



EUROPEAN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NEUROSCIENCE

Training to reach Excellence in Neuroscience in Europe

The European Graduate School of Neuroscience (EURON) is a Graduate School consisting of institutes and departments of seven universities in Belgium (UC Louvain and University of Hasselt), Germany (RWTH Aachen University and Universität Köln), France (Université de Lille), Luxembourg (Université de Luxembourg) and the Netherlands (Maastricht University). EURON is coordinated by the School for Mental Health and Neuroscience (MHeNs) from Maastricht University. By combining the expertise of our partners, EURON forms a multidisciplinary and complementary network with a perfect background to educate and train PhD students in the field of basic and translational neuroscience.



EXCELLENT

TRAINING

EURON's excellent training is achieved through:

- courses & workshops
- annual research symposium for PhD candidates
- simulating research exchange
- organizing joint doctorate degrees

The training by a multidisciplinary staff in an international context will equip a new generation of neuroscientists with a unique set of skills in research, networking and scientific collaboration.

EDUCATION

The aim of the PhD training programme is to promote a high level of competence in a specific research field, but also in generic, transferable skills that are important for high-profile careers in research, education, clinical practice and industry. A large part of the PhD training occurs in the context of the PhD research project, supervised by an expert. In addition, all PhD students will engage in more specific or generic educational activities. PhD candidates will follow courses and workshops of the EURON PhD curriculum in Neuroscience, in the context of their training as a researcher. The training programme will help them to conduct their research, to write their dissertation, to develop their career, and to gain self-insight.

The EURON PhD curriculum in Neuroscience offers a range of courses aimed to educate PhD students in diverse neuroscience disciplines. The courses are intended to increase the students understanding of different approaches and methods in neuroscience research. Basic courses start at master level but will rapidly evolve to early PhD level. Advanced courses and workshops enable students to specialize in specific neuroscience topics. Students that follow the programme will have a broad orientation on the neuroscience research field, and will be able to understand neuroscience disciplines that go beyond their PhD project.

EURON CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

In addition to the local university PhD degree, EURON offers an additional EURON PhD Certificate of Excellence, which will be awarded if the PhD student fulfils the required criteria in terms of training, networking, international mobility, and scientific publications. The EURON PhD Certificate of Excellence is recognized by the Governing Boards of the participating universities. Since one important requirement for the certificate is mobility, PhD students are encouraged to spend a period of at least 3 months abroad to receive international experience.

EURON MOBILITY GRANT

The EURON mobility grant is intended for PhD students from the research groups affiliated to the EURON programme. Applicants are expected to spend a period of maximal three months at an institute of the EURON network for the purpose of methodological training or a joint research project. There is a preference for new collaborative initiatives. The mobility grants cover travel and accommodation costs.

PHD COMMITTEE

The members of this committee represent the PhD students from the EURON partners and provide input to adjust the EURON activities and to meet the needs and desires of the PhD students. The representatives are "ambassadors" for EURON at their home university. This way, we ensure that the EURON programmes fits the aspirations of our PhD candidates, and stimulates further networking among the students of our partner universities.



EURON PHD DAYS

EURON PhD candidates meet annually at the PhD Days, in turn organized at one of the partner universities. The organization is a testimony to the excellent cooperation between the local staff and their PhD candidates and PhD candidates from the other participating institutions. The scientific part of the programme shows the high quality of the research and diversity of topics and methodologies within EURON. PhD students present their research work via oral and poster presentations, while also EURON staff researchers and external speakers are invited. In addition, the programme consists of networking workshops and interactive discussion groups to enhance the soft skills of our PhD candidates.

JOINT DOCTORATES

EURON encourages the achievement of joint or double doctorate degrees jointly supervised by two EURON partner universities. PhD candidates who earn a joint doctorate degree will receive only one diploma from both universities and only one official graduation ceremony shall be held. Candidates with a double doctorate degree receive two diplomas each mentioning the collaboration between the two universities.

NENS

EURON is a member of the Network of European Neuroscience Schools (NENS) which represents over 190 graduate schools and programmes across approximately 30 European countries that offer MSc, PhD and MD-PhD degrees in neuroscience. Both programme directors and students of these programmes will benefit from NENS membership e.g. to exchange best practices and to be informed on higher education, training activities and support provided by FENS/NENS.

EURON Coordinating Office:

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