

Guide for Second-Year Students of the Master's Degree Course in Neuroscience

Internship Application Guidelines

Second-year students are required to complete a curricular internship worth 14 CFU, corresponding to 500 hours of laboratory work. This internship must be carried out either in one of the laboratories of the University of Palermo or in an institution with which the University of Palermo has a formal written agreement.

Students may begin their internship once they have successfully completed at least three first-year courses of the Master's Degree Programme.

The internship is activated through the AlmaLaurea platform.

Before starting the internship, students must have completed a safety training course on workplace environments, with particular reference to research laboratories.

If students (both Italian and international) have not yet completed this training course, they must send an email to the Coordinator stating that they have not attended the course by next week.

The internship application must be submitted through the Secretariat of the Department of Biomedicine, Neuroscience and Advanced Diagnostics. In the application, students must indicate both a company tutor and a university tutor.

- The company tutor may be a researcher or lecturer involved in activities at, for example, the University Hospital (*Policlinico*), a researcher from the CNR (National Research Council), or another permanent staff member from the School of Medicine, including from the Department Bi.N.D.
- The university tutor must be a lecturer of the Master's Degree Course in Neuroscience, or otherwise the supervisor or advisor of the student's thesis.

Although the internship may overlap with the thesis period, it does not coincide with the thesis itself. Once the 500 internship hours are completed, students are required to continue attending the laboratory where they are carrying out their thesis in order to complete the research work necessary for the experimental thesis.

Thesis Admission Requirements

Students may apply for the thesis once they have obtained at least 30 CFUs from first-year exams of the Master's Degree Programme.

The thesis request may be submitted at least nine months prior to the expected graduation date. For example, students who plan to graduate in July must submit their thesis request no later than the first week of October. The official date of submission is determined by the date the email is sent, regardless of the day on which the degree program committee reviews the requests.

In general, the thesis supervisor is also the academic tutor for the internship.

In addition to the training project and the Alma Laurea procedure—both of which are initiated through the assistance of Ms. Callari and Ms. Basile from the Didactic Office of the Department of Biomedicine, Neuroscience and Advanced Diagnostics—you must submit two requests to the Degree

Program Committee. The two requests, whose links are provided below, consist of: one for the internship application, to be submitted after passing the three first-year examinations, and the other for the thesis application, to be submitted after completing at least 30 ECTS credits from first-year courses.

These two forms must be sent to both neuroscience@unipa.it and didattica.bind@unipa.it.

 [Internship_request_OFF2024_25.docx](#)

 [Thesis_request_OFF2024-25.docx](#)

Guide to Elective Courses and Language Classes

Each student is required to include eight credits (CFU) of elective courses in their study plan. These courses may be modified in the online study plan on the University of Palermo website no later than November 2.

To obtain the eight elective CFU, you may choose a course offered in either Italian or English within any degree program at the University of Palermo, including programs in engineering, languages, or other fields, provided that the course does not have restricted admission. Consequently, it is not permitted to select courses from the Nursing program taught in English or courses from the Medicine degree program.

Language courses—such as English C1, Italian A1, or Italian A2—must also be added to the study plan by the same November 2 deadline.

Specific requirements by student category:

- Italian students must select English C1 (typically during the first year) and, in the second year, choose an additional 3 CFU of other activities.
- Native English-speaking students must select Italian A2 (worth 6 CFU) and, in addition, choose other activities to reach a total of 9 CFU.
- International students who are neither Italian nor native English speakers must select English C1 in the first year and Italian A1 in the second year, both by the November 2 deadline.

Please note that there is no dedicated Italian language instructor within the degree program, nor are Italian lessons scheduled in the program's academic calendar. Italian language courses are instead provided through the ITASTRA school of the University of Palermo. The University has an agreement with ITASTRA to offer the required Italian course free of charge to enrolled students.

The Coordinator

Prof. Valentina Di Felice