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Faculty of Biology and Psychology (Lead Institute):

Following the resolution by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biology and Psychology on 31.01.2018, the Presidential Board of the University of Göttingen approved the second amendment to the examination and study regulations for the consecutive international Master's/Doctoral degree programme "Neuroscience" on 31.07.2018, in the version published on 16.07.2013 (Official Announcements I no. 29/2013, p. 878), last amended by resolution of the Presidential Board dated 08.09.2014 (Official Announcements I no. 35/2014 p. 1067), (§ 44 section 1 sentence 2 NHG in the version of the announcement dated 26.02.2007 (Nds. GVBl. p. 69), last amended by Article 4 of the Act dated 15.06.2017 (Nds. GVBl. p. 172); § 37 section 1 sentence 3 no. 5 b) NHG, § 44 section 1 sentence 3 NHG).

Examination and study regulations for the consecutive international Master's/Doctoral degree programme "Neuroscience" at the University of Göttingen

§ 1 Scope

(1) [1]The consecutive international Master's/Doctoral degree programme "Neuroscience" is offered in a cooperation between the Faculty of Biology and Psychology, the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Physics. [2]The lead institute is the Faculty of Biology and Psychology. [3]This research-oriented degree programme involves cooperation by the European Neuroscience Institute Göttingen (ENI), the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, the Max Planck Institute for Experimental Medicine, the Max Planck Institute for–Dynamics and Self-Organization and the German Primate Centre, in particular, through the provision of laboratory workplaces for students in the associated work groups.

(2) The provisions of the "General examination regulations for Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes as well as other degree programmes offered at the University of Göttingen" (APO) in their respectively valid versions shall apply in course sections I and IIa to the consecutive international Master's/Doctoral degree programme "Neuroscience".

(3) The provisions of the "Doctoral degree regulations in the mathematical-natural sciences graduate school at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen – Georg-August University School of Science

(GAUSS) –" (RerNatO) in their respectively valid versions shall apply to the consecutive international Master's/Doctoral degree programme "Neuroscience", course section IIb.
(4) This regulation specifies the other provisions for the completion of the course of studies in the consecutive Master's/Doctoral degree programme.

§ 2 Purpose of the Academic Programme, Academic Degree

(1) [1]The aim of the academic programme is to provide an intensive, research-oriented education in which the students can enlarge on and expand the knowledge, skills and competencies acquired in sciences associated with neuroscience/biology/ biomedicine/biophysics within an advanced, inter-faculty course that includes the relevant extramural research institutions situated at the location. [2]Education in specialist knowledge includes the theoretical, methodical and experimental foundations required for scientific work and fosters abilities within fields of activity related to application, research and teaching.
(2) The master's examination in the research-oriented degree programme is intended to ascertain whether the examination candidates have acquired the fundamental specialised knowledge required to transition into professional practice, possess a grasp of the specialist contexts and understand, as experts, how to apply more advanced scientific methods and insight in order to work as scientists in a specialist occupational field.
(3) Once the master's examination is passed, the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen awards the university degree "Master of Science", abbreviated "M. Sc.".
(4) The programme includes the option of being admitted to the doctoral phase already (fast track) after successful completion of the course section I (intensive year as specified in § 4).
(5) The doctoral degree examination is intended to ascertain whether the examination candidate possess the ability for advanced, independent, scientific work.
(6) Upon successful completion of the doctoral degree examination, the Georg-August-Universität awards the academic degree of Doctor of Natural Sciences (Dr. rer. nat.). This may be replaced by the title Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) on the request of the doctoral candidate and will be awarded with the suffix "Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences" to denote the focus on mathematics and natural sciences.
(7) [1]Students who have successfully completed a degree course in human medicine and satisfy all requirements placed in licensing as a physician may, subject to application, be awarded, in accordance with section 6, the title of "Medical Doctor – Doctor of Philosophy" (abbreviated: "M.D.-Ph.D."). [2]In this case, and unlike the provisions defined in RerNatO, the doctoral committee of the Faculty of Medicine will be responsible. Similarly, the Faculty of Medicine will exclusively award the doctoral certificate.

§ 3 Start of programme, duration, programme sections

(1) The academic programme starts with the winter semester.

(2) The standard course length is:

a) three semesters from the beginning of studies to the successful completion of the master's examination, and

b) six semesters after admission to Study Section IIb until successful completion of the doctorate.

(3) The degree programme cannot be done part-time.

