

UNIVERSITÀ DI PAVIA

Dipartimento di Biologia e Biotecnologie "Lazzaro Spallanzani"

DIDACTIC REGULATIONS

(art. 12 – Ministerial Decree 22 October 2004 n. 270)

MASTER'S DEGREE IN NEUROBIOLOGY Class LM-6 Biology

2025/2026 academic year cohort

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PART ONE – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Art. 1 – Denomination, class, place and duration

- 1. The Master's Degree Program in Neurobiology, activated by the University of Pavia's "L. Spallanzani" Department of Biology and Biotechnology, under LM-6 class of Masters degrees in Biology, as regulated by Ministerial Decree n. 1649, 19 December 2023.
- 2. The usual course duration is two years.

Art. 2 – Reference legislation

- 1. In compliance with freedom of teaching principles and the rights and obligations of teaching staff and students, the didactic organisation and development of the training activities foreseen for the Master's Degree Program in Neurobiology are governed by this text, by the Statute of the University of Pavia, the General University Regulations, the University Didactic Regulations, the Student career Regulations (Statuto e Regolamenti | Università di Pavia) and the Regulations of the "L. Spallanzani" Department of Biology and Biotechnology at the University of Pavia (Department of Biology and Biotechnology).
- 2. For that not expressly provided for in these Regulations, current provisions of the law apply.

Art. 3 – Organisation responsible for didactics and organisational co-ordination

- 1. In compliance with the competences and criteria established by the Regulations indicated in art. 2, as well as the provisions of the Regulations for the composition and functioning of the Didactic Councils, the competent body for the didactic and organisational coordination of the Master's Degree Program is the Didactic Council of Biological Sciences, hereinafter referred to as the Didactic Council, without prejudice to the competences of the "L. Spallanzani" Department of Biology and Biotechnology.
- 2. The head of the course of study's educational and organisational activities is assumed by a member of the teaching staff designated for this purpose by the Didactic Council, without prejudice to the collegiality of decisions and guidelines. The course manager is indicated by name in the Annual Study Programme form.
- 3. The management group AQ (Quality Control) is made up of a degree course (CdS) Coordinator, at least one student representative, at least one member of the technical-administrative (PTA) staff and one member of the course of study's teaching staff.

Art. 4 – Reference administrative services

The administrative support of the course of study is entrusted to the competent Student Administration Office and to the Didactics Office at the "L. Spallanzani" Department of Biology and Biotechnology.

The UOC Carriere Studenti, the UOC Immatricolazioni e informastudenti and the UOC Admission office will handle the information relating to the student's career (enrolment, transfers, etc.), Information available at the following links:

Bachelor's and Master's degree programs | Università di Pavia

Degree programs | Università di Pavia

The Orientation Center (C.OR.) manages activities and projects to help students select university courses, to support the student's university career and to facilitate their entry into the world of work. To this end, it organises group and individual initiatives, consultancy services and orientation meetings. The C.OR. website is: Orienta UniPV

PART TWO – ORGANISATION OF DIDACTIC ACTIVITIES

Art. 5 – Annual Study Programme form

1. The Annual Study Programme form can be consulted at: https://gestionedidattica.unipv.it/index.php/file/2025SUA08428.pdf

