Internationality

Internationality is one of the hallmarks of ECN:

- Participation of national and international specialists and tutors
- Possibility of project internships and Master’s thesis research project abroad
- Participation in a summer school and an international conference
- All course work and examinations in English

ECN students go out across the world: during project practicals and the master’s project, students have the opportunity to visit high-quality laboratories in Germany and abroad to gain international working experience.

Applications

Outstanding students of biology, biochemistry, medicine or psychology with a bachelor degree or equivalent from German or foreign universities are encouraged to apply. Applications will also be welcomed if this qualification is not yet fulfilled at the time of application. Excellent English skills are mandatory.

The deadlines for early and late application are January 31st and March 15th each year.

Selection criteria are prior academic performance, letters of recommendation, a written examination, and an interview.

Contact and address for applications

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Further information about the ECN programme can be found on the ECN website:

www-elite-neurosciences.uni-regensburg.de

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Founded in 1962, the University of Regensburg is currently home to 12 faculties, and to over 17,000 students, including 1,300 from abroad.

International Master’s Programme
Experimental and Clinical Neurosciences
Experimental and Clinical Neurosciences Master’s Programme

The University of Regensburg in Germany offers an International Master’s Programme “Experimental and Clinical Neurosciences” (ECN) to acquire a Master of Science degree in Neuroscience.

The ECN programme has especially been developed to accommodate the need for the integrated study of fundamental and clinical neurosciences. The firm background in multiple disciplines, and the knowledge to unite them, will provide the students with a unique educational profile that facilitates entry in competitive PhD programmes worldwide upon completion of the programme.

Interdisciplinary Programme

As implied by the title of the programme, the courses are interdisciplinary in nature. The course work is divided into three main streams of scientific activity.

The Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience (MCN) module is concerned with fundamentals of neuroscience.

The Systemic Neuroscience (SYS) module deals with regulatory, behavioural and cognitive systems in both humans and animal models.

The Clinical Neuroscience (CLN) module covers neurological, psychiatric, and neurodegenerative disorders.

These modules provide an interdisciplinary framework covering the complete range from molecular and developmental neurobiology to behaviour, neurology and psychology. Students will develop skills in fundamental and applied neurosciences: from bench to bedside and back!

Focus in Teaching and Research

The ECN programme is anchored in a multidisciplinary network within and outside the University of Regensburg, harbouring both experimental and clinical research institutions. This makes it possible to cover the field of neuroscience in all its aspects, from molecule to behaviour in health and disease.

Particular focus is on the molecular, cellular, and neuroendocrine mechanisms that underlie neuropsychiatric disorders. The following key research areas are central to the programme:

• Molecular neurobiology (neurogenetics, neuronal signalling, neuroplasticity)
• Behavioural neuroendocrinology (emotion and cognition in animal models, and their correlation with molecular, cellular and neuroendocrine parameters)
• Neuroimaging / functional magnetic resonance tomography

The ECN programme spans three semesters, starting in September each year. Its distinguishing factors are its Interdisciplinary character, Intense supervision, and its Internationality.

Intense Supervision

The programme consists of both theoretical and practical training, and terminates with a six months research project in one of the participating institutions in Regensburg or abroad.

Theoretical training

• Participation in interactive lectures, seminars, journal clubs, and tutorials
• Preparation of scientific presentations, manuscripts and research proposals
• Statistical data analyses

Practical training during project internships

• Technical skills
• Experimental design
• Laboratory management

The active participation of many neuroscientists in the daily routine of the programme makes intensive supervision possible:

• Intense supervision in small seminar groups (maximally 18 students)
• Individual (1:1) supervision in project internships

The organisation of the ECN programme, with intense supervision and diverse research opportunities, favours rapid learning of relevant knowledge and skills.

Intense supervision during theoretical and practical training is a major characteristic of the ECN programme.