

EBERHARD KARLS
**UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN**



Module handbook
Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience
Master of Science

Master's Students 2026

Last update 05.08.2026

Faculty of Science and Medical Faculty
Graduate Training Centre of Neuroscience



Inhalt

1. Description and objectives of the program	3
2. Curriculum	4
2.1 Module Overview	4
2.2 Module overview by suggested time course	5
2.3 Overview by study progress and credit requirements	6
2.4 Suggested timeline for individual courses	7
3. Module descriptions.....	8
3.1. Foundations	9
3.2. Advanced Specialisations	15
3.3. Individual Perspectives.....	19
3.4. Research Practise	20

1. Description and objectives of the program

The Master of Science program in *Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience* is an international, research-oriented two-year program offered by the Graduate Training Centre of Neuroscience. We invite students with a first academic degree (BSc) in biology, molecular biology, molecular medicine, biochemistry, genetics, biotechnology, or medical sciences or in another relevant field of natural or engineering sciences. The theoretical training focuses on neural diseases, neurogenomics and proteomics, neurophysiology, and systems neuroscience. The practical training covers state-of-the-art methods of neuroscience research offered by our internationally renowned partner institutes.

The Graduate Training Centre of Neuroscience creates an interdisciplinary environment through its three Master of Science programs with complementary focus and curricula: *Neural and Behavioural Sciences*, *Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience*, and *Computational Neuroscience*. The curricula in all three programs are synchronized and comprise large elective modules. We encourage our students to cross borders during their theoretical training in their first year. Depending on their individual skills, interests, and motivation the students are welcome in labs beyond their specific master's program for their practical research activities in the second year.

- Our graduates have a sound standing in basic and clinically oriented neuroscience, extending from the genetic, molecular, cellular, and physiological biology of neurons and glial cells to the genetic and molecular basis of neural diseases.
- Our graduates have profound skills in mathematics, statistics, and programming, allowing them to measure, analyse, and visualize data and results.
- Our graduates have solid theoretical and hands-on expertise in a wide range of state-of-the-art neuroscientific methods, including histological, molecular biological, stem cell, cellular and molecular imaging, and neurophysiological recordings.
- Our graduates scrutinize and evaluate the suitability of experimental approaches, allowing them to choose the most appropriate methods for a given problem. They combine techniques in a meaningful way to attack complex scientific problems.
- Our graduates communicate their findings competently and convincingly in oral and written form. They communicate and discuss with experts in the field and contribute to discussions on current neuroscience topics.
- Our graduates acquired general competencies such as time and conflict management, coping with stressful situations, as well as social skills.
- Our graduates gained cross-cultural competencies allowing them to succeed and thrive in international teams.

After successful graduation, our students are prepared for a career in research and development in internationally competitive institutes and companies. Beyond research and development, our graduates excel in the acquisition of new knowledge, project management, and problem-solving.

2. Curriculum

2.1 Module Overview

(according to the module overview of the study and examination regulations)

Module Code	Compulsory Elective	Module title	Semester	CP
CM01	c	Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology	1	6
CM02	c	Neural Diseases and Neurogenetics	1 & 2	9
CM03	c	Molecular Neurobiology	1 & 2	9
CM04	c	Sensory Systems	1 & 2	6
CM05	c	Data Analysis	1 & 2	6
CM06	c	Advanced Methods	1 & 2	9
CM07	c	Advanced Neuroscience	1 & 2	9
CM08	c	Electives	1 & 2	6
CM09	c	Current Research and RCR	1 - 3	3
CM10	c	Laboratory Rotations	3	27
CM11	c	Master's thesis	4	30

c = compulsory, ce = compulsory elective, e = elective

Semesters 1 and 2 comprise theoretical courses with a total workload equivalent to 61 CPs. A core curriculum of compulsory courses (c) accounts for 37 CPs (CM01 – CM05, CM09).

In the compulsory elective (ce) modules CM06 and CM07 the students complete 1-3 courses, which sum up to 9 CPs. In contrast to the compulsory modules, the students can choose from multiple courses that all address the respective module's title and general description. The individual module descriptions for CM06 and CM07 in chapter 3.2 comprise an exclusive list of available courses for the current academic year.

The elective module CM08 allows the students to choose courses from any master's program at the University of Tübingen except for sports courses. While all other modules contribute to the final grade, the elective module CM08 does not. The students are invited to explore the field of cellular and molecular neuroscience and other disciplines.

