



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



Table of Contents

Master's degree	2
Master of Science in Neuroscience • Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg • Oldenburg.....	2

Master's degree



Master of Science in Neuroscience

Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg • Oldenburg

Overview

Degree	Master of Science in Neuroscience
In cooperation with	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of Bremen• Aix-Marseille University, France
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English
Languages	All courses are held in English.
Full-time / part-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• full-time
Programme duration	4 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Additional information on beginning, duration and mode of study	<p>This Master's programme lasts two years and cannot be studied online. It consists of intensive full-time modules.</p> <p>Courses start yearly in mid-October. For international students, it is highly recommended to arrive in Oldenburg by 1 October and take part in the international orientation week (first week in October) and the programme-specific orientation week for first semester neuroscience students (second week in October).</p>
Application deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General application deadline (national and international students) for the first semester: 15 June for the following winter semester (start in October). We appreciate earlier applications from international applicants (e.g. by 15 May) because applications via uni-assist need additional processing time.• Application deadlines for entry into higher semesters (national and international): 15 July and 15 January
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No
Joint degree / double degree programme	No

Description/content

The [Master's programme Neuroscience](#) at University of Oldenburg provides in-depth training in the neurosciences. The programme is **research-oriented and international**. It aims to attract students with a variety of different Bachelor's degrees.

Our Master's programme Neuroscience is devoted to basic science and mainly covers the nervous systems of vertebrate and invertebrate animals. **The programme focusses on Sensory, Behavioural, and Computational Neuroscience.** Students can choose to specialise within these areas or combine them with neighbouring disciplines.

In addition to theoretical and experimental neuroscience background knowledge, students acquire transferable skills and hands-on research experience in at least one research project prior to their Master's thesis.

Four out of many distinctive **characteristics**:

- **International:** All courses in English, [semester abroad](#) is possible
- **Science-oriented:** Intensive hands-on modules in small groups and individual student projects connecting to ongoing research projects
- **Interdisciplinary:** Teachers & students with diverse backgrounds, joint courses with the Master programmes in Biology, Neurocognitive Psychology, Molecular Biomedicine and Physics, Engineering and Medicine
- **Flexible:** There are no mandatory courses. Students design their [individual curriculum](#) from a large range of elective modules based on their interests.

The unique focus on Sensory, Behavioural, and Computational Neuroscience builds on our local strengths as reflected in a number of cooperative research and graduate education programmes. These established structures integrate basic biological research and applied research on sensory processes. Our Master's students are guided towards independent scientific work by direct interaction within internationally recognised research labs. The broad scope of sensory research also offers a wide range of methods to learn, from molecular genetics to electrophysiology, anatomy, and behaviour, and from mathematical modelling to modern imaging techniques. Finally, our teaching faculty directly reflects the multidisciplinary nature of neuroscience, providing a unique choice for developing individual strengths and interests.

Students who are specifically interested in molecular or in cognitive psychology should consider our "sister programmes" in Molecular Biomedicine or Neurocognitive Psychology, which are also offered at University of Oldenburg.

Course Details

Course organisation

The programme takes two years to achieve 120 ECTS credit points. All courses are elective. One research module and a Master's thesis are mandatory and can be chosen from a broad variety of topics.

Courses can be selected according to your individual preference for topics and types of modules:

Background modules: Provide background knowledge on a neuroscientific topic. Courses for eight to 20 students are organised in full-time blocks of two to seven weeks and usually comprise lectures, seminars, and hands-on practical experience. A minimum of 30 credit points must be acquired in background modules.

Research modules: These are individual student research projects in the supervisor's lab. The aim is to practise independent research, including experiments, background literature, and presentation of results. One research module has 15 ECTS and typically consists of six to eight weeks lab time plus time for preparation and for writing the report. Research modules are taken in one of the neuroscientific research groups at University of Oldenburg. External projects at a university, research institution, or a company science laboratory, either in Germany or abroad, are also possible. A minimum of 15 credit points must be acquired in research modules.

Skills modules: Professional skills beyond the specifics of neuroscience are developed in courses for up to 24 students. Topics include programming and statistical data analysis, science communication and ethical discussions. A minimum of six credit points must be acquired in skills

modules.

Electives: Of course, all courses of the MSc Neuroscience curriculum are eligible to complete your transcript to a total of 120 ECTS. Alternatively, up to 30 ECTS (one semester) can be chosen:

- From a list of pre-approved modules from related Master's programmes, e.g. Biology, Neurocognitive Psychology, Molecular Biomedicine and Physics, Engineering and Medicine, or the MSc programme in Neurosciences at University of Bremen.
- Upon individual approval by the programme director, further modules from other Master's programmes at University of Oldenburg or other universities in Germany or abroad. Hence, up to one semester course work can be studied at an international university.

