

Assessment plan for the curriculum of the **Master's degree programme in Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience, 2026-2027**

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Date advice Board of Examiners: 26-05-2026

Date approval Faculty Board:

1. Vision on assessment

1. Assessment guides and evaluates student learning in a multidisciplinary context to develop research skills in the field of neurosciences in health and disease from a behavioural, cognitive, and/or molecular/clinical perspective.
2. Assessment actively stimulates collaboration in projects, combining specific knowledge and skills in the field of neurosciences, contributing to research teams.
3. Assessment stimulates the student's independent ability to design an experiment, collect, analyse and interpret data, and effectively communicate the conclusions to an interdisciplinary audience.

2. Assessment guidelines

Please explain the general assessment procedures that are used in the programmes. For example, 4-eyes principle in test design, standardised grading forms, rubrics.

1. Summative assessment strategies comprise of two or more distinct activities.
2. Formative assessment can be organised online and onsite, all summative assessment is organised onsite.
3. For reports a maximum of two feedback rounds (one on parts, one on the first full draft) are organised, if a third round of feedback is needed to guide students to sufficient quality, the maximum grade is a 7.
4. Reports (major and minor thesis) should include a section in which the author's contribution to the report is described.
5. Individual grades from group assignments are determined using peer assessment methods or by inclusion of the assessment of practical work.
6. When incorporating AI tools into assignments that involve creating written products, students must define how they have used these tools at all stages of the writing process and include explanations of their usage within the assignment.

3. Learning outcomes of the degree programme

Learning outcomes for the degree programme, further specified learning outcomes (where relevant) and/or specified for tracks within the degree programme. Please add extra rows if necessary.

	Learning Outcome
	Knowledge and Understanding
	<i>At the end of the programme, the graduate has acquired</i>
1	specialised knowledge in one of the three subfields of behavioural, cognitive or medical neurosciences and can use this knowledge to explain in detail the relevant concepts, using the appropriate terminology for their field.
2	a broad overview of contemporary issues in the area of behaviour, cognition, and neurosciences.
3	knowledge of the current research methodology (experimental design, data analysis) in the area of behaviour, cognition, and neurosciences.
4	knowledge to work in a multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary environment
	Applying knowledge and understanding
	<i>At the end of the programme, the graduate has demonstrated</i>
5	the ability to design scientific research, taking into account the limitations of available information and scientific problems in behaviour, cognition and neuroscience.
6	the ability to determine and apply the best suitable experimental design using modern neuroscience techniques and research approaches.
7	an understanding of the need for multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary approaches and skills to investigate the working of the brain
8	understanding of how to act according to the guidelines of scientific integrity
9	the ability collaborate effectively and appropriately with peers in a multidisciplinary and/or multicultural team, taking multiple perspectives into account
	Making judgements
	<i>At the end of the programme, the graduate has demonstrated the ability to</i>
10	evaluate scientific results, views and concepts with an open-minded but critical attitude

11	independently investigate and critically evaluate scientific literature from different countries across the world.
12	evaluate (societal and ethical) effects of applications in a variety of geographical contexts
13	reflect on the social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgement.
	Communication
	<i>At the end of the programme, the graduate has demonstrated the ability to</i>
14	discuss scientific research in written and verbal form to both specialist and non-specialist audiences, taking into account the limitations of their conclusions.
	Learning skills
	<i>At the end of the programme, the graduate has demonstrated to</i>
15	independently acquire new knowledge and skills that are relevant for their professional career.
16	identify and address issues inside as well as outside the main subject area, therefore and thereby gaining new knowledge and skills, in a short period of time.
17	apply knowledge and skills aimed at developing a successful international scientific career and the ability to judge whether they meet these requirements.
18	have a general work orientation that is required for participation in an international research team, contributing to collective goals, effective time management, and participation in a research network.

4. Overview of assessment methods, test moments for course units, and examiners

This table shows all the course units for each year of the programme and assessment methods. Please add extra rows if necessary.

Year	Period	Course code	Course	EC	Assessment methods	Does (part of the) assessment have a formative function?	Test moment(s) (e.g. mid-term, continuous assessment, exam week, etc)	First examiner	Second examiner
Mandatory elements in year 1									
1	Ia	WMB C007-03	Introduction to the Behavioral and Cognitive Neurosciences	3	AST	Yes	Halfway	Dr. A. Sarampalis	Robbert Havekes
1	Ib	WMB C012-02	Career Related Topics	2	AST, P	Yes	End	Prof. dr. M.J.H. Kas	R. Havekes
2	multiple periods	WMB C010-05	Advanced Statistics for BCN	5		No	End, Halfway, Start	I.R. Pen	K.J. van Benthem
1	multiple periods	WMB C902-30	Research Project (Minor thesis)	30	P, R	Yes	End, Halfway	R. Havekes	variable