Art. 6 – Admission requirements

- 1. To be admitted onto the Master's degree course, students must hold a three-year university degree or diploma, or an equivalent qualification obtained abroad that is recognised as suitable by the competent University bodies.
- 2. In order to enrol onto the Master's degree course, students must also possess certain academic requirements and adequate personal qualities.
- 3. Graduates in class 1 (Biotechnology) and 12 (Biological Sciences) (Ministerial Decree 509), and in classes L-2 (Biotechnology) and L-13 (Biological Sciences) (Ministerial Decree 270) possess adequate academic requirements for enrolment onto the Master's degree course in Neurobiology.
- 4. In order to allow access to other highly trained graduates from courses not perfectly consistent with the required requirements, a different entry path and/or specific admission test may be envisaged. All students are also required to be able to use the English language fluently (level B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference for language knowledge) in written and oral form, even also with reference to disciplinary lexicons. Graduates from other classes will be required to have at least 30 CFUs in the SSD BIO / 06, BIO / 09, BIO / 11, BIO / 14 and BIO / 18 scientific areas.
- 5. No verification is required for access to the LM in Neurobiology for students who have graduated in class 1 (Biotechnology) and 12 (Biological Sciences) (Ministerial Decree 509), and in class L-2 (Biotechnology) and L-13 (Biological Sciences) (Ministerial Decree 270), with a mark of not less than 92/110.
- 6. In all other cases, an interview will be held in order to evaluate students' level of preparation.
- 7. Any additional educational obligations established during the assessment are assigned in the form of CFUs to be acquired in specific disciplinary sectors and/or by passing exams identified for the purpose. These must be passed by the end of February and, in any case, before enrolment.

Art. 7 – Didactics organisation

- 1. In accordance with current legislation, training activities that are part of the course of study result in the acquisition, by the students who take them, of university training credits (CFUs).
- 2. The average amount of overall learning carried out in a year by a student enrolled in full-time university studies is conventionally set at 60 CFUs.
- 3. Each CFU awarded in the course of study is equivalent to 25 hours of average commitment per student, of which at least 50% is reserved to personal study or other individual training activities (except in cases in which training activities involve a high degree of experimentation or practical content). For each CFU, the correspondence between the teaching hours provided for in the course of study and the hours reserved for individual study is as follows:
- a. for ex-cathedra lessons, 8 hours dedicated to lectures or equivalent teaching activities and 17 hours to individual study;
- b. in cases of laboratory teaching activities, seminars and exercises, 12 hours are dedicated to lectures and 13 hours dedicated to individual study.
- 4. Students acquire credits corresponding to each training activity by passing exams or following another form of verification of the preparation or skills acquired.
- 5. The acquired credits (CFU) are not considered subject to obsolescence during the student's career, regardless of its duration, except in cases of loss of student status or withdrawal. In such cases,

in the event of re-enrollment, the validation of the acquired credits is subordinated, among other things, to an assessment of their possible obsolescence by the Didactic Council (see art. 16 below). In well-motivated particular cases, the obsolescence of training credits related to specific educational activities may be deliberated by the Didactic Council. The resolution of obsolescence contains the indication of the modalities for the recovery of obsolete credits, establishing the possible supplementary tests that the student must take for this purpose.

- 6. For some of the teachings offered, such as the courses on soft skills and the Sustainable Development Goals SDG, as per the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations: by passing the exam, in addition to the registration of the related credits (CFU), an open badge can be envisaged, a digital certificate as a proof of knowledge, competencies and abilities gained during the course. The certificate will be issued automatically after the registration of the exam and will be sent to the student's University of Pavia email address.
- 7. Teaching is organised across two semesters:

October - January

March - June

8. Examination sessions are scheduled in the following periods:

January 15th – end of February June 15th – end of July September 1st – end of September 6 sessions are timetabled.

- 9. There are at least two exam sessions, outside the sessions referred to in point 7, reserved for students who have already completed the second year of the course of study.
- 10. For student-athletes competing in disciplines recognised by the Italian National Olympic Committee or by the Italian Paralympic Committee, extraordinary exam sessions may be set at the request of the interested parties. These substitute those scheduled if they coincide with sporting commitments at a national level. Sporting commitments resulting in failure to participate in ordinary exam sessions must be documented to the President of the Didactics Council who will proceed, in agreement with teaching staff, to organise an extraordinary exam session.
- 11. The calendars of lectures, exams and graduation sessions are published respecting Ministerial deadlines, as reported in the Annual Study Programme form.
- 12. At least 8 graduation sessions are scheduled per calendar year.

