

MSc Neuroscience: Research Proposal

After discussions with your project supervisor, please complete this proposal for the research project you are undertaking. The proposal should be completed under the following headings and include the information requested as applicable to your particular project. It is important that you demonstrate that you understand the basis for your project, what you are going to do and the feasibility of the project within the time constraints of the Masters programme. The length of the complete proposal should be no more than two A4 pages, single-spaced, using a minimum of a 12 pt font. The proposal should be submitted via Moodle as a Word document and your surname should be included at the start of the file name. The **deadline** is stated on Moodle.

Name of student:

Name and Department of Supervisor:

Title of Project:

(Should be short and to the point. Avoid excessive claims e.g. "Finding the cure for cancer". Do not use specialist abbreviations. Should be clear to both specialists and non-specialists).

Background and Rationale for the Project:

(Give the scientific background to your project. Start broad and identify what is known about the topic and what is not known. Usually the hypothesis is related to an unknown part. Crisply define the hypothesis (idea, research question) that you are investigating, in a single sentence if possible. The hypothesis may be framed as a question. This section should make it clear why you are doing the study.)

Specific Aims:

(1-3 clear and practically feasible aims that have been chosen to address the research question above)

Experimental Design:

(Describe what you intend to do and justify where possible. Include, where applicable, information on:

the model (cell culture, animal model, human tissue etc.)

The experimental procedures and analytical techniques to be used

The numbers of experiments / specimens required for valid statistical analysis. What control experiments will be performed?)

Justification

(Explain how your experimental design will meet your aims and what contribution this will make to your research topic)

References:

(No more than 4 key references. These can be written in short form (no title) and a smaller font if you are desperate for space).

Note on Figures: You can include figures, but you do not get more space, so you will have to judge whether the benefits are greater than the loss of words. (If you just cut and paste a figure from somewhere else you will get little credit. We encourage you to make a figure

yourself – the process of making a figure helps you clarify things in your mind and is more likely to fit its purpose. You can just hand draw and scan into the document or you could try exploring BioRender. Any figure should integrate well with the text and enhance the verbal description.

Markers:

On a separate page we would like you and your supervisors to identify 3 markers for your proposal and dissertation. These should be independent of your research group and ideally should be academics or independent research fellows (principle investigators). We will also consider experienced post-doctoral scientists. Your supervisor should contact them and make sure they are willing and available to mark this research proposal (first half of February) and the dissertation (first half of September). We will allocate the marking to the top two selected markers and the third will therefore act as a reserve. Often supervisors mutually agree to mark each other's student's work.

Markers	Name and title	Department/Institute/Faculty	email	Tick to confirm that the marker can mark in the time periods described?
1				
2				
3 (reserve)				