

Lab Rotations
MSc Integrative Neuroscience

Information for Students and Supervisors

July 2010

„Lab rotations“ are an important part of the study programme. All students carry out three lab rotations over the first three semesters. Each lab rotation consists of a practical research project of four weeks duration, a written report, and a public presentation. Lab rotations expose students to different topics and methods of neuroscience research and helps them find a suitable laboratory for their Master thesis. All research groups and Institutes participating in the MSc Integrative Neuroscience programme may supervise lab rotations.

Important points for students:

- Students must register each lab rotation project with the Programme Office, supplying project title, start and end dates, and the agreement of the intended supervisor.
- A lab rotation lasts for at least four weeks, with at least 30 working hours per week.
- The chosen research project should be as independent as possible and should ideally allow you to personally obtain experimental results.
- You must submit a written report to your supervisor no later than two weeks after the end of the lab rotation. Any corrections should be completed no later than four weeks after the end of the lab rotation. The finished report will be filed with the Programme Office and will be made public in the student library.
- You must deliver a 20 min project presentation (plus 10 min discussion) to an audience of fellow students, supervisors, and members of the Programme Committee. The presentation must be well prepared and should be rehearsed with the supervising laboratory.

Important points for supervisors:

- All research groups and institutes participating in the MSc Integrative Neuroscience programme are invited to present their research topic and to advertise potential lab rotation projects. To this end, informal 30 min

presentations are scheduled during the Winter Semester. These presentations are quite popular with students and usually well attended. Please ask Ms. Nicole Abrecht (neurosci@ovgu.de) for details.

- The student is expected to work in your laboratory for four weeks, for at least 30 hours per week. Unfortunately, you cannot assume that the student has had prior lab experience!
- In general, lab rotations are scheduled in four successive weeks that are kept clear of other obligations. However, this may not always be possible. If there is an official course event (e.g., repeat exam, lab course), please consider allowing the lab rotation project to be interrupted. The total duration must not be less than four weeks, however.
- Please assign a small research project, which the student may pursue independently and where he or she may personally obtain some experimental results.
- Please also provide the student with some background reading on the scientific purpose and motivation of the research project.
- Within two weeks after the end of the project, students must prepare a written report. Please read this report and mark any points requiring correction. The final version of the report must be completed within four weeks after the end of the project. *Please forward the final report with a brief statement to the Programme Committee* (bitte Votum und kurze Stellungnahme an den Prüfungsausschuss).
- Students will give a 20 min presentation of their project (plus 10 min discussion) to an audience of fellow students, other supervisors, and members of the Programme Committee. We encourage you to provide an opportunity to rehearse this presentation. A good presentation advertises your group and your research topic to the entire student population!
- Naturally, you are most welcome to attend any and all project presentations.

The Programme Committee
(Der Prüfungsausschuss)