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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Neuroscience Program at Trinity College. Neuroscience is a discipline that is devoted to the scientific study of the nervous system, and is at the interface between biology and psychology. It includes study of the nature and functioning of the nervous system at all levels, from the molecules that make up individual nerve cells, to the complexities of how behaviour, thoughts and emotions are produced. Neuroscience is unique in that it makes use of a variety of methods and investigations from a wide range of traditional disciplines. To understand the nervous system and how it works requires knowledge of anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, molecular biology, pharmacology, psychology and zoology. Consequently the Junior Sophister Neuroscience program is comprised of courses from all of these disciplines.

In the Junior Sophister year, our aim is to lay a solid foundation in various aspects of Neuroscience. In addition, the Junior Sophister year will give you experience in data handling, biostatistics, experimental design, computing, written and oral communication skills, and interpretation and critical analysis of scientific research papers. Thus, you will be well prepared for the Senior Sophister year. **It is also important to remember that your Junior Sophister marks contribute 20% to your final degree.**

This *Handbook* has been prepared as a guide to the Junior Sophister year, and contains information regarding the course content, course assessment, timetables, reading lists, plagiarism and basic laboratory information. Due to the multidisciplinary nature of Neuroscience, the Junior Sophister year will be demanding and will require you to be committed to your course. Students are expected to work hard and to take responsibility for their learning. However, you should always feel free to seek advice and guidance from members of teaching staff, who may be tracked down in their respective departments or in the TCIN building.

In addition to learning within the context of formal lecture and practical sessions, I encourage co-operation with your fellow students so as you can learn from each other along the way. You should not consider helping one of your classmates as a waste of your time, but rather as revision for yourself!

I wish you every success over the next two years.

Dr. Aedín Minogue
Course Adviser
Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute
aminogu@tcd.ie
September 2017
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**Broad Curriculum 2017/18**

It is part of College's education strategy that all students should be given the opportunity to experience knowledge and ideas outside their main subject area as Group III courses. Broad Curriculum courses consist of 5 credits spread over the Michaelmas and Hilary terms. Details of the BC courses, including timetables can be found at [http://www.tcd.ie/Broad_Curriculum](http://www.tcd.ie/Broad_Curriculum). Broad Curriculum courses are assessed as Group III courses, i.e., they count towards the overall JS mark.
# Teaching Staff on the Neuroscience Moderatorship:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Contact details</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Biochemistry and Immunology</td>
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## Requesting Academic References

If a student would like to request a reference, they should send an email to make the request and provide the staff member with the following:

- Details of the course, job, internship, PhD/MSc application etc. for which they are applying.
- Details of the type of reference (letter, completion of section on application form etc) required and the mode of submission (upload to website, email etc).
- A copy of their current *Curriculum Vitae*.
- A copy of their personal statement or application letter where appropriate.
- A minimum of 2 weeks notice for provision of the reference.
AN3MNA NEUROANATOMY

Module coordinator: Dr Paul Tierney (18 Lectures; 1 introductory session; 7 practical sessions)

LEARNING OUTCOMES
On successful completion of this module the student should be able to:

- recognise and describe the major subdivisions of the central nervous system (CNS).
- recognise the major vessels visible and outline the blood supply of the CNS.
- describe the ventricular system and the production, circulation, absorption and function of the cerebrospinal fluid.
- identify CNS structures associated with major sensory and motor systems, their connections and describe their pathways outside the CNS.
- locate and describe CNS regions associated with language and their connections.
- recognise and classify cranial and spinal nerves and their connections.
- apply anatomical knowledge to explain the normal function of the CNS in activities of daily life.
- use anatomical knowledge to explain the pathogenesis and natural history of common clinical disorders of the CNS.
- list the cortical nuclei associated with the limbic system and their function where known.

ASSESSMENT: Examination (50%; short answer questions / multiple choice questions) AND Practical Examination (50%). PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEUROANATOMY PRACTICAL EXAMINATION IS USUALLY HELD OUTSIDE OF HILARY TERM PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL EXAMINATION PERIOD.

Reading/Learning Resources:
Clinical Neuroanatomy and related Neuroscience: FitzGerald and Folan-Curran: W B Saunders

Very detailed and integrates neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neuropharmacology and clinical considerations.

BI3415 BIOCHEMISTRY IN HEALTH AND DISEASE

Module coordinator: Dr. Vincent Kelly (17 Lectures)

MODULE DESCRIPTION
This module will cover aspects of biochemistry that are relevant in pathological, infectious and diseased states. The module will introduce: metabolism relevant to diabetes, cancer and immune cell function, components of the innate immune system and describe how they function to eliminate pathogen, the mechanism of enzyme
inhibitors and propose how this can be exploited for drug therapy and the processes of drug target identification, validation and development.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- explain the relationship between carbohydrate, fatty acid and amino acid metabolism and the metabolic changes that occur in response to starvation, exercise and diabetes.
- define how metabolism is relevant to diabetes, cancer and immune cell function.
- identify cells, receptors and soluble components of the innate immune system and how they function to eliminate pathogen.
- define how an adaptive immune response is initiated and how different types of adaptive immune responses are used to eliminate particular pathogens.
- demonstrate an understanding of the mechanism of enzyme inhibitors and propose how this can be exploited for drug therapy.
- appraise the processes of drug target identification, validation and development.

ASSESSMENT: Examination (100%).