Art. 8 – Study plans

- 1. Information relating to the study plan can be consulted at the following link <u>Study and exams</u> | Università di Pavia
- 2. Standard study plans are approved *ex officio*, i.e. they comply with the rules indicated in Attachment 1 of these Regulations, except for the training activities referred to in letter a), paragraph 5 of art. 10 of Ministerial Decree dated 22 October 2004 n. 270, chosen independently by the student from the activities offered by the University, for which the Academic Board assesses the consistency with the training project, also taking into account the adequacy of any reasons given by the student.
- 3. Students who intend to follow a training path other than that envisaged by these Regulations may submit, in compliance with the constraints envisaged by the degree class declaration and by the didactic organisation of the course, an individual study plan within the terms established annually by the University.

The individual study plan must be approved by the Didactics Council. The council will take into account the student's cultural training and professional preparation and may suggest changes be made in order to bring the training path in line with the specific training objectives of the course of study.

- 4. There are no study plans envisaged for part-time enrolled students.
- 5. In addition to the courses necessary for the graduation, it is possible to include a maximum of 24 credits (CFU) of extra learning activities to the study plan per academic year, except for the medical area courses of nationally restricted access and the psychology area courses, as long as the course propaedeutic rules are followed.

6. European Union (EU), equivalent and non-EU students with qualifications obtained abroad will be required to follow an Italian language course for foreigners (3 credits) as part of the additional language skills of the TAF F.

The following students are exempt:

- 1) students who have been awarded a secondary school qualification or a level I degree in Italian in Italy;
- 2) students who have been awarded an Italian school qualification abroad;
- 3) students who hold at least a level B1 Italian language certification.

Italian students and foreigners referred to points 1), 2) and 3), will cover the 3 credits of the aforementioned TAF with the "Other activities" training activity.

Art. 9 – Double degree programmes

1. There are no agreements or programmes finalised at the attainment of a double degree.

Art. 10 – Compulsory attendance and preparatory courses

- 1. Attendance of lectures is not mandatory but it is highly recommended. Students must attend no less than 75% of practical exercises.
- 2. The prerequisites between the courses are:
- "Membrane biophysics and electrophysiology" is preparatory for "Cellular and advanced systemic neurophysiology"
- "Human neuroanatomy" is preparatory for "Neurobiology of brain disorders".
- "Neurochemistry, neuropharmacology and neurogenetics" is preparatory for "Neuropsycopharmacology".

Students will not be able to take the exam with a prerequisite until they have passed the preparatory exam. The placement of the courses in particular course years, and in the respective semesters, is compatible with the prerequisites.

Art. 11 – Students' elective activities

- 1. In the study plan of students enrolled in the Master's degree course, the inclusion of 9 elective course credits is allowed (referred to in Article 10, paragraph 5.a, Ministerial Decree 270/2004 so-called "TAF D"). Students will be able to choose between the courses offered by the University and the Academic Board may reserve the right to assess whether these courses are consistent with the educational objectives of the Master's degree course. If the choice is made from the courses in the appropriate list in Attachment 1, the consistency with the Degree course is recognized *ex officio*.
- 2. It is allowed to include, among the freely chosen activities, courses belonging to the educational offer of the three-year and master's degree courses, with the exception of those pertaining to the educational offer of the medical and health area with national planning and the psychology area. The student will not be able to choose courses already taken during previous university attendance, unless they have obtained specific validations of the same.
- 3. Students are allowed to include in the study plans, as elective courses, courses taught at the University colleges if accredited by the University on the basis of art. 27 of the University Didactic Regulations.
- 5. According to recent ministerial decrees, among elective activities, students are allowed to choose at least 3 courses in Italian. These courses can be selected in the frame of the didactic teaching of the university or specifically set up courses.

Art. 12 – Internships and work placements

- 1. No curricular internships are envisaged.
- 2. It is possible to recognise extra-curricular internships within training course credits as "Elective choice" or "Extra" credits. This recognition is subject to the evaluation of the Didactic Council which will establish the credits to be accredited for the activity.