In the program's 2nd year the students join labs of their choice for two lab rotations and, finally, their master's thesis.

2.2 Module overview by suggested time course

The coursework is completed in the semesters 1 and 2 with the only exception of a block course in module CM09.

The compulsory module *CM05 – Data Analysis* offers a choice between courses depending on the individual student's skills and interests. It consists of one statistical course and one programming or mathematics course. The students choose between basic and advanced courses. Depending on the student's choice of courses for *CM05 – Data Analysis*, these courses will be completed in the 1st or the 2nd semester. Please see the following chapter 2.3 overview by study progress and the individual module description in chapter 3.1 for details.

For the compulsory elective and elective modules CM06 – CM08 the workload per semester is determined by the individual students' choice of available courses. A workload of 36 CPs per semester should not be exceeded.

It is strongly recommended to complete all coursework requirements before the commencement of the 1st lab rotation. At least 51 of 60 CPs from CM01 – CM08 must be completed. Depending on the lab and the project to be completed during a rotation, additional coursework during lab rotations represents an additional burden that must not be taken lightly and needs to be agreed on with the respective supervisor.

Modules CM01 – CM10 must be completed before admission to the master's thesis.

Study area	Nr.	Module	Semester				Σ
			1	2	3	4	CP
Foundations	CM01	Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology	6				6
	CM02	Neural Diseases and Neurogenetics	6	3			9
	CM03	Molecular Neurobiology	6	3			9
	CM04	Sensory Systems	3	3			6
	CM05	Data Analysis	0-6	0-6			6
Advanced Specialisations	CM06	Advanced Methods	0-9	0-9			9
	CM07	Advanced Neuroscience	0-9	0-9			9
Individual Perspectives	CM08	Free Electives	0-6	0-6			6
Research Practise	CM09	Current Research and Conduct	0.5	0.5	2		3
	CM10	Laboratory Rotations			27		27
	CM11	Master thesis				30	30
		Σ Compulsory with <i>Data Analysis</i> in Sem 1	27.5	9.5	29	30	
		Σ Electives with <i>Data Analysis</i> in Sem 1	3	21			120
		Σ Compulsory with <i>Data Analysis</i> in Sem 2	24.5	12.5	29	30	
		Σ Electives with <i>Data Analysis</i> in Sem 2	9	15			120

2.3 Overview by study progress and credit requirements

The allocation of CPs to courses is for information only. Credits are only awarded upon completion of the module. Abbreviations are explained below in chapter 3 (Module descriptions).		Assessment				Course			Total CP	Semester				
		Grading	Type of exam	Duration of the exam	Weight for the module	Contact hours (SWS)	Status	Type of course		The allocation of exams to semesters is only a recommendation. Compulsory allocations are marked as such.				
										1.	2.	3.	4.	
										CP	CP	CP	CP	
Foundations														
CM01	Neuroanatomy and -physiology								6					
CM01-1	Functional Organization of Vertebrate CNS	ne				2	c	L/P		3				
CM01-2	Neurophysiology	g	w	90	100	2	c	L/T		3				
CM02	Neural Diseases and Genetics								9					
CM02-1	Genetic and Molecular Basis of Neural Diseases I	g	w	90	50	2	c	L/T		3				
CM02-2	Genetic and Molecular Basis of Neural Diseases II	g	w	90	50	2	c	L/T			3			
CM02-3	Human Neurogenetics	ne				2	c	L/T		3				
CM03	Molecular Neurobiology								9					
CM03-1	Molecular and Cellular Biology of Neurons and Glia	g	w	60	50	2	c	L/T		3				
CM03-2	Neurochemistry and Neurotransmitters	g	w	60	50	2	c	L/T			3			
CM03-3	Neurohistology and Quantitative Neuromorphology	ne				2	c	S/P		3				
CM04	Sensory Systems								6					
CM04-1	Sensory Systems 1	g	w	90		2	c	L/T		3				
CM04-2	Sensory Systems 2	g	w	90		2	c	L/T			3			
CM05	Data Analysis								6					
CM05-1.1	Essential Statistics	g	h/e	90		2	c/e	L/E/T		3				
CM05-1.2	Advanced Statistics	g	h	90		2	c/e	L/E			3			
CM05-2.1	Essential Mathematics	ne				2	c/e	L/E/T		3				
CM05-2.2	Basic Programming	ne				2	c/e	S/P			3			
Advanced Specialisations														
CM06	Advanced Methods								9					
CM06-1	Elective Advanced Methods 1	g/ng/ne				2	c/e	L/S/E/P		3				
CM06-2	Elective Advanced Methods 2	g/ng/ne				2	c/e	L/S/E/P			3			
CM06-3	Elective Advanced Methods 3	g/ng/ne				2	c/e	L/S/E/P			3			
CM07	Advanced Neuroscience								9					
CM07-1	Elective Adv. Neuroscience 1	g/ng/ne				2	c/e	L/S/E/P		3				
CM07-2	Elective Adv. Neuroscience 2	g/ng/ne				2	c/e	L/S/E/P			3			
CM07-3	Elective Adv. Neuroscience 3	g/ng/ne				2	c/e	L/S/E/P			3			
Individual Perspectives														
CM08	Free Elective								6					
CM08-1	Free Elective 1	g/ng/ne				2	e	L/S/E/P		3				
CM08-2	Free Elective 2	g/ng/ne				2	e	L/S/E/P			3			
Research Practise														
CM09									3					
CM09-1	Neurocolloquium	ne				2	c	L		0.5	0.5			
CM09-2	Scholarly Research	ne				2	c	S/E/P				2		
CM10	Laboratory Rotations								27					
CM10-1	Laboratory Rotation 1	g	lr/pr				c	P/S				13		
CM10-2	Laboratory Rotation 2	g	lr/pr				c	P/S				14		
Final module														
CM11	Master thesis	g	th											30