BI3425 NUCLEIC ACIDS

Module coordinator: Dr. Daniela Zisterer (27 Lectures)

MODULE DESCRIPTION
This module covers the structure and function of nucleic acids in a eukaryotic context. The basis of gene transcriptional regulation and mRNA translation are described at a mechanistic and structural level in addition to the processes involved in DNA replication and repair.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- recall and integrate key knowledge and concepts about nucleic acid structure and function.
- recognise the functional groups of nucleic acids and relate how the chemistry is linked to biological function.
- demonstrate an understanding of the process and importance of DNA replication.
• compare and contrast how gene expression is regulated in eukaryotes and prokaryotes and demonstrate an understanding of the processes and importance of transcription and translation.

• recall and integrate key knowledge and concepts about DNA repair mechanisms.

• relate the theory behind techniques used in recombinant DNA technology and evaluate how these techniques can be applied to biological problems.

**ASSESSMENT:** Examination (100%).

**BI3435 BASIC LABORATORY SKILLS FOR NEUROBIOLOGY**

*Module coordinator: Dr. Glynis Robinson (5 Practicals)*

**MODULE DESCRIPTION**
Practicals will include preparation and use of buffers, spectrophotometric assays and protein determinations. There will be a molecular biology project in which students will learn aseptic technique, perform antibiotic screens of *E.coli* cells, restriction digests on plasmid DNA and use agarose gel electrophoresis.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**
On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

• setup and manage standard laboratory equipment correctly, safely and in the appropriate context.

• demonstrate an understanding of the theory behind the techniques used in practical classes.

• apply the principles and techniques of practical biochemistry and molecular biology to the investigation of problems in neurobiology.

• construct a clear scientific record of experiments and the data generated in experiments in a laboratory notebook and critically assess the data.

• explain the importance of experimental controls and multiple determinations.

• work independently and in a team and exercise initiative and personal responsibility.

**ASSESSMENT:** In-course written assignments (100%).
BI3445 NEUROCHEMISTRY I

Module coordinator: Dr. Gavin Davey (9 Lectures; 4 Practicals)

MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module focuses on chemical transmission between neurons, how neurotransmitters are classified and identified and describes typical and atypical neurotransmitters and their functions in the brain. Practical classes are devoted to the following topics: subcellular fractionation of brain tissue into myelin, synaptosomal and mitochondrial fractions, assessment of protein expression in brain tissue, assessment of enzyme markers, measurement of neurotransmitters, analysis of brain lipids, neurotransmitter receptor binding.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- describe the cell types in the brain and common techniques that enable chemicals with neurotransmitter-like properties to be identified.
- list criteria that need to be satisfied in order for a chemical to be classified as a neurotransmitter.
- describe the biogenic amines (acetylcholine, dopamine, noradrenaline, adrenaline, serotonin) and the properties that allow them to be classified as neurotransmitters.
- describe glutamate and GABA functions in the brain and the properties that allow them to be classified as neurotransmitters.
- describe atypical neurotransmitters (NO, CO, D-serine, neuropeptides, purines) and the properties that allow them to be classified as neurotransmitters.
- explain the role that apoptotic and necrotic cell death play in neurodevelopment and neurodegeneration.
- setup and manage standard laboratory equipment correctly, safely and in the appropriate context.
- outline the theory behind the techniques used in practical classes.
- construct a clear scientific record of experiments and the data generated in experiments in a laboratory notebook and critically assess the data.
- explain the importance of experimental controls and multiple determinations.
- work independently and in a team and exercise initiative and personal responsibility.
- participate in group discussions with peers and with teachers. Select and apply appropriate statistical tests to their own experimental data and evaluate the results of these tests.

ASSESSMENT: Examination (100%).

Reading/Learning Resources:
BI3455 RESEARCH SKILLS

Module coordinator: Dr. Andrew McDonald/Dr. Aedín Minogue

MODULE DESCRIPTION

The first part of the module (data handling, statistics and experimental design) gives an introduction to experimental design, data handling and statistical analysis of data, data interpretation and presentation. Students will use computer software (a) to perform a range of commonly used statistical tests, (b) to graphically represent data and (c) to apply what they have learnt in problem-solving exercises. The second part of the module (Journal Club) is designed to provide students with an opportunity to read individual scientific articles and to develop the necessary skills to critically evaluate them.

MODULE DETAILS

1. **Data Handling, Statistics and Experimental Design** (7 Lectures, 1 Exam).

   **Reading/Learning Resources:**


2. **Journal Club 1** (5 Sessions).

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- critically read and interpret scientific journal papers.
- critically assess experimental design and interpretation of data.
- evaluate statistical methods.
• present scientific data via powerpoint to a scientific audience.

**ASSESSMENT:** All assessment for this module is in-course. **Data handling** section - short answer exam and practical exercises (60% of module). **Journal club** section - group presentations of a critical review of a journal paper (40% of module).

**GE3M13 NEUROGENETICS AND DROSOPHILA GENETICS**

*Lecturers: Dr. Kevin Mitchell, Prof. Mani Ramaswami, Dr. P. Labrador (30 Lectures)*

**MODULE DESCRIPTION**
The module will introduce the fundamentals of neuronal architecture, neuronal excitability and synaptic function, sensory systems, circadian rhythms, perception and learning and their analysis by genetic methods in model organisms (M. Ramaswami). It will introduce the genetics of neural development and behaviour, including psychiatric and cognitive genetics, and principles of nervous system evolution (K. Mitchell). These topics will also describe methods for neurogenetics in the fruitfly *Drosophila melanogaster*, the mouse and in humans. The module will also consider more generally the principles and logic of genetic analysis, using detailed examples from *Drosophila* (P. Labrador).

