



**Sagol School  
of Neuroscience**  
Tel Aviv University

## **Protocol for MSc Studies at the Sagol School of Neurosciences**

### Scope of study program

Updated 23/12/24

Courses: students will take 30 hours according to the Yedion of their program + 6 thesis hours

Exemptions from courses: exemptions will be granted according to previous courses taken. Students will study additional compulsory classes not qualifying for academic points, such as a safety course, when required.

The transition to Year 2 is conditional upon obtaining an average minimum grade of 85.

The students will be given the opportunity to apply for a direct PhD track in neurosciences at the end of the first semester or at the end of the first Year

The conditions for acceptance to the direct PhD track: The students must have completed at least 20 hrs during their first year with an average minimum grade of 90; and pass an examination of suitability for the direct PhD track in neurosciences.

### Finding a supervisor and possibility of rotation

During the first year, the students must find a supervisor and begin to work on their theses. The students must choose a supervisor from among the faculty of the Sagol School of Neurosciences, taken from the list of faculty members published on the school's website.

According to the University protocol, the supervisor will be a Tel Aviv University staff member with a rank of a Senior Lecturer or above; and, in exceptional cases and with the permission of the Teaching Committee, a staff member with the rank of Lecturer.

The students may, but are not obliged, to carry out one or two rotations in the different laboratories of interest to them to better familiarise themselves with the supervisor(s).

The aim of rotation is to expose the students to different research methods in the neurosciences and to help them find a laboratory for their research. During the rotation period the students will join a research project in the lab and learn the research methods employed in the chosen lab.

Rotational supervisors can only be chosen from among the School's academic staff members who can later become MSc supervisors (see above). At the end of the second rotation the students will select an individual supervisor for their thesis and submit a signed supervision form to the Secretariat for Graduate Studies

### Study period

The students must complete all requirements including submission of their thesis, within 4 semesters from the onset of their master's degree studies.

In all cases of extending their studies beyond the required 4 semesters, the students must request an extension from the school's committee in writing, including submitting a progress report and a detailed explanation of the reasons for the extension. The request should be submitted at least 3 months prior to the end of the fourth semester of study. The supervisor should add their own detailed letter to the request, including a realistic assessment of the time required for completion of the study.

If an extension is granted, the students must cover the additional tuition themselves, as determined by the University protocol.

Students who do not complete their studies on time (including submission of a thesis and the final examination), and have not been granted an extension, will have their studies in the program discontinued.

Throughout the entire period of the study program the students are obliged to participate in the program seminar and present a lecture in it, as well as attend the yearly meetings. **Students who do not attend the seminar will have their studies discontinued.**

#### Subsistence grant

Students studying for a master's degree in the School of Neurosciences are entitled to a subsistence grant throughout their period of study (2 years on the M.Sc. track), conditional upon their meeting the conditions for a grant.

The purpose of the grant is to enable the students to dedicate themselves to their studies and devote the majority of their time to completing their academic obligations.

The students must complete their research work within 2 years. Extension of this period depends on authorisation from the school committee. Even if the committee authorises an extension of studies according to the University guidelines, all grant payments will cease after 2 years. Exceptional cases will be discussed by the Exceptions Committee.

#### Research Proposal

At the end of the first year of the program and before beginning the third semester, the students will submit a research proposal that constitutes the basis for their thesis.

The proposal will be submitted to the Secretariat for Graduate studies and should include the following:

## Front page

The front page should present the date of research proposal submission, the department to which the student belongs in the Sagol School of Neurosciences, the title of the work in Hebrew and English, student's name, student's ID number, and supervisor's name and signature. In cases of more than one supervisor, the front page should present the names and signature of all supervisors.

## Abstract

Research aim – one paragraph

Main findings & plan for the coming months until writing up the study – maximum one page.

## Submission of thesis

Guidelines for submission of the thesis can be found in the protocol for a master's degree, and here:

<https://en-sagol.tau.ac.il/Forms>

## Submission of thesis to the examiners

The thesis will be graded by the supervisor (or supervisors; in which case each one will grade the work separately), and by two additional referees. The students and supervisor will submit their thesis proposal to the referees to the Secretariat for Graduate Studies, who will confirm that they fulfil the necessary criteria. The Secretariat will submit the thesis and the referees' assessment forms to the examiners and the supervisor at least two weeks prior to the date of the student's defence of their thesis (see section 10).

The referees will provide a grade for the written thesis at the latest before the morning of the student's defence of their thesis.

### Thesis defence and final grade

Defence of the thesis will take place in the presence of the supervisor(s) and the referees, no later than one month after submission of the thesis to the Secretariat.

Following defence of the thesis the referees and supervisor will submit to the Secretariat for Graduate Studies the grade awarded for the defence. Following this stage, the grade can no longer be altered.

The final grade is calculated as follows: 40% course grades; 60% thesis grade (30% assessment of work, 30% assessment of defence). The top 20% of the students with the highest grades will receive their degree *magna cum laude*, dependent upon achieving an average final grade of above 92, and an average thesis grade of above 92. A *summa cum laude* degree will be awarded to one-third of the outstanding students, dependent upon achieving an average final grade of above 95, and average thesis grade of above 95.

Additional forms can be found [here](https://en-sagol.tau.ac.il/Forms) <https://en-sagol.tau.ac.il/Forms>

Link to the University protocol <https://acad-sec.tau.ac.il/info/main>