

Teaching program for the PHD in Neuroscience

The teaching program will be composed of Basic courses and Advanced courses.

The Basic courses will be mandatory (minimum: 70% of attendance). Regarding the advanced courses, the students will have to select some of them, with a minimum number of 16 hours, although they are strongly encouraged to attend as many advanced courses as possible.

BASIC COURSES:

A) The teaching scheme includes three areas of competence that the graduate program should provide:

1- From anatomy and physiology of the nervous system to cognition

- a. Neuroanatomy and neuroradiology (10 hours) (Renzo Manara)
- b. Functional neuroanatomy (4 hours) (Corbetta)
- c. Neuropsychology (Attention and visuo-spatial functions: 2 hours Bonato; Language and calculation: 2 hours Semenza; Executive functions: 2 hours Vallesi; Memory and emotions: 2 hours Mario Liotti)
- d. Principles of neuronal biophysics, physiology and processing (4 hours) (Vassanelli)
- e. Comparative anatomy and physiology (4 hours) (Megighian)
- f. Laboratory of neuroanatomy (2 hours) (De Caro)
- g. Laboratory of tractography and fibers (4 hours) (Michel De Schotten)

2- Experimental tools in neuroscience

- a. The scientific method: practical issues (4 hours) (Vallesi)
- b. Human neuroimaging techniques (16 hours) (Bertoldo)
- c. Graph theory and null models (6 hours) (Suweis) (Right after Bertoldo's course)
- d. Programming on Python (8 hours) (Melucci)
- e. Methods in psychophysiology (4 hours) (Spironelli-Angrilli)

3- Statistical and mathematical Tools

- a. Optional and preliminary course on use of R (4-6 hours Finos)
- b. Basic concepts of statistics (8 hours) (Finos) (focused on statistical analysis, multiple comparison correction, data imputation)

B) Soft skills and research training*

- a. Presentation skills and public outreach (2 hours) (Cona)
- b. Seminar on how to write scientific papers (1 hour) (Elena Becker Barroso) already scheduled on 23 April

*In addition to these lessons, every year, during the [PhD Educational week on Transferable skills \(2nd Edition\)](#), the University of Padova offers to PhD students of Padova training activities aimed at strengthening the so-called "*Transferable skills*", i.e. interdisciplinary knowledge in the fields of research design, communication, and relationships with the professional world.

During the 2019-20 academic year the University Language Centre (CLA) will offer a number of **courses of Academic English** for doctoral students at the University of Padova (34th Cohort). The courses will last for 8 weeks (30 academic hours) and take place either between October and December 2019 or between January and March 2020.

ADVANCED COURSES

Each student will choose the modules that finds more useful and interesting for her/his research training to complete the required number of hours (minimum: 16 hours).

The classification in curricula is only meant to better cluster methodological skills and knowledge. We strongly encourage the students to broaden their horizon to the different aspects of Neurosciences.

1. Programming and Computational Neuroscience

- a. Controllability (4 hours) (Suweis)
- b. Basic introduction to Bayesian reasoning (3 hours) (Zanzotto)
- c. Data reduction (PCA, ICA) and/or permutation (6 hours) (Finos)
- d. Programming in Python (Advanced level. To activate on 20-21)

2. Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience

- a. Practical course for EEG recording and analysis (8 hours) (Ambrosini)
- b. Practical course for transcranial magnetic and electric stimulation techniques (4 hours) (Cona)
- c. Systematic review meta-analysis and study quality in neuroimaging (8 hours) (Gentili)

3. Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience

- a. Light-based methods for brain circuit analysis (8 hours) (Dal Maschio, Bortolozzi)
- b. Invertebrate nervous system: a way to study higher brain function and their evolution in a simpler (not so simple) nervous system. (4 hours) (Megighian, Cellini; Zordan)
- c. Inhibitory interneurons in the neocortex: from cellular properties to circuits (4 hours) (Pietrobon)

4. Translational and Clinical Neuroscience

- a. Parkinson's and other movement disorders (4 hours) (Antonini)
- b. Motor recovery and neuroplasticity after central nervous system injury (4 hours) (Del Felice)
- c. Neurodegenerative disorders (4 hours) (Cagnin)
- d. Multiple sclerosis (2 hours) (Gallo)
- e. Brain-body interactions in psychopathology and the bio-neurofeedback (6 hours) (Palomba; Messerotti)

The second part of the scheme includes advanced short classes of 2-8 hours, among which the student will choose some. These courses will be focused on the individual research subject of the proposing faculty and have been clustered on the different platforms of the PNC. The courses are conceived to provide, in addition to the theoretical background, the skill to use the concepts/tools in the research project of the students but should also be considered as an opportunity explore areas that are not directly related to the student background or research project.

JOURNAL CLUBS and INTERIM EVALUATIONS

A journal club for all students and faculties will be organized by students themselves (on a volunteering basis) once/twice per month. Each student will have to present and critically comment at least one study each year.

In the second half of the academic year (usually end of May-June), journal clubs will be substituted by progress reports. During the progress reports, each PhD student will have to present her/his project to

the other PhD students and to the faculty. A written progress report should also be submitted, following a specific form. For first year students, the detailed PhD project plan is expected to be ready, and some preliminary data to demonstrate feasibility will be appreciated). Both the oral and written progress reports will be evaluated by 2 independent researchers, who will give feedback that will help the Teaching Board to decide among the following outcomes: 1. the PhD student is ready to pass to the next year (or to defend her/his thesis for last year students); 2. should present again her/his work in September-October of the same year; 3. Could not be admitted to the next year due to lack of progress and/or failure to follow the Individual Training Plan.