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**
On completion of this course students will be able to:

• appreciate the fundamentals of biological genetics and cellular neuroscience.
• appreciate the principles of the genetic approach to problems in neuroscience.
• appreciate the genetic and cellular basis for sensory perception.
• appreciate the interactions between model organism and human neurogenetics.
• understand the application of transgenic technologies to neuroscience.
• understand the developmental mechanisms establishing different profiles of gene expression in different cells.
• appreciate the genetic mechanisms underlying development of the cerebral cortex and their implication in disease.
• understand the impact of genetic variation on perception in humans.
• understand the role of genes and gene regulation in learning and memory.

**ASSESSMENT:** Examination (100%).
**NS3PH1: GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF PHARMACOLOGY**

Lecturer: Prof. Andrew Harkin (27 Lectures; 6 Practicals)

**MODULE DESCRIPTION**

Targets of drug action; receptor pharmacology and cell signalling; pharmacodynamics (drug action, agonism and antagonism; specificity and side-effects); Dose-response; basic pharmacokinetics (drug absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion); general ANS pharmacology - sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous transmission; cholinergic drugs, anticholinesterases; direct and indirect acting sympathomimetics; non-adrenergic and non-cholinergic transmitters; neuromuscular transmission and neuromuscular blocking agents; central neurotransmission and the biochemical basis of neuropharmacology; excitatory and inhibitory transmitters; neuromodulatory transmitters: biogenic amines and acetylcholine; application of basic principles in selected examples of drug use; overview of drug development and testing. **Practical classes include:** 1. Drug targets and receptor transduction - computer simulated programme with assignment, 2. Introduction/Dose response Guinea Pig Ileum: agonists - computer simulated experiments and data analysis, 3. Water Maze (CAL), 4. PA2 Guinea Pig Ileum: antagonists - computer simulated experiments and data analysis, 5. Basic Pharmacokinetics (CAL), 6. Drug development and testing – clinical trials; computer simulated programme with assignment.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On completion of this course the student will be able to:

- state the variety of targets to which drugs bind in the body and illustrate their transduction and cell signalling mechanisms.
- define agonist (full, partial and inverse), antagonist (competitive and non-competitive) and recall selected examples of each.
- describe receptor binding experiments and define the receptor binding parameters $B_{\text{max}}$ and $K_d$.
- to construct dose response curves and calculate drug potency of both agonists and antagonists.
- to illustrate the principles of drug absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion and define the terms, pKa, bioavailability, volume of distribution, clearance, half-life and Kel.
- to illustrate the organisation and mode of neurotransmission within the sympathetic, para sympathetic, enteric and somatic nervous systems.
- to recall the mechanisms of action and clinical uses of cholinergic and adrenergic drugs within the peripheral nervous system.
- to define the key steps associated with excitatory and inhibitory neurotransmission in the brain and provide selected examples of drugs which influence these steps.
- to report on the various stages of drug discovery, development and the clinical trials process.
**ASSESSMENT:** Examination (60%) & in-course assessment (40%).

**Reading/Learning Resources:**

**PG3100 CELLULAR PHYSIOLOGY**

*Lecturer: Prof. Marina Lynch (12 Lectures; 1 Tutorial; 1 Problem-solving session)*

**MODULE DESCRIPTION**

The lectures in this module focus on (i) membrane structure, proteins and properties; (ii) receptors and neurotransmitters. The module is designed to consider the structure of the membrane, the changes that occur in the membrane under different biological circumstances using age as an example, and role of membrane proteins. Cell functions, for example, the control of intracellular calcium by cells and transmitter release will be considered in the context of the membrane proteins that impact on these functions. Note: Reading material will be available on Blackboard. The problem-based learning element of this course will be a team-based exercise. An overall theme will be chosen and groups of 3 or 4 students will be assigned specific aspects of the theme. The objective is to undertake research on the theme and prepare a presentation that is cohesive across the topic. Each team member will contribute to the presentation.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of the lecture course the student will

- appreciate the role lipids play in the composition and function of plasma membranes.
- be aware of the role that fatty acids and lipids in cell function, and the impact of ageing on membrane lipids and consequently on cell function.
- be in a position to describe how accumulation of reactive oxygen species impacts on membrane lipids and to appreciate how these changes contribute to diseases.
- appreciate the importance of controlling intracellular calcium concentration.
- be able to demonstrate an understanding of the role of calcium as a signalling molecule.
- be able to characterize the steps leading to transmitter release.
- be in a position to describe the techniques used to analyse lipids, intracellular calcium concentration and
neurotransmitter release.

At the end of the problem-based learning element of the course the student will:

• be able to demonstrate an ability to undertake research for the preparation of a presentation.
• appreciate the importance of working in a team.
• be able to prepare and deliver a component of a larger presentation.
• be in a position to address questions on the research theme.

