

MSc in Neuroscience
Head of Study
Course leaders and student representatives on 2nd semester



MINUTES

20 JUNE 2024

Forum Evaluation meeting MSc in Neuroscience, 2nd semester

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Meeting held Monday 17th June 2024

Place TBA

BLEGDAMSVEJ 3
2200 KØBENHAVN N

Minutes-taker Jørgen Willadsen, AUS/Student Affairs

DIR 45 35 32 74 92

Present

Student representatives: Caitriona L. Organ, Emma Mollerup, and Sigurd Fyhn Sørensen.

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Course leaders: Jens Holm Mikkelsen (JHM), Ole Kjærulff (OK) and Andreas Toft Sørensen (AS)

Head of Study: Jens Holm Mikkelsen (JHM).

REF: JWI

Absent: Rune Berg (RB) (due to a conference)

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction to the meeting
2. Evaluation of Neuroscience II: Higher brain function
3. Evaluation of Drug discovery and development in Neuroscience (elective)
4. Evaluation of Computational Neuroscience (elective)
5. Evaluation of Novel technologies and laboratory animals in behavioural neuroscience (elective)
6. Evaluation of the total semester
7. Other

Ad 1) Welcome and introduction to the meeting.

JHM: In this study programme we use dialogue evaluation where we can communicate openly. Feedback from previous years has been used to change different things. The memo from the meeting will be presented to the Study board, relevant head of departments, and the Vice-Dean for Education

Students: The traffic light is based on a shared opinion among the students.

Ad 2) Evaluation of Neuroscience II: Higher brain function

Course leader: Ole Kjærulff

What worked well?

- High praise for the overall content of the course
- Clear learning objectives were appreciated. It was good to have an updated list at the end of the course
- When Absalon was well-structured, preparation became easier
- The trip to Aarhus – please repeat successful activities like that.

Any need for adjustment (Content)?

- Learning objectives were copied from the previous year without updates
- Lack of clarity in finding learning materials within each module. Suggestion to have a short introduction to the structure in Absalon at the beginning of the course
- Request for more diversity in teaching, especially in the psychology module
- A wish for a clearer link to neuroscience in the psychology module.

Any need for adjustment (Planning)?

- Late coordination and reorganization caused issues. OK: Some lecturers from outside cancel on very short term
- Communication about curriculum and learning goals could be improved
- Clarify repetition and update learning objectives. Students have sent a list to OK about repetition
- Ensure timely information on exam dates with students
- Address students' low lecture attendance, e.g. consider balancing interesting content with time pressure towards the end of the course and close to the exam.

Ad 3) **Evaluation of Drug discovery and development in Neuroscience (elective)**

Course leader: Jens Holm Mikkelsen

What worked well?

- The varied topics of lectures and workshops
- The guest lectures were good
- The Lundbeck tour was highly appreciated. Suggestion to already mention the tour in the course description.

Any need for adjustment (Content)?

- Clarify how to engage students effectively during the workshop
- Highlight the importance and rewards of attending the workshops in the introduction
- Consider tailoring engagement strategies based on the student group.

Any need for adjustment (Planning)?

- Suggestion to emphasize the benefits of showing up could encourage participation. JHM: Students who attend the classes/workshops normally perform better afterward

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Ad 4) **Evaluation of Computational Neuroscience (elective)**

Course leader: Rune W. Berg.

Rune was not present at the meeting. Therefore, no changes in either content or planning of the course were decided.

What worked well?

- The course was considered very good overall
- Doing assignments was a good way to learn.

Any need for adjustment (Content)?

- Clarify whether pre-courses are required or not for beginners
- Clarify the use of ChatGPT for assignments.

Any need for adjustment (Planning)?

- No comments.

Ad 5) **Evaluation of Novel technologies and laboratory animals in behavioural neuroscience (elective)**

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Course leader: Andreas Toft Sørensen

What worked well?

- Neurosurgery was well-received
- The practical aspect was good
- Offering the FELASA part was appreciated
- The online material.

Any need for adjustment (Content)?

- The online Q&A sessions were a bit disappointing. ATS: Some parts are by law and cannot be changed
- Clarify that the FELASA course is essential for those working with animals, and not just for getting the certification.

Any need for adjustment (Planning)?

- A wish for an improvement of communication to reduce confusion about course dates and exam
- Consider a short introduction to the course structure. ATS: We will consider having a meeting with students before starting the course.

Ad 6) **Evaluation of the total semester**

What worked well?

- Interesting topics
- Neurosurgery and practical aspects were well-received
- The Aarhus trip and the Lundbeck tour.

Any need for adjustments (content)?

- Provide more information about the thesis process at the beginning of the year
- Suggestion to organize sessions where older students share their experiences on thesis writing
- Suggestion to create a list of supervisors with project descriptions and student capacity
- Encourage students to explore potential topics and supervisors early. JHM/ATS: We would like you to start the thesis process in good time, but not too early. You will also be exposed to potential topics and supervisors during Neuroscience II.