



POSTGRADUATE COGNITIVE AND BEHAVIOURAL NEUROSCIENCE

Prepare for a successful career in neuroscience research with advanced training in the scientific study of behaviour and cognition, and their relationship to the brain.

- Use cutting-edge research tools and technology in the School of Psychology's state-of-the-art neuroscience laboratories.
- Develop high quality research skills with a research thesis.
- Graduate with a grounding in cognitive and behavioural theory, and expertise in neuroscience-based technologies and approaches.
- Set yourself up for a career in psychology, neuroscience, health, or biomedical science.

The two-year Master of Science (MSc) in Cognitive and Behavioural Neuroscience is the only one of its kind in New Zealand. Through a combination of coursework, laboratory rotations and research, you'll build a deeper understanding of how the nervous system allows us to think, feel, understand, remember, make decisions and solve problems.

You might investigate the nature of attention and perception or dig into the biology of behaviour. You might look at the interaction between genes and environment, or the causes of psychological disorders. You'll learn to use research tools like electroencephalography, brain stimulation, eye tracking, and behaviour analysis, working with human and animal participants. You'll develop advanced data analysis techniques that are highly valued in research, industry, and healthcare settings.

CAREERS

This training provides a foundation for further study in the cognitive and behavioural sciences, and prepares graduates for careers in research, government, health care, and industry settings. You might work in a university, public or private research centre, hospital or mental health clinic, or for a pharmaceutical company.

WHO CAN APPLY

The MSc in Cognitive and Behavioural Neuroscience is suited to students with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology or another related field with at least a B+ average in their final year.



JOSHUA FOSTER

Postdoctoral Fellow, Boston University

“The Master’s in Cognitive and Behavioural Neuroscience was challenging but rewarding. The classes in the first year provided a very thorough grounding in cognitive psychology and neuroscience. Completing a research thesis allowed me to gain valuable experience developing my own research project from initial conception to the final report.

“My experience in the Master’s programme taught me that I want an academic career in which I can be actively involved in the scientific process and translate that knowledge to students. This programme prepared me well for the challenge of completing a PhD, and helped position me to be a competitive applicant to top-tier universities overseas.”

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The Master of Science in Cognitive and Behavioural Neuroscience combines coursework with a research thesis:

CBNS 580 Research Preparation (30 points):

Develop the skills and obtain experience required to conduct postgraduate-level work in cognitive and behavioural neuroscience through the completion of two projects in two different research laboratories.

PSYC 465 Research Methods in Cognitive and Behavioural Neuroscience (15 points):

Introduces a range of research methods used in cognitive and behavioural neuroscience, including experimental design, programming, psychophysics, psychophysiology, electrophysiology, eye tracking, brain stimulation, virtual reality, learning paradigms, animal models, and advanced statistical techniques.

CBNS 591 Thesis (120 points): A focused research thesis in the students chosen area, supervised by one of the principal investigators within the programme. Further courses worth 45 points from:

- Special topics in Cognitive and Behavioural Neuroscience (CBNS 448)

- Psychology (PSYC 402, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 420, 422, 424, 437, 444, 445)
- Further courses worth 30 points from Psychology (PSYC 400–499) or other relevant 400-level courses approved by the programme director.

POSTGRADUATE COMMUNITY

Postgraduate study will help you build valuable relationships and networks with peers, university staff and future colleagues. You can attend events, seminars, workshops and social functions as part of a thriving academic environment. You may also have the opportunity to tutor or volunteer in a psychology lab and gain valuable work experience.

The School of Psychology has a vibrant student community where you can find valuable support during your studies. Classes are small so there is a lot of interaction with other students and lecturers.

Contact details

Dr Tirta Susilo

Programme Director

📞 04 463 6290

✉ tirta.susilo@vuw.ac.nz