**ASSESSMENT:** In-course assessment comprised of Oral Presentation & Report Write-up (30%) and Examination (70%).

**PG3360 NEUROPHYSIOLOGY I**

_Note: Module coordinator: Dr. Aedín Minogue (23 lectures; 3 Practicals)_

**MODULE DESCRIPTION**

The lectures in this module focus on how the nervous system works. Lectures will describe the structure and function of neurons, how they communicate and how they are arranged to form the nervous system. Topics include electrical properties of neurons, properties and physiological functions of ion channels, synaptic excitability, transmission and plasticity and the delivery and interpretation of sensory information into the central nervous system. Part of the course is also devoted to describing methods to record both cellular and brain activity. Practical classes focus on computer-simulated recordings of individual nerves to understand features of neuronal activity, recording brain function via electroencephalogram and sensory-evoked potentials. This module is designed to provide understanding of how the brain functions at a cellular and systems level.

**DETAILS OF THE MODULE**

**Michaelmas Term (S1)**

Lectures:
Membrane excitability
Somatic Sense Organs
Proprioception
Nociception
Hearing and Equilibrium
Vision

Practicals:
Nerve stimulation
Electroencephalogram
Visual Evoked Potentials

**Hilary Term (S2)**

Lectures:
1. Neurotransmitters, ion channels and synaptic transmission I
2. Neurotransmitters, ion channels and synaptic transmission II
3. Neurotransmitters, ion channels and synaptic transmission III
4. Magnetic resonance Imaging
5. Electroencephalogram
6. Visual System I
7. Visual System II
8. Visual System III
9. Motor System – primary motor areas
10. Motor System – Basal ganglia
11. Motor System – cerebellum
LEARNING OUTCOMES
On completion of this module, the student will be able to:

- describe the neurophysiological activity of peripheral and central neurons involved in sensory information processing.
- define the physiological roles of the brain regions and pathways involved in the planning, initiation and control of movement.
- identify the brain activity patterns associated with distinct sleep states and describe the neurophysiological basis of sleep and wakefulness.
- relate cellular and synaptic neuronal activity to the coordinated brain oscillations recorded by electroencephalography (EEG).
- interpret neurophysiological activity recorded using in vitro and in vivo electrophysiological techniques and recognise the clinical uses of neurophysiological recordings including EEG and sensory-evoked potentials.
- relate how synaptic plasticity at cellular and network levels underlies long-term alterations in behaviour associated with learning and memory, addiction.

ASSESSMENT: Laboratory reports & in-class test (30%) and Examination (70%).

ZO3050 DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

Lecturer: Dr. Rebecca Rolfe (14 Lectures; 4 tutorials; 5 Practicals)

MODULE DESCRIPTION
This module consists of a series of lectures, tutorials and practical sessions that deals with a range of topics in Developmental Biology emphasising a molecular approach to understanding the principles of animal development. A number of animal model systems will be dealt with and the contribution of each to our overall understanding of development discussed. Specific topics will include the following: Developmental genetics: the identification of genes that regulate development in Drosophila and vertebrates; Positional determination: how the body plan of the embryo is laid down including the role of homeo-box genes; Induction: the role of cell and tissue interactions and signalling cascades; Developmental neurobiology: positional determination within the vertebrate central nervous system, neuronal diversity and axonal guidance, neural crest cells and development of the peripheral nervous system. Other topics include limb development, organogenesis, and evolutionary developmental biology.
LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this module, the student will be able to:

- describe the key events in building a complex multicellular animal, the common and species specific features.
- describe features of the model animals that are used for developmental studies and why they have been important.
- integrate an understanding of molecular control of cell differentiation and the key molecules involved with morphological events in the embryo e.g. the molecules associated with an event like neural tube patterning.
- discuss the biomedical relevance of the molecular events involved in embryo patterning.
- observe and identify key features of vertebrate embryos and use morphological criteria to uncover the stage of embryonic development.
- confidently use internet resources that aid modern developmental research.
- present written and oral reports on group work.

ASSESSMENT: Practical work and tutorial assignments will be assessed through written submissions and a group project. Lecture material is assessed through examination. Examination (50%); laboratory submissions and tutorial assignments (50%).

Reading/Learning resources:

1. **Attendance**

All students are expected to attend lectures, workshops, practical classes, in-course assessments and examinations. Scheduled classes play an important role in supporting progress through the academic year in particular course assignment work. Students are therefore expected to keep up a consistent rate of good attendance so that performance later in the year will not be adversely affected. In the event of not being able to attend classes due to illness, **please inform the Course Advisor**. Medical certificates are required for absences of more than a few days OR if the absence means a deadline or an assessment will be missed. Details of medical certificates and other personal information will be treated confidentially. Students who miss classes are responsible for updating themselves on any information provided during those classes.

The Department operates the College procedure in relation to ‘Non-satisfactory attendance and course work’ (Calendar). That is, any student who misses more than a third of a course in any term or fails to complete assignments may be declared ‘non-satisfactory’. Non-satisfactory returns are made to the Senior Lecturer; such students may be refused permission to take the annual examination and may be required by the Senior Lecturer to repeat the year.


**Non-satisfactory attendance and course work**

§24 All students must fulfil the requirements of the school or department, as appropriate, with regard to attendance and course work. Where specific requirements are not stated, students may be deemed non-satisfactory if they miss more than a third of their course of study or fail to submit a third of the required course work in any term.

§25 At the end of the teaching term, students who have not satisfied the school or department requirements, as set out in §§18, 22 and 23 above, may be reported as non-satisfactory for that term. Students reported as non-satisfactory for the Michaelmas and Hilary terms of a given year may be refused permission to take their annual examinations and may be required by the Senior Lecturer to repeat their year.’