Art. 13 – Exams and final mark

- 1. The course of study cannot include more than 12 exams or final marks.
- 2. The counting of the exams or final marks includes the characterizing, cognate, or elective educational activities chosen by the student. The final exams or final marks related to the latter activities count as one unit (even if the credits assigned entail several exams or final marks). The group of educational activities referred to in letters c) and d) of paragraph 5 of Art. 10 of Ministerial Decree 270/2004 does not count toward the maximum ceiling of exams or final marks; the tests provided for these activities must not exceed 5, including the final exam for obtaining the degree.
- 3. The exams are given in oral and / or written form.
- 4. The student will not be able to take the exam associated with a required course until he or she has passed the prerequisite exam for that course. The placement of the courses during the course years and within the respective semesters must be compatible with the prerequisite courses.
- 5. The exams involve an evaluation expressed in thirtieths and reported in a special register. The academic credits are awarded if the evaluation is equal to or greater than 18/30. In case of a maximum evaluation of 30/30, *cum laude* can be added to the mark. An assessment of insufficiency is not accompanied by a mark, and any annotation in the register, which can be used for statistical purposes, is not reported in the student's academic record. Based on the art. 30, comma 1 of the Students' Careers Regulation, it is necessary to register the evaluation of the exam even when it is negative.
- 6. In the case of written tests, the student may withdraw at any time during the entire duration of the exam. In the case of oral exams, the student is allowed to withdraw up until the time the final mark is given.
- 7. The student's decision not to accept a grade equal to or greater than 18/30 is irrevocable.
- 8. The student cannot take more than two exams during the same exam session.
- 9. Students may not repeat an exam that has already been passed to get a higher mark.
- 10. The evaluation of the activities referred to in points (a) and (b) below shall be expressed as follows:
- a) Laboratory activities included among the "elective" courses: declaration by the teacher in charge of the laboratory course in the form of a "Pass" or "Fail" mark.
- b) Additional knowledge: statement from the thesis supervisor that includes an evaluation expressed as "Approved" or "Not approved".

Art. 14 – Final exam and awarding of the degree

- 1. The degree is awarded after passing a final exam, which verifies the achievement of the education objectives of the course of study.
- 2. It is mandatory to carry out an experimental activity under the guidance of a University of Pavia teacher.
- 3. The average considered, for the purpose of the final average of grades on exams and activities in the student's transcript, is the weighted average; rounding is mathematical.

Excluded from the calculation of the final average are: extra activities, activities with no final grade and educational debts. A grade of 30/30 cum laude counts as 30 for the purpose of the average.

The final exam, to which 24 credits are attributed, consists in the writing and discussion by the student of a thesis containing original data under the guidance of a supervisor and, possibly, one or two cosupervisors. The thesis is then discussed in public session before a special Commission appointed by

the Director of the Department. The final mark for the thesis is determined jointly by the Commission, with a maximum mark of 110. The sum of the marks available to the Commission may not exceed 8 points. This sum is added to the curricular mark calculated as a weighted average based on the number of credits and the marks from the final exams of the curriculum, with a maximum mark of 110. If the final mark is 110, *cum laude* may be requested, which must be granted unanimously.

- 4. The final thesis must be written and discussed in English. It is therefore necessary to meet the following conditions:
- a) an "abstract" written in Italian and summarizing the content of the thesis must be attached
- b) the title must be written both in English and Italian.

PART THREE- PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE STUDENTS' ACADEMIC CAREER

Art. 15 - Criteria for the recognition of duly certified extra-scholastic knowledge and skills

