

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Graduate Programs - Admissions Information for the PhD in Neuroscience Training Program (NTP)

Program Overview:

In 2026, the Neuroscience Training Program (NTP) admitted 6 from a pool of 724. As of August 2026, the total number of students in the program is 118. The average time to degree is 5.9 years. Students in this program primarily work at the East Baltimore campus, in labs of the School of Medicine, the School of Public Health, and the Lieber Institute. They also work on the Homewood Campus and the HHMI Janelia Research Campus.

JHU School of Medicine PhD students receive guaranteed financial support, subject to the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for the JHU PhD Union. For the 2026–2027 academic year, the minimum rate of pay is \$52,000. Tuition is covered, and eligible PhD students receive student health benefits. For additional information about compensation, tuition, health care, leave, and other benefits, please consult the [CBA](#).

Stipends are subject to federal, state, and local taxes. Students from Maryland with student loans may receive State tax benefits. Additional information regarding financial aid and student financial resources is available on the [Financial Aid](#) website.

Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to explore external funding opportunities before beginning their training. Relevant funding opportunities for U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals, and U.S. permanent residents include NSF and F31 grants.

The University does not provide graduate student housing. Information and resources related to off-campus housing are available through the [Housing Office](#).

Additional Educational/Training Opportunities:

Our students also have the opportunity to perform laboratory rotations and conduct thesis research in the laboratory of scientists at [Janelia Research Campus](#) of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, located near Leesburg Virginia.

Application Instructions:

The application for the NTP is open from 9/8/2026 to 12/1/2026. Applications may only be submitted during the application period. All components of the application must be received before the deadline for consideration for admission.

Applicants to NTP will be asked to select the Research Area that describes their interests. Options are:

- System, Cognitive and Computational Neuroscience
- Cell and Molecular
- Developmental Neuroscience
- Neurobiology of Disease
- Neural Circuits, Ensembles & Connectomes

Admissions Requirements and Application Materials:

- **Academic History & Prior Research Experience:**
 - Applicants must list all colleges and universities they have attended and upload a transcript from each institution.
 - Applicants with prior research experience should provide information about that experience, including the institution, research mentor or supervisor, dates of participation, and any publications or other research products resulting from the experience, as applicable.
- **GRE:** GRE scores are optional for applicants to the Neuroscience Training Program. Applicants may submit scores if they wish, but applications will be fully considered without GRE scores. If you wish to submit official GRE scores, use Institution Code 5316 for applications to the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine graduate programs.
- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** Applicants must submit a CV. The CV may be updated after the application is submitted, provided that any updates are submitted before the graduate program's application deadline. Please include the length of time for any full-time or part-time research experiences, any work experience, any abstracts, poster presentations or manuscripts authored in your CV.
- **Statement of Interest and Career Objectives** (1 page maximum): The statement should include your motivations for pursuing a graduate degree in neuroscience at Johns Hopkins and should describe your scientific preparation (research experiences) and your long-term career goals. The statement should enable the admissions committee to determine that:
 - 1) you are committed to pursuing a PhD in neuroscience and understand what is needed to succeed in graduate school, 2) you are intellectually engaged in science and your research, and 3) that the program in neuroscience at Johns Hopkins is a good fit for your research and career interests. Please name faculty of interest whose work you find particularly interesting and with whom you would like to complete your thesis research. Applicants can review the primary and secondary faculty associated with the Neuroscience program [here](#). Applicants with prior research experience should share information about this, including the institution and mentor, dates of participation, and any publications or other research output resulting from the experience.

If you are interested in our joint program with the Janelia Research Campus, please indicate your interest by including one to four Janelia Group Leaders with whom you would like to complete your thesis research. For more information visit [Janelia research](#).
- **Personal Statement** (1 page maximum): Our program is dedicated to creating an inclusive scientific environment for all scientists. Please describe how you have prepared to support

a safe and supportive research training environment that includes individuals from many different backgrounds. Applicants should describe how their life experiences or circumstances have influenced their interest in graduate school and/or inspired them to pursue a particular career path, barriers experienced and addressed, and involvement in research and other organizations for science outreach and communication.