2.4 Suggested timeline for individual courses

1. Semester // Winter Semester		Credits
Functional Organization of Vertebrate CNS (<i>block, 1st week lecture period</i>)	3	
Neurophysiology	3	
Genetic and Molecular Basis of Neural Diseases I	3	
Human Neurogenetics	3	
Molecular and Cellular Biology of Neurons and Glia	3	
Sensory Systems 1	3	
Essential Statistics	3	
Advanced Methods – Course I	3	
Advanced Methods – Course II	3	
Advanced Neuroscience – Course I	3	
NeuroColloquium	0,5	Σ 30,5
2. Semester // Summer Term		Credits
Genetic and Molecular Basis of Neural Diseases II	3	
Neurohistology and Quantitative Neuromorphology	3	
Neurochemistry and Neurotransmitters	3	
Sensory Systems 2	3	
Basic Programming	3	
Advanced Methods – Course III	3	
Advanced Neuroscience – Course II	3	
Advanced Neuroscience – Course III	3	
Individual Perspectives – Course I	3	
Individual Perspectives – Course II	3	
NeuroColloquium	0,5	Σ 30,5
3. Semester // Winter Semester		Credits
Scholarly conduct of research (<i>1-week block, before rotations</i>)	2	
Essay / Laboratory Rotations	27	Σ 29
4. Semester // Summer Term		Credits
Master Thesis	30	Σ 30
		Σ 120

3. Module descriptions

The following module descriptions provide an overview of the *Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience* master's program for the current academic year. Please note that the content elements of individual modules and the lecturers might be subject to changes between academic years. The following abbreviations are used in the following module descriptions and in the previous overview of the study progress.

Key	
Grading:	g = graded; ng = not graded (pass/fail); ne = no examination
Type of exam:	w = written exam; pj = project; lr = lab report, pr = presentation, th = thesis, h = homework, e = exercise
Duration:	Duration of the examination in minutes.
Weight:	Courses: Weighting of the examination grade towards the module grade. Modules: Weighting of the module grade towards the final grade.
Credit hours (SWS):	Hours spent in the classroom per week during the semester.
Status:	c = compulsory; e = elective
Type of course:	L = lecture; S = seminar; E = exercise, T = tutorial, P = practical work
CP:	credit points (ECTS)

