

ENP Graduate Program Guidelines

Part I – Application and selection process - Graduate Program

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1 Introduction

The Ecole des Neurosciences de Paris (ENP) is a scientific foundation (“Fondation de coopération scientifique”) created in 2007 by the French Ministry of Research and Higher Education. The ENP is a research training network made up of more than 100 high-profile Neuroscience research teams in the Paris region and covers 6 fields of neuroscience research¹. The executive bodies of ENP include a Director, a [Steering Committee](#) and a General Secretary. They are advised by an international [Scientific Advisory Board](#), and under the administrative and financial control of a Board of Trustees. ENP articulates its actions around 4 programs (including the Graduate Program) promoting innovation and interdisciplinarity.

The ENP Graduate Program offers students a unique opportunity to develop their scientific project in Neuroscience, in collaboration with the Graduate Program directors, all ENP team leaders, and with the help of the ENP Staff.

The program, which is open to outstanding international students, primarily trained abroad, lasts four years and leads to a PhD in Neuroscience.

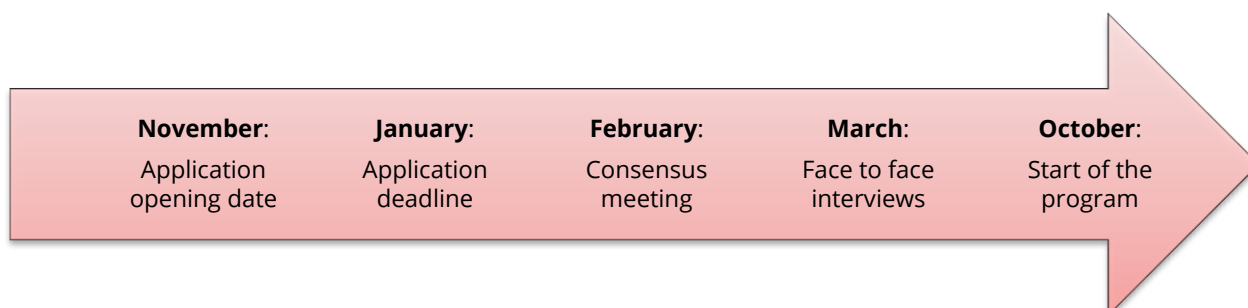
Working language throughout is English.

The **ENP does not deliver diploma** but works in close collaboration with Parisian Universities issuing doctoral degrees such as Paris Descartes, Diderot, Paris-Sud, Pierre et Marie Curie, etc.

The 4-year program is funded by ENP. The origin of funds may evolve from year to year, depending on the Graduate Program partner institutions (private foundation, Région Ile de France, COMUE etc). The first year is funded directly by an ENP fellowship. The following three years (once a student is admitted into Years 2-4) are financed by a salary through a doctoral contract established with a research organism or university. This follows the signature of an agreement between the ENP and the research organism or university concerned. ENP is the funding body and the research organism or university concerned is the employer.

The ENP provides administrative support for settling in Paris (visa, housing, social security, medical and other insurances, university registration).

2 Applying to the ENP Graduate Program



¹ 1. Neurogenetics/neurodevelopment; 2. Neuropharmacology/cell signaling; 3. Neurophysiology/ systems neuroscience
4. Neurological and psychiatric diseases; 5. Cognitive Neurosciences /neuropsychology; 6. Computational Neurosciences/ neural theory.

2.1. Call for applications

The call for applications is announced once a year on the [ENP website](#). Each call is open to students from various backgrounds who can demonstrate:

- outstanding academic achievements;
- a strong interest in Neuroscience;
- a specific interest in the research carried out by laboratories affiliated to ENP.

2.2. Eligibility

The eligibility criteria are as follows:

1. Applicants are required to hold a diploma equivalent to the French Master 2 degree in any field relevant to Neuroscience.
2. This diploma has to be delivered by an organisation outside France.

NB: French or foreign students who have carried out their most recent university studies in France are not eligible.

2.3 Equivalence

Remark: The Bachelor-Master's Degree system differs substantially between countries, thus applicants need to check the equivalence of their diplomas.

Information on equivalences between international diplomas is available on the following websites:

<http://enic-naric.net/>

<http://www.ciep.fr/en/>

French higher education employs the "LMD system"—*licence*, master, doctorate—now used throughout the European Union. The system is designed to facilitate student mobility within Europe and around the world.

Licence (bachelor degree): 6 semesters (3 years) completed and 180 ECTS credits earned.

Master 1: 2 more semesters (1 year) completed and 60 additional ECTS credits earned.

Master 2: 2 more semesters (1 year) completed and 60 additional ECTS credits earned.

⇒ Total of 5 years of study and 300 ECTS credits earned.

3 Online application & selection process

a. Online application

Candidates have to fill out an online form on the ENP application platform (<http://apr.paris-neuroscience.fr>) providing details of their academic background, awards, honours, language skills, professional experience, publications, career plans and motivation for the programme. **NB:** An official translation in English or French of the most recent diploma is required.

Candidates also need to cite 2 referees in their application who are then invited by mail to upload directly a reference letter onto the ENP platform.

Remark: In the following cases the application will not be considered: incomplete form, reference letters not uploaded on the application website, any document sent after the deadline.

b. Organization of the selection process

The evaluation of the complete applications is carried out in 5 stages:

Stage 1: Eligibility

The eligibility check of each application is carried out by the ENP administrative staff within one week further to the call closure date.

Stage 2: Remote evaluation of the applications

The selection committee is composed of 15-20 ENP team leaders selected from the ENP network in line with their expertise and the expertise of the candidates. 2 experts are allocated to each application and carry out the evaluation remotely based on the following evaluation criteria:

- Academic background. Academic grades
- Professional experience & career plans
- Motivation for the programme
- Quality of the references

Stage 3: Consensus meeting

The experts along with the 2 Graduate Programme Directors are then invited to a consensus meeting. The experts present the results of the remote stage evaluation, a consensus is sought and a list of candidates to be invited to a phone interview is drawn up.

Stage 4: Phone interviews

The 2 experts then contact the candidate and organize a phone (or skype) interview. Each expert is asked to follow a list of questions during the interview. The interview is carried out in English. Within a week after the last phone interview, selected candidates receive an email invitation for a face to face interview, to be held in Paris.

Stage 5: Face to face interviews

The ENP Administrative staff contact the candidates selected to a face to face interview which takes place over 2 days at the ENP in Paris within 4-6 weeks after the phone interview.

Candidates receive via email full details regarding the interview (programme, practical details, accommodation etc). For the face to face interviews ENP provides the candidates with accommodation, covers their transport costs (local transport and travel to and from country of origin) and meals.

At the interview the candidate is required to make a 10 minute presentation of their experience, motivation and expectations as regards the programme followed by a 10 minute questions and answers session before the selection committee. During their interview stay candidates are introduced to all the Staff and Directors and taken on a visit to some of the host labs. Social events are also organized around their stay as well as networking activities i.e. poster sessions.

4 Recruited students

Once selected students accept to enrol the Graduate Program, ENP register them into the GP Year 1. (see [Guidelines Part II](#)). Before coming, you should start some administrative procedures.

Once arrived in Paris, the recruited candidates need to sign a [commitment document](#) in which the rights and obligations of the student and ENP are detailed.