Please see [https://www.tcd.ie/undergraduate-studies/academic-progress/attendance-course-work.php](https://www.tcd.ie/undergraduate-studies/academic-progress/attendance-course-work.php) for regulations regarding student attendance.

The **European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)** is an academic credit system based on the estimated student workload required to achieve the objectives of a module or programme of study. It is designed to enable academic recognition for periods of study, to facilitate student mobility and credit accumulation and transfer. The ECTS is the recommended credit system for higher education in Ireland and across the European Higher Education Area.
The ECTS weighting for a module is a **measure of the student input or workload** required for that module, based on factors such as the number of contact hours, the number and length of written or verbally presented assessment exercises, class preparation and private study time, laboratory classes, examinations, clinical attendance, professional training placements, and so on as appropriate. There is no intrinsic relationship between the credit volume of a module and its level of difficulty.

The European **norm for full-time study over one academic year is 60 credits.** The Trinity academic year is 40 weeks from the start of Michaelmas Term to the end of the annual examination period. 1 ECTS credit represents 20-25 hours estimated student input, so a 10-credit module will be designed to require 200-250 hours of student input including class contact time and assessments.

**ECTS credits are awarded to a student only upon successful completion of the course year.** Progression from one year to the next is determined by the course regulations. Students who fail a year of their course will not obtain credit for that year even if they have passed certain component courses. Exceptions to this rule are one-year and part-year visiting students, who are awarded credit for individual modules successfully completed.
2. **Assessment and examinations**

Courses are assessed by in-course assessment and/or by examination. Your grade at the end of the Junior Sophister year is compiled from the results of annual examinations in the Trinity Term and continuous assessment marks for the year. Ten marks are allocated per ECTS credit, towards the possible 600 marks for Junior Sophister year, 20% of which will contribute to the final mark of the neuroscience degree. Please note that, as per College Calendar, **student attendance at all examinations is mandatory**. Should a student miss an exam (without medical cert or appropriate supporting documentation submitted to College Tutor and Student Cases) they will be returned as ‘ABSENT NO PERMISSION’ which results in automatic exclusion from college. Please see [https://www.tcd.ie/Senior_Tutor/faq/](https://www.tcd.ie/Senior_Tutor/faq/) for further information regarding college regulations.

Each module will be assessed on a separate examination paper (except for PG3100 and PG3360 which are examined together on a single 3-hour paper). Please note that examination timetables are compiled by the Exams Office and all examination information is made available to students via [my.tcd.ie](http://my.tcd.ie). Course advisors and administrative staff **cannot** provide details of examination dates and venues. Examination timetables are usually published in early April.

Below are the exam paper structures for each module based on previous years. Please note that these may be subject to change and are given as a guideline only. Each module coordinator will provide definitive information about exam paper structure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Question style</th>
<th>Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AN3MNA</td>
<td>Short answer and multiple choice questions</td>
<td>Answer all questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BI3415</td>
<td>3 essay questions</td>
<td>2 questions from Section I, and 1 question from Section II; choice of 4 questions in Section I and 2 questions in Section II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BI3425</td>
<td>3 essay questions</td>
<td>1 question each from Section I, II and III; choice of 2 questions per Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BI3445</td>
<td>2 essay questions</td>
<td>1 question each from Section I, and II; choice of 2 questions per Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE3M13</td>
<td>3 essay questions</td>
<td>1 question each from Section I, II and III; choice of 2 questions per Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NS3PH1</td>
<td>2 essay questions</td>
<td>Choice of 3 questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG3100/PG3360</td>
<td>3 essay questions</td>
<td>1 question from Section I (PG3100), and 2 questions from Section II (PG3360); choice of 2 questions in Section I and 3 questions in Section II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZO3050</td>
<td>1 essay question and 5 short-answer questions</td>
<td>1 question each from Section I (choice of 2 questions) and all 5 short-answer questions in Section II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**In-Course Assessment**

The nature of the assessments will vary from one course to another. Individual members of teaching staff will give more details of assessment procedures at the beginning of each course. Students are encouraged to develop their word-processing skills and computer skills in general in the Junior Sophister year.

**Submission deadlines**

For each item of course work there will be a submission deadline. Meeting deadlines is regarded as an important part of the course and is valued by employers. Apart from maintaining equity between students, deadlines enable students to demonstrate their ability to schedule their work properly. Students are expected to meet all deadlines. **A case for special circumstances may be made to the Course Adviser via the College Tutor. Extension of deadlines will only be given in exceptional circumstances.**

**Word limitations**

All course assessments must comply with the stated word limit (± 10%). Students are required to write the number of words at the end of the assessment. Students may exceed the word limit only by 10% e.g. if the word limit is 2,500 words, a word count of 2,750 will be accepted.
**Class Descriptors**: These Science Faculty Descriptors are given as a guide to the qualities that assessors are seeking in relation to the grades usually awarded. A grade is the anticipated degree class based on consistent performance at the level indicated by an individual answer. In addition to the criteria, listed the Department’s examiners will also give credit for evidence of critical discussion of facts or evidence.