For further details or examples of different individual curricula, please visit our website:

<https://uol.de/en/master-neuroscience/curriculum>.

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A Diploma supplement will be issued	Yes
International elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Projects with partners in Germany and abroad• Language training provided
Description of other international elements	<p>Participants are not required to study abroad, but they are welcome to complete an external research module, an external Master's thesis or one semester abroad on an individual basis. International mobility grants are available from the study programme and from the university as well as from our partner institution Aix-Marseille University in France.</p> <p>The programme includes a scientific English course, and six ECTS of additional language courses are credited (e.g., German courses for non-native speakers). The programme covers fees for German courses for international students.</p>
Integrated internships	At least one research module (15 ECTS) has to be completed during the Master's programme. This module can be accomplished as an internship at the University of Oldenburg, or at any other university, research institution, or science-oriented company if the topic of the project fits into the scope of evaluation by one of the teachers involved in the programme. It is possible to choose up to three research modules as electives.
Special promotion / funding of the programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ERASMUS+
Course-specific, integrated German language courses	No
Course-specific, integrated English language courses	Yes

Costs / Funding

Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Semester contribution	The semester contribution amounts to approx. 400 EUR. This includes a semester ticket for free public transport.

Costs of living

You should be prepared to spend about 950 EUR per month to cover personal expenses (accommodation, health insurance, food).

A detailed list of current fees and expenses can be found at <https://uol.de/en/study-in-oldenburg/finances>

Funding opportunities within the university

Yes

Description of the above-mentioned funding opportunities within the university

There are no full-time funding opportunities for the whole duration of the course of study. However, there are funding opportunities for specific study phases:

International students can apply for a STIBET scholarship, which provides financial support of up to 400 EUR for four months during their final phase of studies (usually the Master's thesis).

All students who study a semester abroad, who do an external research module abroad or who participate in an international conference can apply for international mobility grants by the study programme and the university.

Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements

Mandatory qualifications / documents:

- Applicants must hold a **Bachelor's degree**, e.g. in neuroscience, biology, natural sciences, or engineering.
- If you are still in the process of completing your degree, at least 150 credit points must be documented. (In this case, the Bachelor's diploma must be handed in during the first semester.)
- At least **12 credit points** must have been obtained in **neuroscience**, and a further **12 credit points in mathematics, statistics, and/or programming**. (We also acknowledge certificates from extracurricular online courses.) Up to six credit points in one of these two broad areas (neurosciences or mathematics / statistics / programming) may be acquired in catch-up individual studies parallel to the first semester of study.
- Applicants must produce **proof of English proficiency** (details below).
- The **completed specific eligibility form** must be included with your application.

Advantageous qualifications:

The admissions committee evaluates the applicant based on the documents supplied. The specific eligibility is determined by a ranking based on the sum of points from categories A and B that are outlined below. If the score is equal, a lottery determines the ranking.

Category A:

German **grade average of Bachelor's degree** (calculation of German grade is done by uni-assist)

- 1.00 - 1.29 (6 points)
- 1.30 - 1.49 (5 points)
- 1.50 - 1.69 (4 points)
- 1.70 - 1.89 (3 points)
- 1.90 - 2.19 (2 points)
- 2.20 - 2.49 (1 point)
- 2.50 - 4.00 (0 points)

Category B:

Further points can be obtained through **additional qualifications**.

- Relevant internships, student assistant position, or a Bachelor's thesis in the neurosciences with a minimum duration of three months, which is not part of the required 12 ECTS in neuroscience (0.5 points each / maximum 1.5 points)

- Scientific publication(s) or award(s) (0.5 points each / maximum 1 point)
- Proof of English proficiency at a level of C1 or higher (1 point)
- Proven previous knowledge in neuroscience and statistics / programming / mathematics with 12 ECTS or more (0.5 points)
- Subject-related stay outside your home country with a minimum duration of one semester (0.5 points)
- Voluntary social / community work, with a minimum duration of six months (0.5 points)
- A minimum of 12 months of relevant professional work experience (0.5 points)

Please make sure to **include all relevant, supporting documents in your application**, including the completed eligibility form. These are the only basis for the admissions committee to evaluate your specific eligibility.