3.1. Foundations

Modul code: CM01	Module title: Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology				Type of module: compulsory				
CP (ECTS credits)	6								
Workload - Contact hours - Self-study	Total workload: 180 h			Contact hours: 60 h / 4 SWS			Self-study: 120 h		
Duration	1 Semester								
Frequency	once a year, during the winter semester								
Language of instruction	English								
Teaching methods	Lectures with practical work and tutorials.								
Content	This module teaches the fundamental anatomy and physiology of the mammalian CNS with an emphasis on the human brain.								
Qualification goals	Students understand and can explain basic principles of the functional and anatomical organization of the nervous system. Students understand the electrical signal generation, signal processing and integration in neurons, the transmission of the neuronal signal at the chemical synapse, as well as the underlying molecular building blocks. They understand the basics of the techniques used to study neuronal processing at the single cell and small neuronal network level.								
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, weight if applicable:		Type of course	Status	Contact hours (SWS)	CP	Type of exam	Exam duration	Grading	Weight for module
	Functional Organization of Vertebrate CNS	L/P	c	2	3				
	Neurophysiology	L/T	c	2	3	w	90	g	100
Applicability and Transfer	Compulsory module MSc Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience, MSc Computational Neuroscience.								
Participation requirements	Basic knowledge of cell biology, physiology, and brain organisation.								

Modul code: CM02	Module title: Neural Diseases and Neurogenetics			Type of module: compulsory					
CP (ECTS credits)	9								
Workload - Contact hours - Self-study	Total workload: 270 h		Contact hours: 90 h / 6 SWS			Self-study: 180 h			
Duration	2 Semester								
Frequency	once a year, during the winter and summer semester								
Language of instruction	English								
Teaching methods	Lectures with tutorials.								
Content	This module covers the molecular basis and pathophysiology as well as the preclinical and clinical therapeutic targets of major neural diseases. It provides the basic principles of inheritance, molecular genetics and genomics, with special reference to neural traits and disease.								
Qualification goals	The students understand the molecular and cellular pathogenesis of major neural diseases. The students can explain the molecular and pathological commonalities of the diseases and can distinguish between neurodegeneration and neural dysfunction. Based on the molecular and cellular pathomechanisms for each disease the students can derive and justify potential future therapeutic targets.								
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, weight if applicable:		Type of course	Status	Contact hours (SWS)	CP	Type of exam	Exam duration	Grading	Weight for module
	Genetic and Molecular Basis of Neural Diseases I	L/T	c	2	3	w	90	g	50
	Genetic and Molecular Basis of Neural Diseases II	L/T	c	2	3	w	90	g	50
	Neurogenetics	L/T	c	2	3				
Applicability and Transfer	Compulsory module MSc Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience.								
Participation requirements	Profound knowledge in cell and molecular biology of neurons and glial cells.								

Modul code: CM03	Module title: Molecular Neurobiology				Type of module: compulsory				
CP (ECTS credits)	9								
Workload - Contact hours - Self-study	Total workload: 270 h			Contact hours: 90 h / 6 SWS			Self-study: 180 h		
Duration	1 Semester								
Frequency	once a year, during the winter semester								
Language of instruction	English								
Teaching methods	Lectures with tutorials.								
Content	This module provides advanced knowledge of the molecular and cellular biology of neurons and glia: cell structure, cell-cell interaction and communication, signalling, and neurochemistry of neurotransmitters. A block course with practical elements introduces histological techniques, immuno-histochemistry, and in situ hybridization to prepare brain tissue for light, fluorescence and electron microscopy.								
Qualification goals	The students understand nervous system function and dysfunction at the molecular level. The students will have profound theoretical knowledge and basic practical skills in neurohistological and microscopical techniques								
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, weight if applicable:		Type of course	Status	Contact hours (SWS)	CP	Type of exam	Exam duration	Grading	Weight for module
	Molecular and Cellular Biology of Neurons and Glia	L/T	c	2	3	w	60	g	50
	Neurochemistry and Neurotransmitters	L/T	c	2	3	w	60	g	50
	Neurohistology and Neuro-morphology	S/P	c	2	3				
Applicability and Transfer	Compulsory module MSc Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience.								
Participation requirements	Basic knowledge of cell biology, physiology, and brain organisation.								