**Guidelines on Grades for Sophisters’ Essays and Examination Answers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>IDEAL ANSWER; showing insight and originality and wide knowledge. Logical, accurate and concise presentation. Evidence of reading and thought beyond course content. Contains particularly apt examples. Links materials from lectures, practicals and seminars where appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>OUTSTANDING ANSWER; falls short of the ‘ideal’ answer either on aspects of presentation or on evidence of reading and thought beyond the course. Examples, layout and details are all sound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>MAINLY OUTSTANDING ANSWER; falls short on presentation and reading or thought beyond the course, but retains insight and originality typical of first class work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II-1</td>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>VERY COMPREHENSIVE ANSWER; good understanding of concepts supported by broad knowledge of subject. Notable for synthesis of information rather than originality. Sometimes with evidence of outside reading. Mostly accurate and logical with appropriate examples. Occasionally a lapse in detail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>LESS COMPREHENSIVE ANSWER; mostly confined to good recall of coursework. Some synthesis of information or ideas. Accurate and logical within a limited scope. Some lapses in detail tolerated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II-2</td>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>SOUND BUT INCOMPLETE ANSWER; based on coursework alone but suffers from a significant omission, error or misunderstanding. Usually lacks synthesis of information or ideas. Mainly logical and accurate within its limited scope and with lapses in detail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>INCOMPLETE ANSWER; suffers from significant omissions, errors and misunderstandings, but still with understanding of main concepts and showing sound knowledge. Several lapses in detail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>WEAK ANSWER; limited understanding and knowledge of subject. Serious omissions, errors and misunderstandings, so that answer is no more than adequate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>VERY WEAK ANSWER; a poor answer, lacking substance but giving some relevant information. Information given may not be in context or well explained, but will contain passages and words which indicate a marginally adequate understanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-1</td>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>MARGINAL FAIL; inadequate answer, with no substance or understanding, but with a vague knowledge relevant to the question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-2</td>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>CLEAR FAILURE; some attempt made to write something relevant to the question. Errors serious but not absurd. Could also be a sound answer to the misinterpretation of a question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-3</td>
<td>0-29</td>
<td>UTTER FAILURE; with little hint of knowledge. Errors serious and absurd. Could also be a trivial response to the misinterpretation of a question.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. **Plagiarism**

Each student is responsible for ensuring that their work is actually the result of his/her own efforts, skills and knowledge, and has not been produced by means that will give an unfair advantage over other students. You are urged to read very carefully the following extract from the College Calendar 2006/07 on plagiarism — the improper use of others’ work. Plagiarism is a very serious offence and is against the spirit of proper academic and scientific enquiry. The risk of inadvertent plagiarism is greater in Sophister years because of the increasing use of primary sources (research papers). It is therefore essential to develop good practice immediately.

§53 Plagiarism is interpreted by the University as the act of presenting the work of others as one’s own work, without acknowledgement.

Plagiarism is considered as academically fraudulent, and an offence against University discipline. The University considers plagiarism to be a major offence, and subject to the disciplinary procedures of the University.

§54 Plagiarism can arise from deliberate actions and also through careless thinking and/or methodology. The offence lies not in the attitude or intention of the perpetrator, but in the action and in its consequences.

Plagiarism can arise from actions such as:

(a) copying another student’s work;

(b) enlisting another person or persons to complete an assignment on the student’s behalf.

(c) quoting directly, without acknowledgement, from books, articles or other sources, either in printed, recorded or electronic format;

(d) paraphrasing, without acknowledgement, the writings of other authors.

Examples (c) and (d) in particular can arise through careless thinking and/or methodology where students:

(i) fail to distinguish between their own ideas and those of others.

(ii) fail to take proper notes during preliminary research and therefore lose track of the sources from which the notes were drawn;
(iii) fail to distinguish between information which needs no acknowledgement because it is firmly in the public domain, and information which might be widely known, but which nevertheless requires some sort of acknowledgement;

(iv) come across a distinctive methodology or idea and fail to record its source.

All the above serve only as examples and are not exhaustive.

Students should submit work done in co-operation with other students only when it is done with the full knowledge and permission of the lecturer concerned. Without this, work submitted which is the product of collusion with other students may be considered to be plagiarism.

§55 It is clearly understood that all members of the academic community use and build on the work of others. It is commonly accepted also, however, that we build on the work of others in an open and explicit manner, and with due acknowledgement. Many cases of plagiarism that arise could be avoided by following some simple guidelines:

(i) Any material used in a piece of work, of any form, that is not the original thought of the author should be fully referenced in the work and attributed to its source. The material should either be quoted directly or paraphrased. Either way, an explicit citation of the work referred to should be provided, in the text, in a footnote, or both. Not to do so is to commit plagiarism.

(ii) When taking notes from any source it is very important to record the precise words or ideas that are being used and their precise sources.

(iii) While the Internet often offers a wider range of possibilities for researching particular themes, it also requires particular attention to be paid to the distinction between one’s own work and the work of others. Particular care should be taken to keep track of the source of the electronic information obtained from the Internet or other electronic sources and ensure that it is explicitly and correctly acknowledged.

§56 It is the responsibility of the author of any work to ensure that he/she does not commit plagiarism.

§57 Students should ensure the integrity of their work by seeking advice from their lecturers, tutor or supervisor on avoiding plagiarism. All departments should include, in their handbooks or other literature given to students, advice on the appropriate methodology for the kind of work that students will be expected to undertake.
§58 If plagiarism as referred to in §34 above is suspected, the Head of Department will arrange an informal meeting with the student, the student’s tutor*, and the lecturer concerned, to put their suspicions to the student and give the student the opportunity to respond.