(4) The academic programme is comprised of 120 C or credits (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) until successful completion of the master's examination: C), which are distributed as follows:

a. to the subject-specific course 83 C,
b. to the area of professionalisation 7 C and
c. 30 C for the master's thesis.

(5) The academic programme is divided into the following course sections:

a. the intensive year (course section I) with a scope of 90 C,
b. the master's thesis (course section IIa) with a scope of 30 C or the phase of doctoral studies (course section IIb).

(6) [1]The study and examination components in the intensive year should be completed in modules. [2]These modules are specified in the module overview (appendix 1). [3]The module index is published separately. It is part of this regulation as far as the modules are listed in the module overview (appendix I).

(7) The language of instruction and examination is English.

§ 4 Intensive year

(1) [1]The academic programme is organised as an intensive course in the first course section. [2]Its suitability as an academic programme is guaranteed by distributing the curriculum evenly across the entire period from October of the first subject semester to August of the second subject semester, hence differing from the announced period of lectures.

(2) The curriculum is divided into thirteen modules as specified in the module overview. These are made up of six scientific-theoretical modules (theoretical modules; total of 30 C), five scientific-practical modules (practical modules; total of 53 C), and two in the area of professionalisation (total of 7 C).

(3) Each of the theoretical modules is made up of lectures and tutorials. They are held sequentially as coherent blocks (A to F) across the entire intensive year. Their times are from 8.15 am to 10 am respectively, with lectures on Mondays and Thursdays, and corresponding tutorials on Tuesdays and Fridays.

(4) [1]Parallel to the first two theoretical modules (modules M.Neuro 11 and 12, most commonly by the end of the calendar year in the semester of enrolment), the first four practical modules must also be completed successfully. These modules focus on the acquisition of fundamental techniques of neuroscience. [2]The first three practical modules are comprised respectively of various one or two-day methodical courses. [3]Unlike this, the fourth practical module consists of a one-week, whole-day block placement. [4]The practical modules are held in each case after the lectures and tutorials. [5]The courses contained in the first professionalisation module are held in the 2nd block of lectures. [6] Apart from this, Wednesday mornings will be kept mainly reserved for self study. But students will have the opportunity to take part in presentations in the associated work groups on current questions of research.

(5) [1]The fifth practical module (M.Neuro.25) must be completed (M.Neuro.13 ff., most commonly from the start of the new calendar year in the semester of enrolment) parallel to the other theoretical modules. [2]It represents the focus of a research-oriented, practical education on an advanced level. [3]It is comprised of three two-month research projects (Lab rotations; 15 C each) that can be selected from a broad range of facilities involved in the course of study and that are intended to cover very different fields of work in both methodical and content terms. [4]The independent research projects are held, respectively, in a research laboratory maintained by facilities involved in the degree programme, and involve one-on-one support. [5]The students are integrated within scientific laboratory routines and, on average, will spend around six hours per day in the laboratory. Teaching staff are scheduled to spend, on average, approximately one hour per day to provide one-on-one project support. [6]Students will draft a scientific report on each of the research projects they attend. [7]Furthermore, the results of two research projects each will be presented and discussed in an accompanying course within the framework of the second professionalisation module (5 C). [8]The research projects, organised as lab rotations, are held daily, while the accompanying course takes place from March to July on Wednesday mornings.

(6) A period of independent study to prepare for the examinations comes at the end of the intensive year.

§ 4a Organisation of teaching

(1) The following teaching units and non-university institutions are involved in the training:

a) University Teaching Units and Facilities
aa) Biology (Uni-Bio),
ab) Pre-clinic medicine (Med-VK),
ac) Clinic-practical medicine (Med-KL),
ad) Clinic-theoretical medicine (Med-KT),
ae) Physics (Uni-Phy),
af) European Neuroscience Institute (Med-ENI),
b) non-university institutions
ba) Max Planck Institute for Experimental Medicine (MPI-EM),
bb) Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry (MPI-BPC),
bc) Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization (MPI-DS),
bd) German Primate Centre (DPZ).
(2) [1]The teaching components of the teaching units and non-university institutions are shown in the module descriptions. [2]Contrary to sentence 1, the proportion of teaching staff assigned to a teaching unit in the M.Neuro.25 module corresponds to the proportion of all staff involved in the teaching of this degree programme.
(3) The standard group size of courses held in the degree programme is:
a) for lectures and courses: 20,
b) for tutorials: 20,
c) for methodical courses: 5 and
d) for laboratory rotations: 1 (one-on-one support).

