

## Postgraduate Taught Entry Criteria Template

If a section is not relevant, please state 'not applicable'.

<b>Programme(s)</b>	MSc in Cognitive Neuroscience  Entry into the programme is competitive. Applications are evaluated alongside each other on the criteria outlined below. The stringency of the criteria depends on the number and quality of applications that are received. There is an initial application deadline at the end of January in the year of the start of the programme. Applications received by this date will undergo an initial review process. Offers will be issued to highly suitable candidates and rejections to unsuitable candidates. Applications of candidates who are potentially suitable will be evaluated alongside new applications. All places are typically filled by the beginning of July.
<b>Academic Performance/Potential</b>	
Undergraduate Degree Requirements (Including compulsory subjects and modules)	The minimum requirements for applicants to be considered are:  (1) 2:1 or above Honours degree in psychology or other suitable scientific discipline (e.g. neuroscience, linguistics, biomedical science, philosophy, natural sciences, anatomy, medicine, speech sciences, physiology, cognitive science, computer science) from a UK institution, or equivalent overseas qualification from an institution recognized by UCL. Candidates with qualifications in other subjects will be considered if they can demonstrate to have the skills, knowledge, and ability to successfully complete the MSc.  or  (2) On course trajectory to achieve the above.  Preference is given to applicants from research-intensive universities whose transcript shows evidence of good marks across the board and especially for modules with direct relevance to the MSc (e.g. the independent research project, research methods, statistics, cognitive neuroscience, biological psychology, neuropsychology, and

	cognition).
Other Requirements (Graduate degree)	If the above is not satisfied a minimum pass at M-level in a psychology, neuroscience, or medical sciences degree (with research component) is required.
English Language Requirement Level	Applicants must have a UCL “good” level of English ( <a href="http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate-study/application-admission/english-language">http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate-study/application-admission/english-language</a> ). International students must satisfy the UK Border Agency (UKBA) English language proficiency requirements for Tier 4 general student visas.
<b>Non-Academic Entry Requirements</b>	
Relevant Work Experience (i.e. What type of work experience? What is the compensation for the shortfall on degree grade? Is there a requirement for a qualifying essay?)	Relevant work experience with demonstrated excellence (e.g. in a medical, academic, neuroimaging, or neuropsychological environment) can enhance the first degree by one step. Applicants with a 2:2 degree will only be considered in the absence of applicants with a higher degree class. Relevant work experience can be used to demonstrate the ability to successfully complete the MSc when the applicant’s background is not in a suitable subject area.
Professional Accreditation	Not applicable.
Non-Academic Conditions (i.e. CRB, Occupational Health)	Generally not applicable. Some of the research projects that are part of the MSc require a CRB check. This can be arranged after the start of the programme.
References	A minimum of two references are required. At least one, but preferably both, should be academic. Preference will be given to candidates who come highly recommended and whose references indicate research potential, past research excellence, critical thinking and writing abilities, and academic independence and excellence. Preference is given to references written by academics who are very clearly in a position to understand the demands of this particular MSc programme and subject

	area, and evaluate the applicant's academic potential in respect of them.
<b>Additional Criteria</b>	
Other skills or capabilities required to pursue the programme	<p>A good level of basic IT ability, with excellent familiarity of word processing and tabulation, spreadsheets, basic image processing and manipulation abilities, and preferably familiarity with SPSS, MINITAB, SAS or similar common statistical packages. MATLAB experience is useful but not required, as is experience with programming.</p> <p>Consideration will be given to prizes, awards, scholarships, scientific publications, conference attendance and presentations, workshop attendance, and any other skills or experiences that are relevant for a career in cognitive neuroscience.</p> <p>Applicants are expected to complete a personal statement, the details of which are described at:  <a href="http://www.icn.ucl.ac.uk/MSc-in-Cognitive-Neuroscience/guidelines.php">http://www.icn.ucl.ac.uk/MSc-in-Cognitive-Neuroscience/guidelines.php</a></p> <p>The personal statement should demonstrate a strong interest in cognitive neuroscience, a strong motivation to undertake the MSc, scientific writing skills, an ability to think critically about research and use experimental evidence to make a critical argument, an ability to understand and design psychological experiments, an understanding of the programme content, an indication of research interests and, if relevant, a planned career path.</p> <p>Evidence of expectation that students will work independently throughout the academic year with support from tutors and that they will be expected to do original research, likely using quantitative techniques.</p>
Understanding of what pursuing the programme entails	Applicants should demonstrate an understanding of the programme content and requirements, usually via the personal statement. Applicants should understand that the programme

	<p>teaches mind-brain relationships in health and disease, and not just the brain (i.e. it is not a neuroscience degree). Understanding that this is a taught masters degree with a focus on current cognitive neuroscience research as conducted in the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience and other research department and institutes at UCL. Students should expect that textbook-level knowledge will be assumed.</p>
Motivation to study the programme	<p>Evidence, usually via the personal statement, that the applicant's career plans are commensurate with the outcomes of the programme. For example, applicants may wish to pursue a PhD, a research career in industry or business, a clinical degree programme, an assistant psychologist position, a research assistant position, follow up a long-standing interest, and/or apply this knowledge in their current job. An understanding that the programme does not result in accreditation as a neuropsychologist or automatic progression into a clinical programme.</p>
Motivation to study at UCL	<p>Applicants should demonstrate an understanding of the advantages of studying cognitive neuroscience at UCL and a realization that UCL is one of the top universities in the world in this area.</p>
Any non-academic achievements	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p><b>Additional Selection</b></p>	
<p>The ASSP project aims to cease interviewing in all but exceptional cases. Programmes wishing to continue interviewing will need to justify why they are required.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the purpose of the interview?</li> <li>2. What form does it take?</li> <li>3. What is considered at interview?</li> <li>4. Who is interviewed?</li> <li>5. Who assesses the interviews?</li> </ol>	<p>Interviews are not normally part of the application process. Interviews may be conducted on rare occasions when information that is crucial for the final decision is either not available or unclear from the written application material. In those cases, candidates will initially be contacted via email and, if necessary, be offered a telephone/Skype interview with the Admissions Tutor or Programme Director to obtain the required information.</p>