§59 If the Head of Department forms the view that plagiarism has taken place, he/she must notify the Senior Lecturer in writing of the facts of the case and suggested remedies, who will then advise the Junior Dean. The Junior Dean will interview the student if the facts of the case are in dispute. Whether or not the facts of the case are in dispute, the Junior Dean may implement the procedures set out in Conduct and College Regulations §2.

*As an alternative, students nominate a representative from the Students’ Union to accompany them to the meeting.

**Student Feedback**

From time to time you may be asked to evaluate parts of the course. Your comments on all aspects of the Neuroscience program are welcome, and will be treated in confidence. Student feedback is extremely important particularly in the early years of a new course as it provides a means for us to assess the course, and will enable us to improve aspects of the course in the coming years.
Careers Advisory Service

What do you want to do? How will you get there? We are here to support you in answering these and other questions about your career.

Junior and Senior Fresh Students

Get Involved: Remember that your course of study, extra-curricular activities, voluntary and part-time work all provide opportunities for developing skills and gaining an insight into your career preferences. In your Senior Fresh year, look out for short-term internship opportunities.

MyCareer: Log in to MyCareer to keep abreast of jobs, study and careers events of interest to you.

Junior Sophisters

Attend class seminar: Typically this takes place in Hilary term and includes information on applying for work experience and internships and postgraduate study.

Get work experience: The programme of summer work experience and internships is particularly relevant to Junior Sophisters. Personalise your MyCareer profile to receive email alerts tailored to your preferences.

MyCareer: Log in to MyCareer to keep abreast of jobs, study and careers events of interest to you.

Finalists and Senior Sophisters

Meet Employers and/or Explore Further Study: You may have decided to seek employment directly after graduation and many employers visit Dublin to actively seek out talented graduates. For others, further study may be their preferred option. Your MyCareer dashboard will keep you informed.

Find Jobs: Personalise your MyCareer profile to receive email alerts tailored to your interests.

Attend class seminar: Typically this takes place in Michaelmas term and includes information on applying for postgraduate study and jobs.

GradLink Mentoring: An opportunity to get advice and support from a Trinity graduate.

Drop-In CV/LinkedIn Clinics: We also provide support at a practical level, helping you to improve your applications, which will benefit you in securing your future, whether in employment or further study.

Practice Interviews: A practice interview tailored to the job/course of your choice with practical feedback.

MyCareer: Log in to MyCareer to keep abreast of jobs, study and careers events of interest to you.

MyCareer

An online service that you can use to:

- Apply for opportunities which match your preferences - vacancies including research options
- Search opportunities - postgraduate courses and funding
- View and book onto employer and CAS events
- Submit your career queries to the CAS team
- Book an appointment with your Careers Consultant

Simply login to MyCareer using your Trinity username and password and personalise your profile.

Careers Advisory Service

Trinity College Dublin, 7-9 South Leinster Street, Dublin 2

01 896 1705/1721 | Submit a career query through MyCareer

MyCareer: mycareerconnect.tcd.ie

www.tcd.ie/Careers/students/postgraduate/

TCD.Careers.Service
@TCDCareers

TCDCareers

tinyurl.com/LinkedIn-TCD-Connecting

Opening Hours

During term: 9.30am - 5.00pm, Monday - Friday

Out of Term: 9.30am - 12.30pm & 2.15 - 5.00pm, Monday - Friday
Appendices

Appendix 1: Instructions for citing references

Referencing a book:

Name of author(s)/editor(s), give surname first followed by initial(s) as given on title page.

Year of publication, this should be placed in brackets.

Title of book this should be underlined or put in brackets.

Edition number, if not first edition.

Publisher

Place of publication.

The standard layout for citation is as follows:


Referencing a journal:

Example


Referencing authors
1. **Single author**

   “Recent research (Jones, 1999) has demonstrated that…”

2. **Two authors**

   (Connor and Leonard, 1998)


3. **Multi-authorship (2 or more authors)**

   (Yoo et al., 1995)


---

**Dissertation or Thesis**

It is necessary to provide details of the level of degree etc. and awarding institution in the full details.

e.g. (Dredge, 1998)


The most important thing to remember when citing references is to be consistent.
Appendix 2: Useful Neuroscience textbooks

A good basic text

A good basic text

A very comprehensive reference text

A good reference text

A good reference text

Very detailed in parts, but contains some useful diagrams

Contains useful diagrams and will enhance understanding of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology.

Recommended text for Neuroanatomy

ISBN: 08654286
Contains useful diagrams and will enhance understanding of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology.
Deals with many aspects of neuroscience in a very user-friendly manner.