Modul code: CM04	Module title: Sensory Systems				Type of module: compulsory				
CP (ECTS credits)	6								
Workload - Contact hours - Self-study	Total workload: 180 h			Contact hours: 60 h / 4 SWS			Self-study: 120 h		
Duration	2 Semester								
Frequency	once a year, during the winter and summer semester								
Language of instruction	English								
Teaching methods	Lectures with tutorials.								
Content	The module covers the functional and anatomical organisation of the main sensory systems of the mammalian brain, focusing on humans. Principles of neural coding and information processing will be emphasized. Based on the knowledge of the intact system, causes and consequences of disease are introduced.								
Qualification goals	The students understand the function of sensory receptor cells, receptor proteins, and signal transduction cascades. The students can differentiate common and specific features of the processing and coding of sensory information. The students know and understand dysfunctions and diseases of sensory systems in human patients.								
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, weight if applicable:		Type of course	Status	Contact hours (SWS)	CP	Type of exam	Exam duration	Grading	Weight for module
	Sensory Systems I	L/T	c	2	3	w	90	g	50
	Sensory Systems II	L/T	c	2	3	w	90	g	50
Applicability and Transfer	Compulsory module MSc Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience.								
Participation requirements	Basic knowledge of cell biology, physiology, and brain organisation.								

Modul code: CM05	Module title: Data analysis			Type of module: compulsory					
CP (ECTS credits)	6								
Workload - Contact hours - Self-study	Total workload: 180 h		Contact hours: 60 h / 4 SWS		Self-study: 120 h				
Duration	1 or 2 Semester, depending on chosen courses								
Frequency	once a year, during the winter and summer semester								
Language of instruction	English								
Teaching methods	Lectures with exercises and tutorials. Seminar with practical work.								
Content	The module comprises courses that cover statistics, mathematics, and programming skills for neuroscience: The weekly lecture Essential Statistics is offered each winter term. It aims at beginners in statistics or students in need of a refresher for basic concepts. The weekly lecture Advanced Statistics is offered each summer term. It aims at students with a good understanding of basic concepts of a typical beginner's course. A mandatory statistics pre-exam gives each student some orientation for their choice between the statistics courses. Essential Mathematics is a weekly hybrid course with both online and on-campus elements, offered each winter term. Again, a pre-test gives the students some orientation whether to take it. The weekly course Basic Programming, offered each summer term, introduces the students to python programming at a beginner and intermediate level. The course combines introductory lectures with tutorials and project-based learning.								
Qualification goals	The statistics course provides students with an understanding of and practical skills for basic or advanced statistical data analysis. The students apply statistical approaches to their own data and evaluate analyses in publications. The course on basic programming provides students with programming skills for data analysis and visualization. The students formalize neuroscientific concepts mathematically and understand the mathematical concepts, which are required for reading journal papers in neurophysiology and systems neuroscience.								
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, weight if applicable:		Type of course	Status	Contact hours (SWS)	CP	Type of exam	Exam duration	Grading	Weight for module

	Choose 1 course	<i>Essential Statistics</i>	<i>L/E/T</i>	<i>c/e</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>h/e</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>100</i>
		<i>Advanced Statistics</i>	<i>L/E</i>	<i>c/e</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>h</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>100</i>
	Choose 1 course	<i>Basic programming</i>	<i>S/P</i>	<i>c/e</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>h</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>ne</i>	
		<i>Essential Mathematics</i>	<i>L/E/T</i>	<i>c/e</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>h</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>ne</i>	
Applicability and Transfer	Compulsory module MSc Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience and MSc Neural and Behavioural Sciences. Courses not chosen here can be used for module <i>CM06 Advanced Methods</i> .									
Participation requirements	Basic mathematical and statistical skills are required.									

3.2. Advanced Specialisations

The compulsory elective study area *Advanced Specialisations* offers the students a choice of courses that build on knowledge and skills acquired in the compulsory study area *Foundations* and during their individual first-degree studies. The study area consists of two modules with 9 CPs each, one module comprising methods and applications, and another module focusing on specific topics in neuroscience. A list of available courses for these modules is curated by the study commission before each semester. Criteria for the selection of courses in these modules are the fit to the course program and the general theme of the respective module, the quality and reliability of the courses, and the range of interests among the students in the program. Available courses for each semester are published in the updated module handbook and in the university's course catalogue.