§ 5 Study and examination advice

(1) The specialised study advice is offered by the lecturers involved in the degree programme, the study advisers and the office of the degree programme.
(2) The degree programme office has the task, in particular, of supporting individual study planning, furnishing information and giving advice on study-related questions.
(3) Coordinating with the programme committee, the office provides students with individual advice in regular intervals, in particular, with regard to the selection of the two-month research placement in the fifth practical module and on questions concerning continuing academic programmes following the intensive year.
(4) The Central Student Advisory Office of the university is responsible for general study advice, especially in inter-faculty questions.
(5) The students should receive study advice in the following cases, in particular:

- on planning studies,

- after failing examinations,
- before a planned foreign period of studies,

§ 6 Form of examination components, admission to examinations; registration and withdrawal; announcement of assessments

(1) Besides the examination components allowed according to the provisions of APO, the following subject-specific examination components can be planned:

Lab reports: A comprehensive, written report, composed in the English language and structured in the form of a scientific publication (brief abstract, introduction, material and methods, results, discussion, bibliography, any appendixes) and on the basis of which the project as implemented and the results achieved therein can be clearly reconstructed.

(2) [1]All teachers involved in the academic programme are considered authorised examiners in the sense of § 11 APO, provided they have acquired membership in the Göttingen graduate centre for neuroscience, biophysics and molecular biosciences (GGNB). This will not require any special appointment. [2]Scientists who hold a doctorate in the relevant subject area but are not members of GGNB may be assigned as academic advisers in the master's thesis without any necessity of appointment as authorised examiners.

(3) Unlike in § 10 a APO, students register and withdraw from examinations exclusively with the office of the degree programme.

(4) Unlike § 20 section 2 sentence 1 APO, the office of the degree programme makes the announcement of assessments for examination components to the students in a text form.

§ 7 Theoretical block examination

(1) The theoretical block examination, held within 4-8 weeks following the end of lectures, marks the end of the first course section. It is the joint module examination for the six theoretical modules.

(2) [1]The examination candidate registers for the examination with the office of the degree programme. [2]Registration must take place by no later than 2 weeks following the end of lectures in the second subject semester.

(3) The theoretical block examination takes place in the English language and consists of the following three examination sections:

a. a 3-hour written examination that may be held entirely or partially using the multiple-choice method,
b. two approx. 30-minute oral examinations. They consist of two thematic focuses, announced with appropriate notice in advance.

(4) [1]The theoretical examination is passed, provided that the student receives an assessment of at least “sufficient (4.0)” in each of the examination sections. [2]The grade of the theoretical block examination is the arithmetic average of the grades achieved in each of the three examination sections, weighted identically.

(5) [1]Unlike § 16 a section 1 APO, the theoretical block examination can be repeated once. [2]The repeat must take place within eight weeks following announcement of the fail in the first examination attempt. Students must and may retake only examinations sections which they did not pass.

§ 8 Admission to course section IIa (master’s thesis)

(1) The successful completion of all modules in the intensive year and the successful completion of the theoretical block examination are required for admission to the master’s thesis.

(2) [1]The application for admission to the master’s thesis must be filed with the degree programme office and must have been received there by no later than the 15th of the month before the start of the semester. [2]The following material must be enclosed with the application:

a) proof of fulfilment as concerns the requirements specified under section 1,
b) the proposal of topic for the master’s thesis,
c) a proposal for the first academic advisor or the second academic advisor,
d) a written confirmation from the first supervisor and the second supervisor,
e) a declaration specifying that the master’s examination has not been failed definitively or registered as definitively failed in the same or similar master’s degree programme at a domestic or foreign university.

[3]The proposals under letters b) and c) as well as the proof as specified under letter d) are unnecessary if the student provides assurance that he or she has been unable to find an academic advisor.

(3) [1]The examination board decides on admission. [2]This should be rejected if the qualifications for entry are not fulfilled or the master’s examination in the same or comparable master’s degree programme at a domestic or foreign university has been definitively failed.

§ 9 Master’s thesis

(1) [1]With the written master’s thesis, the candidate should prove that he or she is in a position to process a scientific topic using the methods of his or her research area in the specified time frame, develop an independent, scientifically established judgement, arrive at scientifically underpinned statements and illustrate the results in a linguistically as well as formally appropriate manner. [2]30 C are awarded for successful completion of the master’s thesis.