Language requirements	Applicants must produce proof of English proficiency at a minimum level of B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. High school or university degrees that were taught in English as the only language of instruction also serve as proof of English proficiency.
Application deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General application deadline (national and international students) for the first semester: 15 June for the following winter semester (start in October). We appreciate earlier applications from international applicants (e.g. by 15 May) because applications via uni-assist need additional processing time. • Application deadlines for entry into higher semesters (national and international): 15 July and 15 January
Submit application to	<p>Please find up-to-date information at:</p> <p>https://uol.de/en/course-of-study/neuroscience-master-605</p> <p>Applicants with a German BSc degree apply via the university portal (see link) and send a paper copy to the university.</p> <p>International applicants (EU and non-EU) apply online via: https://www.uni-assist.de/en/ (handling charges apply)</p>

Services

Possibility of finding part-time employment	<p>Students are permitted to work while pursuing their studies. If you are a student from a non-EU country, you are allowed to work 120 full or 240 half working days per year.</p> <p>German language skills are advantageous for finding student jobs outside of the University.</p>
Accommodation	<p>Information and support is provided by the Student Service Organisation (Studentenwerk) of University of Oldenburg.</p> <p>Student dorms: https://www.studentenwerk-oldenburg.de/de/wohnen/wohnungssuche--finding-accommodation.html</p> <p>Private room database of the Studentenwerk: https://www.studentenwerk-oldenburg.de/en/internationale-studierende/privatzimmervermittlung-fuer-internationale-studierende.html</p> <p>Emergency housing: https://www.studentenwerk-oldenburg.de/de/wohnen/24-johann-justus-weg/743-notbetten.html</p> <p>Students who are enrolled can also use the notice board in the Stud.IP learning platform.</p>

More information on housing and other relevant aspects of organising your stay are provided at <https://uol.de/en/study-in-oldenburg/organise-your-stay>.

Career advisory service

- Yearly "Neuroscience Career Day"
- Individual mentoring by one of the neuroscience staff members
- Individual advice from the programme coordinator
- General career advisory service and career day by the university

Support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Welcome event
- Specialist counselling
- Buddy programme
- Tutors

General services and support for international students and doctoral candidates

Please visit <https://uol.de/en/io/study-in-oldenburg>

for the service offered by the university (e.g. international orientation week, buddy programme, International Study Entry Phase support programme)

Supervisor-student ratio

Students of this rather small programme (25 students per year) can choose research projects offered by more than 30 local supervisors. All background and skills modules are taught in small groups (usually between six and 20 students).

Our Partners



Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg



University of Oldenburg, Wechloy campus

The Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg was founded in 1973, making it one of Germany's young universities. Its goal is to find answers to the major challenges society faces in the 21st century – through interdisciplinary, cutting edge research.

The distances on the Oldenburg campus are short. The university's academic staff and administrative staff work closely together, using an interdisciplinary approach. Many are integrated into special research areas, research groups, and European clusters of excellence. The university cooperates closely with more than 200 other universities worldwide and is also affiliated with non-university institutes in the areas of research, education, culture, and business.

The University of Oldenburg is preparing over 15,000 students for professional life. It offers a broad range of disciplines, from language studies, cultural studies, and the humanities to educational sciences, art, and musicology; the economic and social sciences; mathematics; computer science; the natural sciences; and the medicine and health science programmes.



📍 University location

Oldenburg regards itself as a modern city in a modern society. Interest in communication with people from all over the world is an important part of our identity. We also value being open towards newcomers who want to join our community. We appreciate internationalism and cultural diversity as an opportunity for us all.

Irrespective of whether you want to enjoy Oldenburg as a tourist, student, future business owner, or permanent resident – you are always welcome!

There are many reasons to come to Oldenburg. In contrast to many other cities in Germany, our population is actually on the steady increase. With its many creative and ambitious projects, initiatives, and businesses, Oldenburg has become established as the region's motor for progress and development.

We believe that knowledge is the key to success. The Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, the Jade University of Applied Sciences, and dedicated electrical engineering, IT, and police training colleges evidence our strong position in the field of higher education.

The economic focus of the city is on the service sector and advanced technology, with special emphasis on the fields of sustainable energy generation and distribution. The regional IT sector is also renowned for its creativity and innovative power.

For further information, please visit the following website: <https://www.oldenburg.de/sprachversionen/gb/tourist-information.html>.

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📘 <https://www.facebook.com/fsneuroscience>

📷 <https://www.instagram.com/neuroscience.ol/?hl=en>

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Disclaimer

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