

Doctoral courses

As a doctoral student of the GTC's graduate program you will be offered a wide spectrum of specialized training courses across the years. In addition, you can choose from several courses running in the three masters programs every winter and summer semester. You are required to earn in total 18 ECTS-credit points in order to fulfill the doctoral graduation requirements. Courses are to be chosen from different categories according to the '**Core Curriculum**' (see below), which was developed jointly by doctoral students and lecturers and approved by the Boards of the Graduate Schools.

All **doctoral courses** organized and offered by the GTC are posted on the GTC's website. In parallel, we will inform you by e-mail about new doctoral courses in order to prevent missing out on courses of interest. If you want to participate in a particular course, you will have to register for this course on-line through the GTC's website. In case there are more applications than places on a course, 'active' doctoral students of the GTC are preferred over students who are still in the process of admission. The latter will be considered in case of vacant places on a particular course.

Furthermore, an education program for doctoral candidates (in English and German) is offered by the Universities Central Graduate Academy (*Graduiertenakademie*). To enroll for a course, you have to login in a special ILIAS system following the link: https://vitruv.uni-tuebingen.de/ilias3/goto.php?target=root_1&client_id=graduier (enter 'Neuroschool' when asked for your faculty).

In case you had not been trained in neurosciences before, you may also attend **courses from our three masters programs**. Likewise, you will have to register on-line for these courses. Very few of these courses have admission restrictions, though, and are for master students only.

You may also participate in **national or international workshops and summer/fall schools**. However, it is your responsibility 'to spring into action' and to apply and compete for one of the often-limited places. Successful application and admission will be 'rewarded' by the GTC by means of financial support in order to supplement fees, travel costs, and/or accommodation.

Please be aware that **attending scientific meetings**, even with a poster or a talk, **does not earn credits**. Analyzing and preparing research data for presentation on a scientific meeting is an inherent part of a doctoral research project and, therefore, not considered 'supplementary training'.

Sometimes, courses have not been assigned ECTS-credit points. In these cases, we recommend that you contact the GTC staff and ask for assistance in calculating the respective course credits (calculations is based on the complete workload required to successfully complete a course).

You are required to keep track of your successfully completed courses and, ideally, update your course list continuously to ensure of having the up-to-date status at any time. The listed courses will be checked and discussed during the interims AB meetings and can also be inspected and approved by the doctoral course coordinator Dr. Lampe. In the end, you need to submit the

final course list as a compulsory graduation requirement, along with the Application for Admission to the Doctorate Process.

After successful graduation, you will not only receive a doctoral degree certificate (*Promotionsurkunde*) but also an official transcript that lists all the courses you have taken during the doctoral phase. While IMPRS-students will receive this transcript always, other doctoral graduates will get it only on request. This transcript often turns out to be a most valuable document when included in applications for a postdoctoral position or a job in the industries as it proves that – in addition to the scientific training – you gained further skills and competences.

Core Curriculum of the Doctoral Program

Course Category	Fraction %	ECTS* CPs	Examples
Hard-skills general	~ 40 %	min. 7 CPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures, courses, seminars offered by the masters and doctoral program of the GTC (e.g., neuroscience-, methods-, statistics-, programing courses). • Lectures and courses offered by other faculties at the University (advanced programing or maths courses). • ... or equivalent.
Hard-skills specific	~ 30%	min. 5 CPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National / international workshops. • National / international summer / fall schools. • Supplementary lab training (in Tübingen or elsewhere). • NeNa-participation, doctoral students retreats. • ... or equivalent.
Soft-skills	~ 25%	2-4 CPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific writing, project/time management, etc. • Active participation in teaching (lecture, practical course, tutorial, lab visits, etc.). • Active participation in organizing events (1 CP max.). • German language courses for int. students (3 CPs max.). • ... or equivalent.
NeuroColloquium	~ 15%	2-3 CPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biweekly, compulsory for doctoral students, 80% rate of attendance as proven by attendance lists, 0.5 CPs per term (3 CPs max.).

*ECTS (European Credit Transfer System): 1 credit point (CP) = workload of 25 to 30 hours