

Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Graduate Programs – Admissions Information for the PhD in Neuroscience

Program Admission Details:

In 2025, the Neuroscience Training Program (NTP) Program admitted 8 students out of a pool of 726 applicants. In August 2025, the total number of students in the program is 118. The average time to degree for this program is 5.9 years. Students work on 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.

Students in this program are paid a stipend to support their living expenses. The stipend for current students as of July 1, 2026 is \$52,000.00. Each year the stipend is adjusted to reflect cost-of-living increases. Tuition costs are covered (i.e., not paid by the student). Standard medical benefits for the student are covered. Benefits for the student's immediate family are available at additional cost to the student. Student stipends are subject to taxes. Students from Maryland with student loans may receive State tax benefits. For more information visit the [Financial Aid page](#). The University does not provide housing, though the [housing office](#) will provide advice. The University will sponsor visas for accepted students.

All accepted matriculating students receive full funding (including tuition waiver, stipend, and health insurance) during their time in the program. Applicants are encouraged (but not required) to apply for external funding before and during their training. Information about funding opportunities for U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals, and U.S. permanent residents (including NSF GFRP and F31 grants) can be found [here](#).

International students who apply for and receive outside support for their graduate education often exhibit the characteristics of successful applicants to our program. Although not required, it can be advantageous for international students to secure such funding.

Program Details:

The application for the NTP is open from 9/1/2026 to 12/1/2026. In the time before the application is open, applicants may log in and begin their applications. The application can only be submitted in the period when the application is open. ***All components, including recommendations and test scores (if required, see below) must be received before the deadline for consideration.***

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

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

Academic History & Prior Research Experience:

Applicants will need to list all colleges and universities they attended. A transcript will need to be uploaded from each school attended. Applicants with prior research experience share information about this including the institution and mentor, dates of participation, and any publications resulting from the experience.

Admissions requirements:

- **Applicants are not required to take the GRE for this program.**

- **Transcripts.** Applicants will need to list all colleges and universities they attended. A transcript will need to be uploaded from each school attended.

- **Curriculum Vitae** (2 pages maximum). 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 your personal background has prepared you 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 people who are familiar with the applicant's work and provide contact info for these references. The contact info will be entered into the application, and SOM will contact the references and ask them to submit letters of recommendation on behalf of the applicant. 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.

International students:

- 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 [SWES](#).
- International students are not eligible for waivers of the Admissions Application fees.

Getting to know you:

- Parts of the Admissions application collect information for mandatory reporting. These parts may ask applicants to select a pre-set category for gender, race or ethnicity. This information is not accessible by the program during admissions decision making. Other sections of the application allow applicants to share detailed information about themselves.

Admissions fees:

- An admissions fee of \$125 dollars is required and must be submitted using a credit card. In some cases, this fee will cover applications to more than one program.
- Application fee waivers are available for applicants who are U.S. Citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. and meet additional eligibility criteria as described in part below. For a complete description of the fee waiver process, please see the Application Fees and Fee Waiver Instructions on the [On-Campus Admission](#) website.

Application status website:

- Once their application is submitted, applicant may follow its progress on the Application Status Page. This page can be accessed upon completion of the application. The status page has the most current information.

Admission timeline:

- Review of applications will begin immediately after the application deadline. NTP will begin reviewing applications when they are received, so submitting your application before the deadline may be helpful.
- NTP will contact strong applicants for interviews at the end of December. Interviews are typically scheduled for late January or early February. We anticipate that interviews will be conducted virtually.

- Letters describing acceptance, wait list status, or denial of admission 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 decline the offer by April 15. On April 15, all accepted offers become binding.
- Orientation will be held in the third week of August 2025. Students will begin their training at this time. NTP only accepts students for fall matriculation.

Applicant survey:

- Applicants will receive a survey during the third week of April (after April 15) where they can provide feedback about their experience with the Admissions process. The survey will also ask questions about disability status of applicants.

Upon acceptance:

- Accepted students will undergo a criminal background check.
- Accepted students must submit official transcripts to the School of Medicine Registrar. This may be in the form of a digital transcript, which is submitted through a transcript service approved by the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Registrar. The approved transcript service for international students is [SWES](#). Transcripts may also be mailed directly from the Accepted student's school to the School of Medicine Registrar. Detailed instructions will be provided upon acceptance.

Communicating with the program:

- Neuroscience specific contact: NeuroAdmissions@jhmi.edu
- General admissions questions (School of Medicine): GradAdmissions@jhmi.edu
- For more info, please see the Program website: <http://neuroscience.jhu.edu/graduate>
- Admissions info: <http://neuroscience.jhu.edu/graduate/apply>