The Biochemical Basis of Neuropharmacology. (7th Ed) by J.R. Cooper, F.E. Bloom and R.H. Roth.
A useful textbook for basic neurochemistry and neuropharmacology
Appendix 3: Useful Websites

PubMed
PubMed is a database of journals kept in the National Library of Medicine in the USA. It contains journals from the 1960’s up to the present day. It gives abstracts for almost all articles, and it also contains links to many full text articles.
http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/

Science Direct
Science direct is a web-based database of Elsevier Science journals. It contains 1200 scientific journals and access to full-text articles. You can download full text articles from 1995 onwards within TCD, however from outside the college only abstracts are available.
http://sciencedirect.com

Neuroscience Web Sites

A useful tour of the brain, and a description of brain disorders
http://www.brainexplorer.org

A useful site that deals with neurotransmitter function and drug action within the brain
http://www2.onu.edu/~ksehlhor/drugs.html

Neuroscience for kids, but well worth looking at.
http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/neurok.html

Brain model tutorial – Useful for Neuroanatomy
http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~Brainmd1/brain.html

Basic Biochemistry of neurotransmitters
http://web.indstate.edu/thcme/mwking/nerves.html

Neuroscience Web Search
http://www.acsiom.org/nsr/neuro.html

Neurological disorders resource - Lots of links to websites dealing with neurological disorders
The whole brain atlas

http://www.med.harvard.edu/AANLIB/home.html
### Appendix 4: Useful information in the Laboratory

**Multiplication Factors and their prefixes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multiplication factor</th>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 000 000 000 000 = 10^{12}</td>
<td>tera</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 000 000 000 = 10^9</td>
<td>giga</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 000 000 = 10^6</td>
<td>mega</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 000 = 10^3</td>
<td>kilo</td>
<td>k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 = 10^2</td>
<td>hecto</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 = 10^1</td>
<td>deca</td>
<td>da</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.1 = 10^{-1}</td>
<td>deci</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.01 = 10^{-2}</td>
<td>centi</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.001 = 10^{-3}</td>
<td>milli</td>
<td>m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.000 001 = 10^{-6}</td>
<td>micro</td>
<td>μ</td>
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<td>p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.000 000 000 000 001 = 10^{-15}</td>
<td>femto</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.000 000 000 000 000 001 = 10^{-18}</td>
<td>atto</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SI Units**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Quantities</th>
<th>Symbols</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>metre (m) micrometre (μm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wavelength of light</td>
<td>λ</td>
<td>nanometre (nm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>square metre (m²)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Volume \( V \) cubic metre (m³)

Capacity \( V \) millilitre (ml)

Time \( t \) second (s)

Frequency \( f \) hertz (Hz)

Velocity \( v \) metre per sec (m/s)

Gravitational acceleration \( g \) metre per sec squared (m/s²)

Mass \( m \) kilogramme (kg)

Density \( \rho \) kg per metre squared (kg/m²)

Pressure \( p \) Newton per square metre (N/m²)

Thermodynamic temperature \( T \) Kelvin (K)

**Preparation of solutions**

1. **Percent solutions**

   **Example 1 (w/v)**

   How much of a 0.9% NaCl solution can be made with 2.5g NaCl

   0.9% NaCl solution = 0.9g NaCl in 100mls solution

   Thus \( 2.5g = \frac{100}{0.9} \times 2.5 = 278ml \).

   **Example 2 (v/v)**

   How much ethanol is in 50 ml of a 5% solution of ethanol in water?

   5% ethanol solution = 5 mls ethanol in 100mls of final solution

   Hence 50 mls = \( \frac{5}{2} = 2.5 \) mls ethanol
2. **Molarity**

**Mole:** The number grams equal to the atomic or molecular weight of the substance.

Molecular weight of NaCl = Na(23) + Cl(35.5) = 58.5g

A 1 Molar (1M) solution contains 1 mole of solute per litre of solution.

Molarity (M) number that expresses the number of moles of substance in 1 litre of solution.

3. **Normality**

Normality and molarity are based on the same principles, with one major change. Molarity is based on molecular weight (mol wt.); normality is based on equivalent weight.

A gram equivalent weight of an element or compound is the mass that will combine with or replace 1 mole of hydrogen.

*Example:* KOH dissociates into one K⁺ ion and one OH⁻ ion. One mole of K⁺ will replace one mole of H⁺ in a chemical reaction; hence KOH has an equivalent weight equal to one mole KOH

*Example:* \( \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4\) dissociates into two H⁺ ions and one SO₄⁻ ion. One mole of this ion will combine with 2 moles of hydrogen. Hence 1 gram equivalent weight of \( \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4\) equals 0.5 mol, because two H⁺ ions will combine with one SO₄⁻ ion

*Example 1*

Make 1000 ml 0.5 M NaCl. Molecular weight of NaCl is 58.5

\[ \text{Mol wt. x M = g/L} \]

\[ 58.5 \times 0.5 = 29.25 \text{ g/L} \]

- 29.25g NaCl made up to 1000 ml gives 1000 ml 0.5M NaCl

*Example 2*
Density x Purity = g/ml   molecular weight = no. of ml required to make up 1L

\[
\begin{array}{cc}
100 & g/ml \\
\end{array}
\]

Given that for H\(_2\)SO\(_4\): Specific gravity = 1.84, purity = 98%, MW= 98.07

(a) How would you prepare a 3.4M solution?

\[
\begin{array}{c}
1.84 \times 98 = 1.80 \\
98.07 = 54.5 \\
100 \quad 1.8
\end{array}
\]

54.5 = 1M solution hence 3.4 M solution requires 185.24 ml in 1L of solution.

(b) How would you prepare a 2 N solution?

1 gram equivalent weight of H\(_2\)SO\(_4\) equals 0.5 mol, thus 54.5/2=27.25 x 2N= 54.5ml in 1L solution.

Example 3

How would you prepare a 0.02 M solution of Acetic Acid from a stock solution of concentration 1.7 M?

\[
\begin{array}{c}
1.7 = 85 \\
0.02
\end{array}
\]

Hence use a 1 in 85 dilution – 1ml of Acetic Acid solution and add 84ml distilled water.