(2) [1]The provisional working topic of the master’s thesis should be agreed with the proposed academic advisor and submitted with confirmation from the second academic advisor to the examination board concerned. [2]In the event of the candidate is unable to find an academic advisor, the examination board will specify an academic advisor and a topic. [3]The candidate's view should be considered in choosing the topic. [4]The right to make a proposal for the choice of topic does not constitute a legal right. [5]The office of the degree programme will issue the topic of the master’s thesis. It must, in this context, observe the regulations issued by the examination board in this respect. [6]The time of issue must be recorded.

(3) [1]Students will have 6 months in which to complete their master’s thesis. This begins on the first day of the winter semester. The programme committee will issue a ruling in the event that the deadline is missed. [2]Upon application of the candidate, the examination board can extend the deadline for submitting the thesis by a maximum of 3 months, upon agreement with the first academic advisor and existence of an important reason that cannot be attributed to the candidate. [3]An important reason normally exists in the case of an illness that is to be notified immediately and established by producing a medical certificate.

(4) [1]The topic can be returned only once and only within the first 4 weeks of the time allotted for completing the thesis. [2]A new topic must be agreed upon immediately, but no later than within 4 weeks. [3]In the event that a master’s thesis is repeated, the topic may be returned only in accordance with sentence 1 if the examination candidate has not resorted to this option in the first examination attempt.

(5) [1]The master’s thesis must be submitted on time and in two copies to the office of the degree programme. [2]Additionally, and at the same time, a text version must be submitted in the format of a commonly used word processing program or in PDF format (unprotected), and it must be ensured that the written version and the supplementary version submitted match each other. [3]The time of submission should be recorded. [4]Upon submission, the candidate should declare in writing that he or she has independently compiled the work and has not used any sources and tools other than those specified.

(6) The master’s thesis must be drafted in English.

(7) [1]The office of the degree programme forwards the master’s thesis to the first advisor and the second advisor as a reviewer. [2]Each reviewer will award a grade. [3]The duration of the assessment procedure should not exceed four weeks.

(8) [1]If the difference between assessments by the two reviewers is at least 2.0 or an assessment is "insufficient", but the other is "sufficient" or higher, a third reviewer will be appointed for the assessment of the master’s thesis. [2]In this case, unlike in § 16 section 5 APO, the examination board will reach a final decision on the final grade of the master’s thesis on the basis of all expert reviews.

§ 10 Grade point average of the master's examination, peremptory failure

(1) The master examination is passed if at least 120 C were acquired and all of the required module examinations, the theoretical block examination and the master's thesis have been passed.

(2) Unlike § 16 section 7 sentence 1 APO, the current average grade of the master's examination is calculated on the basis of the weighted arithmetic average of the three grades achieved in the theoretical block examination and the master's thesis; in this the examination sections will be weighted with a factor of 1, while the master's thesis with a factor of 2.

(3) In addition to the cases described in APO, the right to examination is cancelled definitively insofar as the theoretical examination has been failed or is considered failed in the second attempt.

§ 11 Double-degree option within the framework of the Erasmus Mundus Programme NEURASMUS

(1) [1]The Université Bordeaux Segalen (Bordeaux, France), the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Amsterdam, the Netherlands), the Universidade de Coimbra (Coimbra, Portugal), the Univesité Laval (Quebec, Canada), the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (hereafter: partner universities) conduct a double-degree programme in "Neuroscience". [2]The provisions of these examination and study regulations shall apply, provided that the following does not stipulate any other procedure. [3]The regulations in place at the partner university in question shall apply exclusively to the modules offered by the partner universities.

(2) Students at the Master's/Doctoral degree programme "Neuroscience" are eligible to take part in the study and examination components of the double degree programme in accordance with the provisions laid down in the following regulations.

(3) Application for consideration in the double-degree programme must be submitted at the same time as the application for admission to the international Master's/Doctoral degree programme "Neuroscience".

(4) [1]Unlike in § 3 sections 4 and 5, students within the framework of the double-degree programme must, following successful completion of the theoretical block examination, complete an academic programme with a scope of at least 30 C at a partner university in Amsterdam, Berlin, Bordeaux or Coimbra. [2]Authorised examiners and members of two different partner universities may be appointed supervisors in the master's thesis.

(5) [1]Once the master's examination has been passed, the partner universities at which the examination candidate has successfully completed study and examination components in the double-degree programme with a scope of at least 30 C, will each award the university degree of "Master of Science" (abbreviated "M.Sc."). [2]The two certificates will be connected in such a way that

in terms of content they represent one certificate. Certificates from the University of Göttingen will specify in this context that they are valid only together with the certificate issued by the partner university.

