

Research Master Neuroscience Programme

Course Outline

Course Code	RMNS-1.10
Course Name	Writing and presenting Research proposal
Teaching Methods	Practical, traineeship, self study

Aims of the Course

Writing

1. To develop skills in scientific writing in English.
2. To understand the content and purpose of different parts of a research proposal such as those prepared in order to obtain funds from granting agencies.
3. To obtain the necessary background information on the topic to be studied as a year-long project, and demonstrate this knowledge in written form.
4. To create a formal plan for the year-long research project.
5. To clearly state scientific questions and present a realistic experimental plan to answer them in written form.
6. To develop skills in evaluating scientific writing.
7. To allow the MSc faculty a chance to review and approve your plans.

Presentation

1. To practice organizing experimental data for a concise and informative presentation.
2. To practice communicating experimental results and their interpretation.
3. To present information on background and methods appropriate to time and audience.
4. To provide an update on what you are doing in your research project.

Learning Goals

The RM students acquire the following skills and knowledge:

1. The ability to formulate a relevant problem in scientific terms and translate it into a scientific question.
2. The ability to translate a scientific question into a scientific protocol and/or a research proposal that is both achievable and realistic to research.
3. The ability to carry out and evaluate an extensive literature study of an issue.
4. Acquisition of adequate knowledge of scientific research and biostatistics analytical methods, and the ability to apply this knowledge in composing a research proposal and in performing, analyzing and interpreting research.
5. The ability to present the research findings in a scientific meeting.
6. The ability to critically review and assess relevance of scientific results of others.

Target Group	MSc Neuroscience students
Organisation	Erasmus MC – Department of Neuroscience
Level	2 (Master)

Credits	8 ECs
Study Load	224 hrs
Testing Language	Assessment of research proposal and proposal presentation English
Number of Participants	All first year Master students
Location	Erasmus MC – Dept. Neuroscience
Date	April - June
Registration	This course is part of the MSc Neuroscience curriculum. Separate registration is not necessary for admitted students.
Responsibility	Erasmus MC – Department of Neuroscience
Coordination	RM Neuroscience programme – Exam committee
Contact	E. Buitenhuis-Linssen E-mail: masterneuroscience@erasmusmc.nl
Alumni	LinkedIn Group RM Neuroscience group, ErasmusMC https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8133912

Information	
Start level	1 st year Master student
Summary	See overview of various projects
Teaching Strategies	Self study
Graduate Attributes	Upon completion of this course, if you have attended and actively participated, and when you have passed with sufficient results, you are awarded 8 ECs.
Testing and Assessments	
Testing Procedure	<p>The proposal is formally graded by two independent faculty members and based on the following categories for assessment: 1; originality, 2; feasibility, 3; argumentation, 4; documentation and challenging and innovative aspects, 5; effectiveness of methodology, 6; style/grammar.</p> <p>The final grade is adjusted if needed based on consensus of all faculty who have reviewed the proposal. You will receive a grade on a scale from 1 (worst) to 10 (best).</p> <p>The oral presentation will be assessed by at least two of the faculty on the content and discussion (5 points) and Style of presentation and discussion (5 point).</p> <p>The weighting of the proposal versus the oral presentation is 50/50%. On every component of the exam a 5,5 or higher must be scored.</p> <p>Grade appeal is subject to the rules laid out in the Teaching and Examinations Regulations of Erasmus MC.</p>

	Quality Control Exams In accordance with the assessment plan.
Quality Management	
	Evaluation The MSc programme co-ordinators are open for suggestions from course participants on possible improvements. Course contents and setup are re-evaluated periodically, at least once a year, by the course directors and MSc programme chair members.