

Inspiring the Next Generation of Neuroscientists

Students who come to Duke seeking an advanced degree related to Neuroscience find many different opportunities and fields of inquiry, from the most basic molecular and cellular research to big data and clinical applications of new knowledge. Flexibility is the key to Duke's Neuroscience graduate program, and the following DIBS programs ensure innovative experiences for our graduate students.

CNAP Emphasizes Interdisciplinary Education

The **Cognitive Neuroscience Admitting Program (CNAP)** is a unique program allowing Neuroscience graduate students to participate in an educational experience involving multiple departments, outstanding faculty/mentors, and colleagues. DIBS coordinates training and required courses for CNAP students and helps organize social, professional, and career-related events.

CNAP is tuition-free! One of the program's most popular features is that after two years of course work and laboratory rotations, students select both a primary department and two advisors with expertise in different sub-disciplines related to their area of interest. CNAP students also have access to Duke's outstanding environment for training and research, with fMRI, EEG laboratories, and extensive facilities for psychophysical studies in humans, as well as behavioral and physiological studies in non-human primates and rodents.



Mai-anh Vu, PhD, right, from the 2013 CNAP cohort, received her PhD in Neurobiology in May 2018. She is now a Postdoctoral Associate at Boston University.



“I came to grad school straight from undergrad, with little idea which subarea in cognitive neuroscience I wanted to specialize in. I found CNAP and it immediately became my first choice for grad school. I loved how interdisciplinary it was.”

–Natasha Parikh, PhD

2013 CNAP Student
& winner of the 2019 Dean's
Award for Excellence in
Teaching in Duke's Trinity
College of Arts & Sciences
Dr. Parikh is now a
Postdoctoral Teaching
Fellow at Harvard University

Summer 'Bootcamp' Provides Labs, Lectures—and Community

CNAP students also participate in summer “Boot Camp,” a two-week immersive lecture, discussion, and laboratory course for them and Neurobiology Graduate Program students, plus graduate students in allied programs. It provides neuroscience fundamentals; hands-on experience with common techniques used in cognitive neuroscience; and an introduction to a wide variety of Duke faculty and helpful resources for ensuring a successful graduate career. The program also gives the news students a chance to meet new colleagues as they adjust to life at Duke. (Below, the 2019 Bootcamp Cohort enjoys an evening out after class.)



DIBS Provides Career Info, Connections

Graduate-level work can be isolating, especially for students who spend time in labs. DIBS supports Graduate Student and Postdoc Consortia that bring together learners to discuss the research process; hear a career presentation from a Duke alumnus (pictured), participate in stress-management activities, or just get together. The students themselves requested

the additional support; they now organize the speakers, while DIBS provides meeting space and logistics help. They also have created and Supported two subgroups:



“Works-in-Progress” seminars, in which graduate students and postdocs are able to present their work to peers in a low-key, supportive environment; and PARTNeR (Postdocs and Residents Translating Neuroscience Research), which grew out of a desire for connection between Neuroscience postdoctoral trainees and resident physicians with a shared interest in brain function and mental health, with a goal of closing the gaps between bench science and the bedside.



Discovering the Brain!

DIBS hosts hundreds of visitors during our annual community event, Discovery Day. Graduate students such as Winston Liu, above, help out in the Brain Lab and at other exhibits, explaining the wonders of Neuroscience to learners of all ages. The 2019 event attracted 565 people.

Help DIBS Expand Graduate Student Opportunities!

Help us make it possible for more graduate and postdoctoral students to lead the next generation of Neuroscience research, education, and outreach. To support the exciting work at DIBS, please contact:

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