

Neuroscience Graduate Training at New York University and the NYU School of Medicine

Neuroscience education at NYU has a decades-long history of excellence and strength. Historically focused in two separate doctoral programs—the Doctoral Program in Neural Science (Center for Neural Science in the Faculty of Arts and Science) and the Doctoral Program in Neuroscience & Physiology (Sackler Institute in the School of Medicine)—neuroscience education is now harmonized and engages faculty across multiple departments, inter-disciplinary centers, and campuses. Additionally, weekly colloquia and a variety of other jointly sponsored scientific and social events bring together neuroscientists from across NYU regularly. This one-page overview describes the opportunities available to graduate students in neuroscience at NYU as well as differences that exist between our neuroscience programs.

You can find more detailed information from our website: <https://neuroscience.nyu.edu/graduate-programs>.

Admissions. While students are admitted to either the Neural Science doctoral program or the Sackler Institute, there is one application for both neuroscience programs. Applications are reviewed by a single faculty committee, and candidates are invited to interview with the programs jointly. In your application, you should note the research and faculty interests that drew you to apply to NYU. You can, but are not required to, select a preferred program (Neural Science or Sackler's Neuroscience and Physiology) during the application process. The following should help you with this determination.

Academics. All students participate in the shared, team-taught neuroscience core curriculum in their first year. Students also declare an "area of specialization" that best captures their specific research interests, either Systems/Cognitive/Computational or Molecular/Cellular/Translational, which guides additional first year course requirements. After the first year, all students are expected to take advanced elective courses to obtain a depth of knowledge in their area of specialization. In the second and third year, students are also able to gain valuable teaching experience as TAs for undergraduate courses in Neural Science or for the medical school practical course in neuroanatomy.

Research. Faculty and students interested in all research areas—from molecular to cognitive—can be found in NYU's Arts and Science and School of Medicine campuses, as well as at the Nathan Kline Institute. Students have the opportunity to rotate and join the lab of any of the approximately 80 affiliated faculty members, regardless of location or department. Rotations can run anywhere from 3 to 6 months, and students are expected to complete at least 2 (and often 3) rotations during their first year. Students often rotate in labs on multiple campuses before choosing a mentor, and they also select from both CNS and Sackler faculty when organizing thesis committees.

Advising and Mentoring. Students in both programs have a first year mentor: the Director of Graduate Studies mentors CNS students, whereas Sackler students are assigned an individual faculty advisor. The requirements for selecting a research mentor, organizing and meeting with a thesis committee, passing a qualifying exam, and defending a thesis are also the same for all students.

Training Grants. Students from both programs are eligible for appointment on the four training grants held jointly between the Neural Science and the Sackler Neuroscience and Physiology programs.

Sackler Open Program. Students admitted to Sackler can take advantage of Sackler's Open Program. Through the Open Program, students may wait until after their first year to select a specific program affiliation. They can also choose to affiliate with more than one Sackler PhD programs. Students entering via the Neuroscience & Physiology program can thus opt to pursue training in Developmental Genetics, Pathobiology, or Biomedical Informatics either in addition to or instead of Neuroscience. This allows students with broad research interests more flexibility during their PhD. Students in the Neural Science program can collaborate with faculty in different Sackler programs and have co-mentors, but cannot transfer to a different degree program without submitting a new application.

Stipend and Benefits. Stipends for both programs are matched. NYU covers tuition and fees for all courses in both programs. Students in Sackler and CNS are eligible to receive medical benefits and have access to a student health center. CNS students also receive a subsidy for dental insurance. All full time students are eligible to receive housing benefits during their tenure in graduate school. Students affiliated with Sackler have access to subsidized student housing located near the Medical Center for 6 years (and can apply for longer if necessary). Students affiliated with CNS apply for housing in Stuyvesant Town for their first year through the MacCracken program, and after the first year, can apply for continued student housing (which is limited) or elect to receive an allowance to help offset the cost of market-rate New York City housing. All students are eligible to apply for travel grants and other awards funded by NYU, the Center for Neural Science, and the Neuroscience Institute.