§ 12 Admission to course section IIb (doctoral studies phase); doctoral studies; doctoral degree examination

(1) [1]The requirements for progression to the course section IIb are successful completion of the modules in the intensive year and the successful completion of the theoretical block examination with the grade “good” (2.5) or higher. [2]Insofar as a master’s thesis was submitted, it must also be completed with the grade “good” (2.5) or higher.

(2) [1]Section 1 notwithstanding, students may progress to course section IIb insofar as they

a) have not achieved the grade “good” (2.5) in the theoretical block examination, but have achieved the grade “satisfactory” (3.0) or higher,

b) have successfully completed the master’s thesis with the grade “very good” (1.5) or higher and

c) have produced outstanding results in the research placements attended.

[2]Before any ruling is made in this respect, an opinion must be obtained from the scientists responsible for the management of the research placements.

(3) An additional entrance requirement is at least one written declaration by an authorised examiner that he or she will accept and supervise the student as a doctoral candidate in the programme.

(4) [1]The application for admission to course section IIb must be filed with the degree programme office and must have been received there by no later than the 15th of the month before the start of the semester. [2]The following material must be enclosed with the application:

a) Proof of fulfilment as concerns the requirements specified under sections 1 to 3,

b) A declaration specifying that the doctoral degree examination has not been failed definitively or registered as definitively failed in the same or comparable doctoral degree programme at a domestic or foreign university.

(5) [1]The examination board decides on admission. [2]This should be rejected if the qualifications for entry and admission are not fulfilled or the doctoral degree examination in the same or comparable doctoral degree programme at a domestic or foreign university has been definitively failed.

(6) The provisions contained in RerNatO shall apply accordingly to the nature and scope of the doctoral studies, implementation of the doctoral degree examination and the completion of doctoral studies.

§ 13 Responsibilities

(1) [1]The tasks of the examination board responsible for the master's degree programme as specified in APO will be performed by the programme committee convened on the basis of the regulation for the Göttingen graduate school for neuroscience, biophysics and molecular biosciences (GGNB). This committee will be joined by one student member in matters relating to the tasks of the examination board as defined in the APO. This student representative will be elected by the students in the same degree programme and will remain in office for one year. Reselection is possible. [2]Notwithstanding the statutory responsibility of the Dean of Studies and the Advisory Board for questions relating to teaching and learning, the programme committee is also responsible for all matters relating to the coordination of the master's degree programme and course planning. In general, it will draw on support from the office of the degree programme in the fulfilment of its tasks.
(2) The ongoing operations may be transferred to the chairperson.
(3) [1]The office of the degree programme deals with the tasks of the examination office. [2]Within the framework of the specifications for the programme committee, it shall also be responsible for general organisation and coordination of the courses and degrees offered, for quality assurance, for equal opportunities measures, public relations and reporting within the degree programme.

§ 14 Entry into force; amendments

(1) This regulation enters into force following its promulgation in the Official Announcements I of Georg-August-Universität Göttingen as per 01.10.2013.
(2) At the same time, the examination regulations for the Master's/Doctoral degree programme "Neuroscience" in the version contained in the announcement dated 23.05.2002 (Official Announcements I no. 8/2002 p. 139) and the study regulations for the Master's/Doctoral degree programme "Neuroscience" in the version contained in the announcement dated 23.05.2002 (Official Announcements I no. 8/2002 p. 166) shall cease to be effective.
(3) The regulations as specified in section 2 shall remain in force for students enrolled in the consecutive Master's/Doctoral degree programme "Neuroscience" before this examination and study regulation came into force.
(4) [1]The Faculty Council of the Faculty for Biology and Psychology rules on amendments to this examination and study regulation. [2]The faculty councils in the remaining faculties involved in managing the course must be given the opportunity to submit motions before a resolution is passed.