B-track									
1	Ia	WMB Co25- 05	Rhythms in brain function and behaviour	5	AST, P	Yes	End, Halfway	Prof. dr. P. Meerlo	Prof. dr. R.A. Hut
1	Ib	WMB Co29- 05	Neural Mechanisms of Sensory-motor Learning	5	AST, MC, P	Yes	End, Halfway	Dr. Sanne Moorman	Dr. Robbert Havekes
1	Ib	WMB Co18- 05	The Neuroendocrine Basis of Behaviour	5	AST, P, R	Yes	End, Halfway	Dr. N.J. Gervais	Prof. dr. J.D.A Olivier
C-track									
1	Ia	WMB Co27- 05	Cognitive Neuroscience 1: Understanding the mind	5	P, WE	No	End	M.R. Nieuwenstein	Wouter Kruijne
1	Ia	WMB Co05- 05	Functional Neuroscience - C track	5	AST, P, WE	Yes	End, Halfway	Prof. dr. M.M. Lorist	Dr. J.B.C. Marsman
1	Ib	WMB Co28- 05	Cognitive Neuroscience 2: Modeling the mind	5	AST, WE	Yes	End, Halfway, Start	W. Kruijne	Mark Nieuwenstein
1	Ib	WMB Co13- 05	Cognitive Neuropsychiatry	5	AST, P, WE	Yes	End	Prof. Dr. M.J. van Tol	Marlijn Besten
N-track									

1	Ia	WMB Co06- 05	Functional Neuroscience N-track	5	P, WE	No	End, Halfway	Dr. S.M. kooistra	Dr. P. Schoonen, Dr. J Marsman
1	Ia	WMB Co09- 05	Pathology of the Nervous System	5	AST, P, WE	Yes	End	Dr. W.F.A. den Dunnen	Prof. dr. J. Laman
1	Ib	WMB Co17- 05	Stem Cell & Glia Biology	5	P, R, WE	No	End, Halfway, Start	Prof. dr. B.J.L. Eggen	dr. S.M. Kooistra
1	Ib	WMB Co16- 05	Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience	5	P, WE	No	End, Halfway	Dr. W. Baron	Dr. Mario Mauthe
Track electives for the B and N-track									
Year	Period		Course	EC	Assessm ent methods	Does (part of the) assessment have a formative function?	Test moment(s) (e.g. mid-term, continuous assessment, exam week, etc)	First examiner	Second examiner
1	1B	WMB Co16- 05	Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience	5	P, WE	Yes	End	U.L.M. Eisel	B.J.L. Eggen
1	1B	WMB Yo26- 05	Laboratory Animal Science*	5		Yes			
1	1B	WMB Yo25- 05	Evolutionary Medicine: Diseases of Affluence*	5		Yes			

Mandatory elements in year 2									
2		WMB C021- 05	Colloquium	5	P	No	End	Prof. dr. R. Havekes	Variable
2		WMB C901- 40	Research Project (Major thesis)	4 0	P, R	Yes	End, Halfway	R.Havekes	variable
Electives year 2 organised by BCN									
2	Ia	WMB C002- 05	Auditory and Visual Perception	5	P, WE	No	End, Halfway	Dr. A. Sarampalis	E.G. Akyürek
2	Ib	WMB C003- 05	Behavioural Pharmacology	5	AST, P, WE	No	End, Halfway	Prof. dr. J.D.A. Olivier	M. Kas
2	Semeste r Ib	WMB C014- 05	Human Neuroanatomy	5	WE	No	End	Dr. J.R. Georgiadis	Gerben B. Ruesink

** courses organised by the master Biology, see the relevant assessment plan for more information*

The abbreviations for the relevant teaching methods are explained in the legend of the table.

Examples of assessment methods include:

- *Written Exam (WE)*
- *Multiple Choice (MC)*
- *Oral Exam (OR)*
- *Report (R)*
- *Presentation (P)*
- *Practical Work (PR)*
- *Assignment (AST)*

5. Relationship between course units and details of the learning outcomes

Please note in the table below the course units per block in the programme. Indicate which learning outcomes are assessed in which courses by adding an X in the relevant cell. Please add extra rows if necessary.

An X means that the learning outcome is explicitly assessed (not merely addressed) in the course.

		Learning outcomes of the degree programme																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Period	Course	Year 1 –compulsory courses																	
1A	Introduction to BCN		x		x		x	x			x				x			x	
1B	Career Related Topics						x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x
1B/2B	Advanced Statistics for BCN			x		x	x				x								
2A/B	Minor Project	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x
Period	Course	Year 1 B-track																	
1A	Rhythms in brain function and behaviour	x				x		x			x					x			
1A	The Neuroendocrine Basis of Behaviour	x		x			x				x	x	x			x	x		
1B	Mechanisms of sensory-motor learning	x	x	x		x		x	x		x	x	x			x		x	
Period	Course	Year 1 C-track																	
1A	Cognitive Neuroscience 1	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x		x	

		Learning outcomes of the degree programme																	
1A	Functional Neuroscience C-track	x		x			x		x		x	x	x			x	x		
1B	Cognitive Neuroscience 2	x		x			x				x	x	x			x	x		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1B	Cognitive Neuropsychiatry	x		x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Period	Course	Year 1 N-track																	
1A	Functional Neuroscience N-track	x		x			x									x	x	x	
1A	Pathology of the Nervous System	x		x			x									x	x	x	
1B	Stem Cell and Glia Biology	x	x				x				x	x	x			x	x	x	
Period	Course	Year 1 electives for B and N-track																	
1B	Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience	x	x				x				x	x	x			x	x		
1B	Laboratory Animal Science*					x									x				x
1B	Evolutionary Medicine: Diseases of Affluence*																		
Period	Course	Year 2 Compulsory courses																	
1A/B	Colloquium		x				x				x		x			x	x		
2A/B	Major thesis	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Period	Course	Year 2 Electives																	
1A	Behavioural Pharmacology	x		x			x			x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x

		Learning outcomes of the degree programme																	
1A	Human Neuroanatomy	x									x	x	x			x	x		
1A	Auditory and Visual Perception	x					x				x	x	x			x	x		