5. Communication

Students are encouraged to discuss any of their problems or issues related to the courses, assessments and programme with our Programme Leader and Course Lecturers freely. Please contact the General Office if you need any administrative support related to your studies.

Specifically, the following communication channels between students and the department are recommended:

- i) Students who are having academic difficulties with a course should speak directly to the Lecturer of that course.
- ii) A student who wishes to discuss the overall organization of the programme should speak to the Programme Leader or his/her deputy.
- iii) A formal consultative process between students and staff exists in the department in the form of a Joint Staff & Student Consultative Committee (JSSCC). One student from each year will be elected to sit in the JSSCC Committee.

5.1 Programme Leader

<u>Position</u>	<u>Staff Name</u>	<u>Tel.</u>	<u>Email</u>
Programme Leader	Prof Geoffrey LAU	3442-4345	geoff.lau@cityu.edu.hk

5.2 Administrative Support from NS General Office

NS General Office

Address

Room 401, 4/F, Block 1A, To Yuen Building, City University of Hong Kong

Campus Map: <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/about/campus/map#code:NS>

Office Hours

Monday - Friday	9:00 am – 5:30 pm
Lunch Break	12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays	Closed

Enquiry

MSc in Neuroscience	ns.tpg@cityu.edu.hk
General Enquiries	NS.GO@cityu.edu.hk

Fax

3442-0128

Appendix 1: Academic Calendar 2024/25

Semester A 2024/25

Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Events	Public Holidays
Sep-24								Semester A 2024/25	
WK 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2 Sept – 30 Nov Teaching Period	18 Day following Mid-Autumn Festival
WK 2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
WK 3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
WK 4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
WK 5	29	30							
Oct-24									
			1	2	3	4	5	2 Graduation Date	1 National Day
WK 6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	5 CityU UG Info Day (non-teaching day)	11 Chung Yeung Festival
WK 7	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
WK 8	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
WK 9	27	28	29	30	31				
Nov-24									
WK 9						1	2		
WK 10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
WK 11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
WK 12	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
WK 13	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	30 Last Day of Teaching	
Dec-24									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2 - 7 Student Revision Period	
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	9 - 21 Examination Period	
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	23 Dec 2024 - 11 Jan 2025 Semester Break	25 Christmas Day
	29	30	31						26 Day following Christmas Day

Semester B 2024/25

Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Events	Public Holidays
Jan-25								Semester B 2024/25	
				1	2	3	4		1 First Day of January
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
WK 1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	13 Jan - 17 Apr Teaching Period	
WK 2	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
WK 3	26	27	28	29	30	31		28 Jan – 3 Feb Lunar New Year Break	29 - 31 Lunar New Year Holidays
Feb-25									
							1		
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	3 Graduation Date	
WK 4	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
WK 5	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
WK 6	23	24	25	26	27	28			
Mar-25									
							1		
WK 7	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
WK 8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
WK 9	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
WK 10	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
WK 11	30	31							
Apr-25									
			1	2	3	4	5		4 Ching Ming Festival
WK 12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
WK 13	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	17 Last Day of Teaching	18 Good Friday
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	22 - 26 Student Revision Period	19 Day following Good Friday
	27	28	29	30				28 Apr - 13 May Examination Period	21 Easter Monday
May-25									
					1	2	3		1 Labour Day
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	14 May - 7 Jun Semester Break	5 Buddha's Birthday
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		31 Tuen Ng Festival

Summer Term 2025

Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Events	Public Holidays
Jun-25								Summer Term 2025	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2 Graduation Date	
WK 1	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	9 Jun - 26 Jul Teaching Period	
WK 2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
WK 3	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
WK 4	29	30							
Jul-25									
WK 4			1	2	3	4	5		1 HK SAR Establishment Day
WK 5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
WK 6	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
WK 7	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	26 Last Day of Teaching	
	27	28	29	30	31			28 Jul - 2 Aug Student Revision Period	
Aug-25									
						1	2		
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4 - 9 Examination Period	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	11 - 30 Term Break	
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
	31								

Appendix 2: Suggested Study Path for Full-time MSN student (1-year)

Study Plan A					
Sem	Courses				CUs
A	NS5001 Research Methodology and Ethics (3 CUs)	NS5004 Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience (3 CUs)	NS8002* Advanced Neuroscience (3 CUs)	Elective from NS or BMS (6 CUs)	15
B	NS5002 Neurobiology of Disease (3 CUs)	NS5003* Neural Basis of Learning and Memory (3 CUs)	Elective from NS (9 CUs)		15
Total:					30

Study Plan B (Especially for those students planning to take NS6001)						
Sem	Courses				CUs	
A	NS5001 Research Methodology and Ethics (3 CUs)	NS5004 Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience (3 CUs)	NS8002* Advanced Neuroscience (3 CUs)	Elective from NS or BMS (3 CUs)	NS6001 [△] Research Project in Neuroscience (6 CUs)	18
B	NS5002 Neurobiology of Disease (3 CUs)	NS5003* Neural Basis of Learning and Memory (3 CUs)	Elective from NS (6 CUs)		12	
Total:					30	

Elective courses in Semester A:

- NS5007* Human and Artificial Intelligence (3 CUs)
- NS5008*# Neuropharmacology
- NS6001 Research Project in Neuroscience (6 CUs)
- BMS8106 Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine
- BMS8110 Genomics and Bioinformatics (3 CUs)

Elective courses in Semester B:

- NS5005 Sensory and Motor Neuroscience (3 CUs)
- NS5006* Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience (3 CUs)
- NS6002 Advanced Computational Neuroscience (3 CUs)

Remarks:

* Class will be scheduled in evening in 2024/2025 academic year.

Lab session will be scheduled on Saturday morning.

△ NS6001 Research Project in Neuroscience will normally last for a maximum of two semesters to complete in Semester A and Semester B.

Appendix 3: Suggested Study Path for Part-time MSN student (2-year)

Study Plan C (2-Year Part-time)				
Year	Sem	Courses		CU
1	A	NS8002* Advanced Neuroscience (3 CUs)	Elective from NS (6 CUs)	9
			OR	
			NS6001 Research Project in Neuroscience (6 CUs)	
B	NS5003* Neural Basis of Learning and Memory (3 CUs)	Elective from NS (3 CUs)	6	
2	A	NS5001 Research Methodology and Ethics (3 CUs)	NS5004 Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience (3 CUs)	6
	B	NS5002 Neurobiology of Disease (3 CUs)	Elective from NS (6 CUs)	9
Total:				30 CUs

Elective courses in Semester A:

- NS5007* Human and Artificial Intelligence (3 CUs)
- NS5008*# Neuropharmacology
- NS6001 Research Project in Neuroscience (6 CUs)
- BMS8106 Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine
- BMS8110 Genomics and Bioinformatics (3 CUs)

Elective courses in Semester B:

- NS5005 Sensory and Motor Neuroscience (3 CUs)
- NS5006* Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience (3 CUs)
- NS6002 Advanced Computational Neuroscience (3 CUs)

Remarks:

- * Class will be scheduled in evening in 2024/2025 academic year.
- # Lab session will be scheduled on Saturday morning.
- △ NS6001 Research Project in Neuroscience will normally last for a maximum of two semesters to complete in Semester A and Semester B.
- + If part-time students would wish to complete the MSN programme for more than 2 years or having other study plans than the above option A & B, please send email to us at ns.tpg@cityu.edu.hk to discuss.