

Study plan for the Doctorate in Neuroscience of the Universities of Geneva and Lausanne

The goal of the Lemanic Neuroscience Doctoral School (LNDS) of the Universities of Geneva and Lausanne is to provide PhD candidates with a broad knowledge of neuroscience, regardless of their thesis topic. The doctoral program offers courses and training activities ranging from cellular and molecular neuroscience to cognitive, clinical and computational neuroscience.

At the end of the doctoral program, the PhD candidate must have obtained 18 to 20 study credits, following the ECTS credit system, with the aim of improving:

- a) Basic knowledge in various areas of neuroscience, including basic neuroscience and clinical/applied neuroscience. The Scientific Committee encourages candidates to take courses outside their own areas of expertise. Topics to be explored will range from molecular and cellular neuroscience to systems neuroscience, and to cognitive and behavioral neuroscience.
- b) Additional and specific knowledge of the research topic. The candidate targets doctoral program activities of workshops or training courses. Training activities or events that take place in other training programs may be validated as long as the topics are directly related to the candidate's research and are not part of his or her previous academic training. The LNDS coordinator and the Scientific Committee judge the validity of an educational activity based on the descriptions provided by the organizers of the training.
- c) Knowledge of statistical methods and their application to the analysis and interpretation of scientific data.
- d) Written and oral scientific communication skills.

The study plan for the doctoral program includes the acquisition of 18 to 20 credits, depending on the previous training of the PhD student. The doctoral program credits (according to the European Credit Transfer System ECTS) are allocated for each training activity based on an estimate of the student's workload required to achieve the learning outcome. This is generally determined by the time required to complete the entire training activity, including attendance, preparation, examination and/or homework. According to the ECTS guidelines, 1 ECTS credit is equivalent to approximately 25 to 30 hours of work.

Credits can be earned by providing evidence of successful completion of a learning activity and evaluation of learning outcomes. Assessments can take the form of written or oral exams, presentations, term papers or active participation in an event.

The curriculum of the doctoral program is established with the agreement of the thesis director and the requirements formulated by the Scientific Committee when accepting the PhD candidate. The determined curriculum is to be followed. All evidence of participation is to be submitted to the program coordination office for validation.

The PhD candidate must obtain ECTS credits in accordance with the following chart:

- At least 6 ECTS credits must be obtained by successfully completing doctoral courses in neuroscience, e.g. organized by the LNDS or the EPFL Neuroscience PhD program (EDNE). The conditions for successful completion are defined by the teachers of the course and communicated before the start of the course, according to the relevant regulations. Available courses are announced before each semester on the course website (www.lemanic-neuroscience.ch).
- At least 2 and at most 4 ECTS can be validated by participation in seminars, local conferences, symposia or journal clubs in neuroscience. Seminar sheets available on the LNDS website are used to prove participation in an event (12 seminar entries = 1 ECTS). The thesis director pre-validates each sheet with his/her signature. Several opportunities for this type of training can be found on the website (www.lemanic-neuroscience.ch).
- 1 ECTS can be obtained by presenting an abstract at a major international neuroscience conference.
- Between 1 and 3 ECTS can be obtained for participation in internal and external workshops, summer or winter courses/schools, with prior agreement of the Scientific Committee.
- Between 1 and 2 ECTS can be validated for improving complementary skills, e.g. for actively engaging in scientific communication, taking courses in scientific writing and presentations, and participating in career planning events.
- Between 1 and 4 ECTS can be obtained by successfully completing Master courses in neuroscience offered by UNIGE, UNIL or EPFL. The conditions for success are defined by the teacher of the course and the relevant regulations, according to the terms of the faculty that organizes the training courses. For PhD candidates without prior training in neuroscience, obtaining 2 to 4 ECTS in these core courses is mandatory.