

MSc in Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging

C84LCN * Research placement * Research project

- **C84LCN research proposal** related to contents of C84LCN lectures
 - human cognitive neuroscience but not limited to methods like (f)MRI, MEG/EEG, TMS
- to be presented in seminar (audience: other MSc students, limited number of researchers from School of Psychology, tutor, course director)
- assessed on the basis of **abstract** (2 pages, no mandatory font size – give name/student id), **seminar presentation with questions** (seminar date ~ end of January assessment period) and **1500-word essay**
- topic to be different from specific PhD topic and from placement/project topic (the **C84LCN research proposal** should be student's independent work, not what PhD or placement/project supervisor have suggested)
- topic to be different from statement of future PhD application
- please explain to supervisors if required:
 - **C84LCN is an „as if“ research proposal** but the proposed research is not actually run – so it is appropriate that this research proposal is different from PhD topic
 - no written proposal for placement and project (because topic given by PhD supervisor)

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C84LCN	Nottingham PhD application (for MSc 1-year students, if desired)	C84RPL C84PRO
Research proposal	Research proposal, different from C84LCN proposal (discuss with potential PhD supervisor)	topic defined by supervisor (as from catalogue or modified in agreement with student) - No student-supplied proposal (= no such thing as a „project proposal“!)
No actual research within MSc	Research as part of PhD if approved by supervisor	Research actually performed

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standard case: placement and project have the same topic
(also possible: placement with technique 1, project with technique 2)

MSc 1-year students		MSc/PhD students
Choose topic of interest from project catalogue (MSc webpage) and/or contact member of staff		Topic to be discussed with PhD supervisor
Placement (end of January to end of May, including Easter break if required)	typically develop experimental setup for subsequent project, run pilot experiments in 1 or 2 subjects	assessed by abstract, presentation in seminar (mid-May), essay (exceptionally evaluation of sample data instead of essay) DJS/MS give marks
Project (between mid-June and end of August)	typically systematic study in small population (for example, 10 subjects); scope of project to be commensurate with available time (in some cases contribute to ongoing project with existing ethics approval)	assessed by project report submit by early September, exact date to be announced MSc-1-year: 1 mark from project supervisor, 1 mark from DJS/MS MSc/PhD: from 1st/2nd supervisor

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Research placement and research project

- **Method:** Most projects will involve a brain imaging or electrophysiological method: (f)MRI, EEG/MEG, TMS – but that's not mandatory: a project using behavioural methods to address questions of cognitive neuroscience would be fine (if comparable experimental effort)
- Rarely the placement/project work has to use other methods than listed above to be in line with a future non-neuroscience PhD topic. In such cases the student submits coursework about analysis of an fMRI/EEG/MEG example dataset instead of the placement essay
- Access to laboratories in Psychology (EEG, TMS) – just book after approval by supervisor
- Laboratories in Sir Peter Mansfield Magnetic Resonance Centre (fMRI, MEG)
 - for MSc-1-year students' projects, School of Psychology pays MR centre fees; supervisor can contact MSc course director to request such funding (as long as supervisor is Psychology staff member). The number of these projects is limited but it is unlikely that fMRI/MEG will be oversubscribed (some students prefer EEG/TMS in Psychology)
 - for MSc/PhD students, the assumption is that fMRI/MEG fees will be paid from supervisor's budget (note that supervisor can apply to MR centre for free fMRI/MEG hours)
- Laboratories outside Psychology and SPM-MRC – similar as MSc/PhD students in SPM-MRC
- Each student, MSc-1-year or MSc/PhD, can pay up to £100 as inconvenience allowance to subjects (e.g. 10 hours of fMRI; please ask me how to claim from Research Support Office)

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Research placement and research project

- Once the project topic has been agreed, the supervisor has to fill in a form to declare that (s)he agrees to topic choice (form will be available later this month)
- For all students: Two formal meetings between MSc student and project supervisors are required during research project work. Normally the first meeting is held at the beginning of the project period and the second meeting when the student is half-way through the project. For each of these meetings a supervision record (see MSc webpage) must be completed. Students need to send these reports to the MSc mailbox AND hand in a paper copy (School Office)
- No other formal meetings are required during the MSc year. Students on a 1+3 MSc/PhD programme please note that different regulations apply to PhD years.
- **Students are free to ask the supervisor for additional meetings if needed.** It is advisable for students to keep their own records of such extra meetings.
- **If problems arise**, please discuss them with the project supervisor. If discussion does not resolve the problem, please ask MSc tutor or MSc course director for advice.

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Research placement and research project

Next steps:

- MSc-1-year students: study project catalogue; for projects of interest ask supervisors for more details (plenty of time – several weeks). **If project requires MRI/MEG please let me know soon**
- MSc/PhD students: discuss project topic with PhD supervisor
- once you have identified your preferred topic, please ask the supervisor to sign the form **Supervision for Research Placement and Research Project** (supervisor can find requirements on **MSc project supervisor's webpage**). Placement and project title as stated on the form are preliminary and can be changed later. Form to be handed in no later than end of autumn semester
- MSc/PhD students need to inform me (cc Martin Lockey) by mid-June who is their second PhD supervisor I (otherwise delay with project marking)
- If the student contributes to a larger project, the student's contribution and contribution of co-workers must be specified in the placement presentation/essay and in the project report

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- tour of MR facilities and tour of EEG lab soon – date to be announced
- Please use MSc students' computer room – do all students have keycode?
- please check MSc webpage occasionally for changes
- make use of software resources: Matlab, SPSS, e-prime, ... * graduate school programming course?
- University offers virtual private network <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/is/connect/workingoffcampus.aspx>
- feedback on MSc course is welcome!
 - (a) „student evaluation of modules“ (SEM), 12/2010: C84BIM, EBM, LCN, questionnaire/free-form text
 - (b) representative in postgraduate committee
 - (c) informal feedback to tutor or course director
- scientific writing: graduate school courses; links on <http://www.psychology.nottingham.ac.uk/staff/mxs/CXXTUT/>
- scientific writing: read review articles (e.g. Trends Cogn Sci, Annals NY Acad Sci: Year in Cogn Neurosci)
- your outgoing emails:
 1. please always use the „subject“ line
 2. have all all students sent test email to MSc mailbox, *lp-msc-cognitiveneuroscience* ?
 3. *lp-msc-cognitiveneuroscience@nottingham.ac.uk* does **not** work
 4. use option „*delivery receipt*“ not „*read receipt*“ (Outlook or <http://owa.nottingham.ac.uk>)
- your incoming emails: soon to university email only

Today = last induction meeting (3 out 3), for further questions pls come to drop-in session (or email)

For Msc-1-year students: meeting to give overview of Nottingham PhD application process - tba

What to do if you have questions (about a lecture, about the course ...)

1. ask fellow students
2. ask last year's students – do you have their email addresses? (Laura Marsh, David Kelly)
3. ask demonstrator (for example regarding SPM/Matlab in C84NIM)
4. ask lecturers – all staff members have drop-in sessions (office hours) –Psychology web pages
5. ask tutor, DJS (MSc/PhD students ask PhD supervisor), or MS (drop in tue 11:30 to 13:30)