Modul code: CM06	Module title: Advanced Methods		Type of module: compulsory/elective
CP (ECTS credits)	9		
Workload - Contact hours - Self-study	Total workload: 270 h	Contact hours: 90 h / 6 SWS	Self-study: 180 h
Duration	2 Semester		
Frequency	once a year, during the summer or winter semester		
Language of instruction	English		
Teaching methods	Depends on chosen course: lecture, seminar, exercise, tutorial, practical work.		
Content	Students can choose from a closed list of methods courses beyond the study area <i>Foundations</i>. These courses introduce methods and techniques for data acquisition, e.g. microscopy and cell imaging, data analysis and interpretation, e.g. advanced statistics and machine learning, or applications, e.g. therapeutic approaches. Students choose courses with a total workload of 9 CP irrespective of the number of courses, e.g. 1 course of 9 CP or 3 courses of 3 CP each. At least 3 CP must be graded and will be included in the cumulative, final grade. Students can choose courses from the module CM05, which they have not completed for this module (e.g. "Essential Statistics" for CM05 and "Advanced Statistics" for CM06). The list of available courses is curated by the study commission. Students can choose from: Winter term 2026/27: • Courses from module CM05 Data analysis (please see above). • Machine Learning + Exercises (Kobak; 6 CP; graded) • Methods in Molecular Neurobiology (Glöckner; 3 CP; graded) • Advanced 3D Models in Neuroscience (Wolfram, Sevenich; 3 CP; not graded)		

	- Electrophysiology Lab Practical (Schwarz; 3 CP; not graded; block course) - Intro Data Struct and Programing Life Scientists (Ossowski; 9 CP; graded) Courses of the Dr. Eberle Zentrum für dig. Kompetenzen (not graded) Summer term 2027: - Microscopy - Cell Imaging Techniques (Schubert et al.; 3 CP; graded) - Physiol and Physic Basis of Brain Imaging (Bartels & Siegel; 3 CP; graded) - Novel Therap Approaches for Sens Disorders (Reisinger; 3 CP; can be taken as a non-graded or graded course) - MRI-appl for Neurosc & Clin Res - Lecture (Hagberg; 3 CP; not graded) - MRI-appl for Neurosc & Clin Res - Seminar (Hagberg; 3 CP; not graded) - Electrophysiology (Nieder; 6 CP; graded) - Machine Learning for Neuroscience (Giese; 6 CP; graded) - Neuro meets Data Science (Sevenich; 6 CP, graded) - Laboratory Animal Handling Course (3 CP; not graded; online) Courses of the Dr. Eberle Zentrum für dig. Kompetenzen (not graded)								
Qualification goals	The students build on their individual skills and interests. They extend their theoretical and practical expertise in an advanced methods area of their choice.								
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, weight if applicable:		Type of course	Status	Contact hours (SWS)	CP	Type of exam	Exam duration	Grading	Weight for module
	Advanced Methods I	L/S/E/P	e	2	3-9			g	100
	Advanced Methods II	L/S/E/P	e	2	0-6			g/ng/ne	
	Advanced Methods III	L/S/E/P	e	2	0-6			g/ng/ne	
Applicability and Transfer	Compulsory module MSc Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience.								
Participation requirements	Depends on the student's choice.								

Modul code: CM07	Module title: Advanced Neuroscience		Type of module: compulsory/elective
CP (ECTS credits)	9		
Workload - Contact hours - Self-study	Total workload: 270 h	Contact hours: 90 h / 6 SWS	Self-study: 180 h
Duration	2 Semester		
Frequency	once a year, during the summer or winter semester		
Language of instruction	English		
Teaching methods	Depends on chosen course: lecture, seminar, exercise, tutorial, practical work.		
Content	Students can choose from a closed list of courses on topics beyond the study area <i>Foundations</i>. These courses extend topics, which have been introduced in the study area <i>Foundations</i>, e.g. Neuroglia and Current Topics in CMN, or add new topics, not yet covered, e.g. Learning and Memory and Social and Affective Disorders. Students choose courses with a total workload of 9 CP irrespective of the number of courses, e.g. 1 course of 9 CP or 3 courses of 3 CP each. At least 3 CP must be graded and will be included in the cumulative, final grade. The list of available courses is curated by the study commission. Students can choose from: Winter term 2026/27: • Motor Systems (Schwarz; 3 CP; not graded) • Social and Affective Disorders in Psychiatry (Derntl; 3 CP; graded) • Model Organisms in Neuroscience Research (Hafed et al.; 3 CP; not graded) Summer term 2027: • Molecules to Circuits - The Retina as a Model System (Euler; 3 CP; graded) • Stem Cells & Regeneration (Hauser & Liebau; 3 CP; graded) • Sleep: Phenomena, Physiology and Function (Gais; 3 CP; graded) • Neuroglia (Kronenberg-Versteeg und Pfeiffer; 3 CP; graded) • Recent Progress in Motor Systems (Schwarz; 3 CP; SoSe; not graded) • Bionic Intelligence (Giese & Schwarz; 3 CP; not graded) • Birdsong as a Model (Veit; 3 CP; WiSe; graded) • Learning & Memory (Brodthorn, Niethard, Inostroza; 3 CP; graded) • Fe/Male Brain (Derntl; 3 CP, graded) • Regulation of Eating Behaviour (Giel, Kullmann; 3 CP; not graded) • CNS-Metastasis (Tabatabai, Sevenich; 3 CP; not graded)		
Qualification goals	The students build on their individual knowledge and interests. They extend their theoretical expertise in topic areas of their choice.		

Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, weight if applicable:		Type of course	Status	Contact hours (SWS)	CP	Type of exam	Exam duration	Grading	Weight for module
	<i>Advanced Neuroscience I</i>	L/S/E/P	e	2	3-9			g	100
	<i>Advanced Neuroscience II</i>	L/S/E/P	e	2	0-6			g/ng/ne	
	<i>Advanced Neuroscience III</i>	L/S/E/P	e	2	0-6			g/ng/ne	
Applicability and Transfer	Compulsory module MSc Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience.								
Participation requirements	Depends on the student's choice.								

3.3. Individual Perspectives

The study area *Individual Perspectives* gives students the opportunity to learn about related fields of research, development, and applications (e.g., immunology, big data analysis), improve their language skills in German (for foreign students) or English (for German students), or reflect upon ethical or philosophical aspects and challenges in neuroscience.

Modul code: CM08	Module title: Free Electives		Type of module: elective
CP (ECTS credits)	6		
Workload - Contact hours - Self-study	Total workload: 180 h	Contact hours: 60 h / 4 SWS	Self-study: 120 h
Duration	2 Semester		
Frequency	every semester		
Language of instruction	English		
Teaching methods	Depends on chosen courses: lecture, seminar, exercise, tutorial, practical work.		
Content	In the study area <i>Individual Perspectives</i> students can choose courses from all courses, except for sports courses, offered for students in master's programs at the University of Tübingen. This includes particularly the University's Transdisciplinary Course Program . The students can also choose additional courses from the module CM05 Data Analysis and the study area <i>Advanced Specialisations</i> (please see above).		
Qualification goals	The students build on and extend their individual knowledge and interests. They develop and broaden transdisciplinary competencies. They extend their theoretical expertise in topic areas of their choice.		
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, weight if applicable:	Depends on the student's choice. Courses taken in this area are included in the transcript of records, but the grades will not be considered for the cumulative grade of the master's program.		
Applicability and Transfer	Elective module MSc Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience.		
Participation requirements	Depends on the student's choice.		

3.4. Research Practise

The study area *Research Practise* comprises three modules. It offers students an overview of frontiers topics in neuroscience across the three master's programs of the Graduate Training Centre of Neuroscience. It lays the foundations for the scholarly, good conduct of research and offers each student active participation in current research projects during two laboratory rotations of their choice. The study area comprises the master's thesis, which concludes the master's program in *Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience* with a 6 months research project.

Modul code: CM09	Module title: Current Research and Responsible Conduct of Research		Type of module: compulsory
CP (ECTS credits)	3		
Workload - Contact hours - Self-study	Total workload: 90 h	Contact hours: 30 h / 2 SWS	Self-study: 60 h
Duration	3 Semester		
Frequency	once a year, during the summer or winter semester		
Language of instruction	English		
Teaching methods	Lecture, Seminar with exercises and practical work.		
Content	This module introduces the students not only to current research in the field of neuroscience but also initiates and fosters discussions among students and with guests and lecturers about a broad range of topics. The NeuroColloquium is a lecture series organized by the Tübingen Neuroscience Campus. It presents internationally renowned researchers from various fields of neuroscience. The speakers provide an overview of state-of-the-art neuroscience topics, from genes to behaviour and new methodologies. Every semester, students from the three master's programs at the GTC choose a speaker of their interest. The seminar on scholarly conduct of research offers the opportunity to learn about, discuss and practice scholarly writing and good scientific conduct. The seminar is offered as a block course immediately before the first laboratory rotation.		
Qualification goals	The NeuroColloquium introduces students to a wide range of neuroscience research and invites them to look beyond their own noses and think outside the box of their immediate interests and studies. The students learn to participate in and contribute to discussions with speakers and the audience. In the seminar on scholarly conduct of research, the students understand and acquire current standards of research practise and communication.		

Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, weight if applicable:		Type of course	Status	Contact hours (SWS)	CP	Type of exam	Exam duration	Grading	Weight for module
	<i>Neurocolloquium</i>	L	c	1	1			ne	
	<i>Scholarly conduct of re-search</i>	S/E/P	c	2	2			ne	
Applicability and Transfer	Compulsory module MSc Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience.								
Participation requirements	none								

Modul code: CM10	Module title: Laboratory rotations		Type of module: compulsory
CP (ECTS credits)	27		
Workload - Contact hours - Self-study	Total workload: 820 h	Contact hours: 680 h	Self-study: 140 h
Duration	1 Semester		
Frequency	once a year, during the winter semester		
Language of instruction	English		
Teaching methods	Supervised practical work and seminar.		
Content	In two laboratory rotations, the students work on small research projects in laboratories of their choice. In general, the assigned study is in line with currently ongoing research in the respective laboratory. The lab projects are concluded with a written report and an oral presentation or a poster session during a seminar at the end of each rotation period. Each student presents the project and results to all fellow students from the master's programs at the GTC Neuroscience and answers questions from fellow students and supervisors. Ideally, the students accomplish their two lab rotations in two different research groups with distinct scientific questions and different methods. Most rotations are completed in groups of GTC partner institutions: • Werner Reichardt Centre for Integrative Neuroscience • Hertie-Institute for Clinical Brain Research • German Centre for Neurodegenerative Diseases • Bernstein Centre for Computational Neuroscience • Centre for Mental Health • Centre for Neurosensory Systems (Inst Ophthalmic Res // Hearing Res Ctr) • Natural & Medical Sciences Institute • Institute for Neurobiology • Max-Planck-Institute for Biological Cybernetics • Max-Planck-Institute for Intelligent Systems		
Qualification goals	The students acquire a wide range of practical skills in state-of-the-art methods. Further skills trained during lab rotations include literature survey, planning of a research project and the design of experiments, documentation of data, evaluation and interpretation of results, compiling data for and writing of a report. The students learn to prepare and give an oral presentation on their research project for a large expert audience.		

Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, weight if applicable:		Type of course	Status	Contact hours (sum)	CP	Type of exam	Exam duration	Grading	Weight for module
	<i>Lab rotation I</i>	P/S	c	320	13	<i>lr/pr</i>	<i>lr: 20 h pr: 20 min</i>	<i>g</i>	50
	<i>Lab rotation II</i>	P/S	c	360	14	<i>lr/pr</i>	<i>lr: 20 h pr: 20</i>	<i>g</i>	50
Applicability and Transfer	Compulsory module MSc Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience.								
Participation requirements	At least 51 of 60 CPs from CM01 – CM08 must be completed.								

Modul code: CM11	Module title: Master's thesis			Type of module: compulsory					
CP (ECTS credits)	30								
Workload - Contact hours - Self-study	Total workload: 900 h		Contact hours: 30 h		Self-study: 870 h				
Duration	1 Semester								
Frequency	once a year, during the summer semester								
Language of instruction	English								
Teaching methods	Independent, individually supervised research project.								
Content	In-depth study of a problem in neuroscience. Independent implementation of a relevant research project, which includes literature search and review, formulating a research question, planning, data collection, data analysis, and evaluation of the findings in the context of current research. The research project is reported in the master's thesis and in an oral presentation in a colloquium of the host workgroup, department, or institute.								
Qualification goals	The students familiarize themselves independently with a complex, new subject area and develop new, relevant questions in this subject area. They can investigate new questions using appropriate methods, i.e. plan and implement a scientifically sound approach. Students can evaluate, prepare, and communicate the resulting findings in writing and orally in the context of the research field.								
Requirements for Obtaining Credit, Grading, weight if applicable:		Type of course	Status	Contact hours (sum)	CP	Type of exam	Exam duration	Grading	Weight for module
	Master's thesis		c	30	30	th	-	g	100
Applicability and Transfer	Compulsory module MSc Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience.								
Participation requirements	CM01 – CM10 must be completed.								