- **Letters of Recommendation:** Applicants must identify three (3) individuals who are familiar with the applicant's academic, research, professional, or other relevant work and provide contact information for these references. Letters should preferably come from faculty members or other professionals who are in a position to comment on the applicant's aptitude for independent research and motivation for applying to the program. The School of Medicine will contact the identified references and request that they submit letters of recommendation on behalf of the applicant.

International Students:

- The University will sponsor visas for accepted students. However, JHU's willingness to sponsor or support a visa application does not guarantee that a visa will be approved or issued.
- International students whose native language is not English are required to complete the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS). When taking the exam, applicants should request official scores be reported to Institution Code 5316 (the Department Code is not necessary). To report official IELTS test scores, please include the Test Report Form (TRF) verification number on the application. Scores must be received before the application deadline.
- The TOEFL requirement will be waived if the applicant has completed their degree in a U.S. institution, or is currently enrolled and will receive a degree from a university within the U.S. prior to matriculation at JHU SOM.
- All transcripts, letters of recommendation, and parts of the admissions application must be in English. The approved transcript service for use by international students is [WES](#).
- Applicants who are not U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents should consult the *Application Fees and Fee Waivers* section on the [On-Campus Programs](#) website for information about application fees and eligibility for fee waivers.

Additional Application Information:

- Parts of the admissions application collect demographic and other information. Race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, and other legally protected characteristics are not considered in the selection of candidates for admission to the training program.

Admissions Fees:

- An application fee of \$125 is required and must be submitted using a credit card. The application fee allows an applicant to apply for up to four (4) programs in the School of Medicine.
- U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents who meet the School of Medicine's published eligibility requirements may be eligible for an application fee waiver. Eligibility for a fee waiver is separate from the academic admissions process and does not affect an applicant's consideration for admission. For a complete description of eligibility requirements and the fee-waiver process, please see the *Application Fees and Fee Waivers* section of the [On-Campus Programs](#) webpage.

Application Status:

- Once an application has been submitted, the applicant may follow its progress through the Application Status Page. The page can be accessed after submission of the application and contains the most current information regarding application status and outstanding materials.

Admissions Timelines:

- Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications as early as possible. Admissions decisions are generally not based on when an application is submitted within the application period; however, applying early allows additional time for application processing as well as for academic, financial, and enrollment planning.
- NTP will contact strong applicants for interviews by mid of January. Interviews are typically scheduled for early February (*Tentative interview dates for 2027 are Feb 1-2*). We anticipate that interviews will be conducted virtually.
- Letters describing acceptance, wait list status, or rejection will be sent by email. This information will also be available on the Application status website. Applicants selected for acceptance must choose to accept or reject the offer by April 15. On April 15, all accepted offers become binding.
- Incoming students will matriculate in late August. Orientation will be held in late August on or shortly after the matriculation date. Students will begin their training at this time. The NTP only accepts students for fall matriculation.

Applicant Survey:

- Applicants will receive a survey after the admissions process has concluded requesting feedback regarding their experience with the admissions process. The survey will also ask questions about the disability status of applicants.
- Participation in the survey is voluntary, and survey responses are not used in admissions decisions and have no effect on an applicant's admission status or any offer of admission.

Upon Acceptance:

- Individuals who accept an offer of admission will undergo a criminal background check.
- Accepted students must submit official transcripts to the School of Medicine Registrar. Official transcripts may be submitted electronically through a transcript service approved by the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Registrar. The approved transcript service for international students is [WES](#). Transcripts may also be mailed directly to the School of Medicine Registrar by the issuing institution. Detailed instructions will be provided upon acceptance.

Communicating with the Program:

- Neuroscience contact: NeuroAdmissions@jhmi.edu
- General questions: GradAdmissions@jhmi.edu
- For more information, please see the Neuroscience website: <http://neuroscience.jhu.edu/graduate>
- Admissions information: <http://neuroscience.jhu.edu/graduate/apply>