Appendix I Module overview

Master's/Doctoral degree programme "Neuroscience"

I. Course section I (intensive year)

The following modules with a rating of 90 C in total must be successfully completed.

a. Theoretical modules

The following 6 modules with a rating of 30 C must be successfully completed:

M.Neuro.11	Neuroanatomy, Development (3 C)
M.Neuro.12	Physiology and Basic Statistics (6 C)
M.Neuro.13	Modelling, Autonomous Nervous System, Pharmacology (3 C)
M.Neuro.14	Molecular Biology, Development, Neurogenetics (6 C)
M.Neuro.15	Sensory and Motor Functions (6 C)
M.Neuro.16	Clinical Neurosciences and Higher Brain Functions (6 C)

b. Practical modules

The following 5 modules with a rating of 53 C must be successfully completed:

M.Neuro.21	Methods Courses: Histology & Cytochemistry (2 C)
M.Neuro.22	Methods Courses: Electrophysiology (2 C)
M.Neuro.23	Methods Courses: Microscopy & Imaging (2 C)
M.Neuro.24	Methods Courses: Zoo-Physiology (2 C)
M.Neuro.25	Lab Rotations (45 C)

c. Area of professionalisation:

The following 2 modules with a rating of 7 C must be successfully completed:

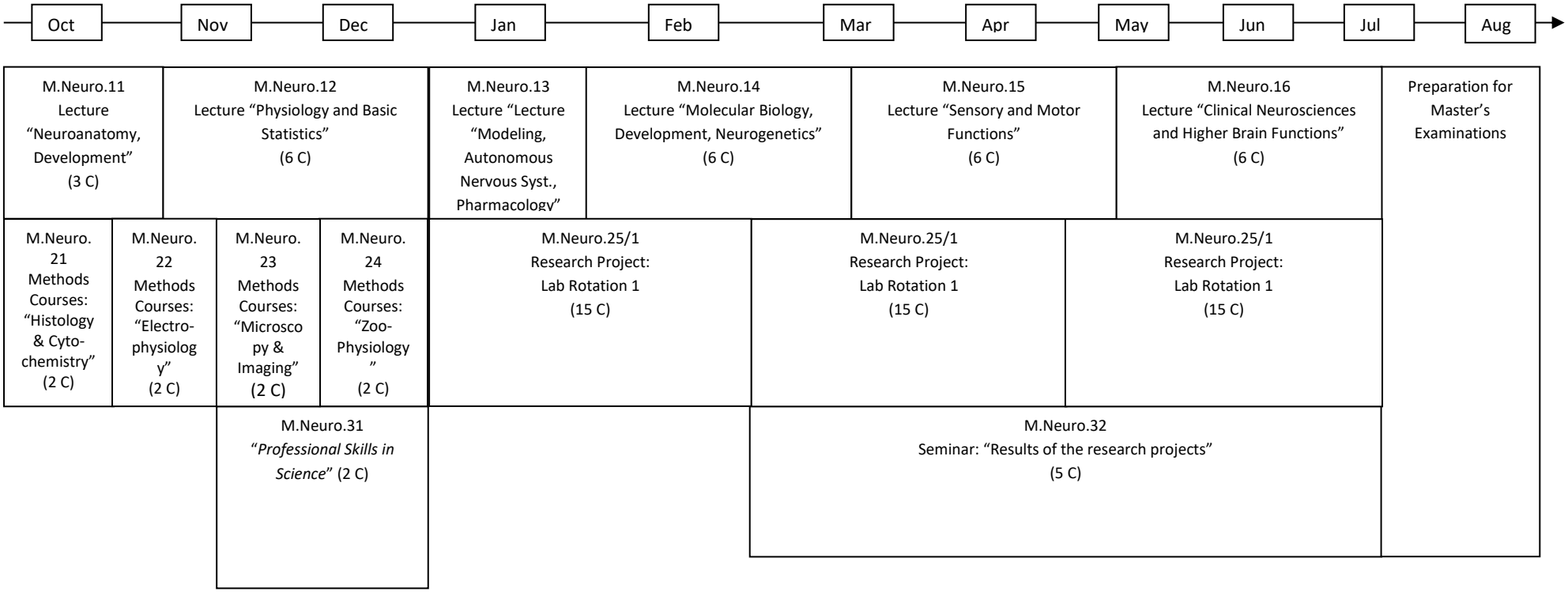
M.Neuro.31	Professional Skills in Science (2 C)
M.Neuro.32	Seminar: Results of the research projects (5 C)

II. Course section IIa (master's thesis)

30 C are awarded for successful completion of the master's thesis.

Appendix II Sample curriculum

(A) Intensive year (October – August)



(B) Integrated master's and doctoral studies

a. Consecutive

Intensive year: Master's degree course (90 C)	Master's thesis (30 C)	Doctoral studies – 3 years (Doctoral thesis plus 20 C)

b. "Fast Track"

Intensive year: Master's degree course (90 C)	Doctoral studies – 3 years (Doctoral thesis plus 20 C)