- 1. Any recognition of credits acquired by the student in the ways foreseen by the D.I. 931, 4 July 2024, for the types set forth in paragraphs 2) and 3) below, must be approved by the Didactic Council. Recognition is carried out exclusively based on the student's individual knowledge and skills; any form of collective recognition is excluded.
- 2. The Didactic Council, considering the need for cultural training and professional preparation, may validate duly certified knowledge and skills for a maximum number of 24 credits, entailing:
- a. professional knowledge and skills, individually certified in accordance with current legislation on the subject, not to exceed 6 credits;
- b. knowledge and skills gained in post-secondary level training activities that have been designed by a university, for a maximum of 12 credits;
- 3. At the request of the student and based on the criteria and procedures established by the Academic Senate, the following activities, up to a maximum of 12 credits, may also be recognized as university credits within the category of elective activities of the study plan (TAF D) or other activities:
- a) sport practiced at the Olympic, world, and European level, up to a maximum of 6 credits;
- b) sport practiced at the national level in Italy and intermediate categories, up to a maximum of 3 credits;
- c) activities for which a medal was awarded at the University Championships as well as the performance of competitive activities for the CUS Pavia sections, also as regards competitions at the regional and national levels, up to a maximum of 6 credits.

Art. 16 – Criteria for the recognition of acquired credits

- 1. Pursuant to Article 46 of the University Didactic Regulations, in the event of a transfer from other courses of study of the same class or of different classes, the recognition of the students' academic record, as well as the possible validation of any educational credits, is subject to approval by the Didactic Council.
- 2. The validation of the credits must be approved by the Didactic Council on a case-by-case basis following an investigation by one or more teachers delegated to this task by the Council itself. The type and number of credits deemed to be valid are established based on criteria of disciplinary relevance and taking into account the contribution of the training activity to be recognized at the completion of the didactic objectives of the Master's Degree Program, its specific contents and their obsolescence, but also the dedicated time required. To this end, the application for recognition must be accompanied by official documentation; the teachers appointed to validate such recognition can undertake further checks deemed appropriate.

- 3. Pursuant to Article 48 of the University Didactic Regulations, the recognition of educational activities carried out at foreign universities must be approved by the Didactic Council.
- The recognition of educational credits acquired in relation to educational activities and exams taken at accredited foreign universities is evaluated on a case-by-case basis following an investigation conducted by one or more teachers delegated to this task by the Council itself.
- 4. Academic qualifications obtained at foreign universities can be declared equivalent to corresponding ones issued by the University of Pavia based on specific provisions contained in international conventions. In the absence of such conventions, the Department may approve, on the proposal of the Didactic Council regarding the congruence of the courses followed, the full equivalence of the qualification obtained.

Art. 17 – Criteria for the recognition of educational activities undertaken while studying at a foreign university

- 1. Students enrolled in this Master's Degree may carry out part of their studies at universities in Italy or abroad with which conventions or agreements (Erasmus programs, or other exchange programs) have been stipulated.
- 2. Study periods abroad normally have a duration of between 3 and 10 months extendable, where necessary, up to a maximum of 12 months. Study periods at other affiliated Italian universities have a minimum duration of 3 months up to a maximum of 6 months. The study plan to be carried out at the host university, valid for university career purposes, and the number of credits that can be acquired must be appropriate to the duration.
- 3. Study opportunities abroad or at Italian universities are made known to students through specific calls for application containing, among other things, the participation requirements and selection criteria. Selected students may be granted financial contributions or other benefits as provided by the mobility programs and exchange agreements. A mobility grant is generally awarded in the case of exchanges carried out within the framework of the Erasmus community program or in the case of the Italian Erasmus national mobility program (the conditions are stated on the related call for application).
- 4. During the mobility period, students may carry out the following activities, in accordance with the provisions of the relevant call for applications:
- a) attend courses and take the corresponding exams;
- b) carry out research activities in preparation for the thesis.
- 5. In defining the training project, in agreement with the teachers of the disciplines involved, the students must indicate the activities they intend to undertake abroad (or at the affiliated Italian university in the case of Italian Erasmus) and which correspond to those included in their study plan. Before departure, students must present the Learning Agreement (document containing the list of learning activities to be taken during the mobility period with the corresponding credits) which must be agreed and signed between the student, the delegate for International Mobility and the host university.
- 6. At the end of the study period, on the basis of the certification of the learning activities carried out "Transcript of records" (issued by the foreign or Italian host university), the Didactic Council/Department will decide on the recognition of the exams taken abroad or at the Italian host university (if relevant to the educational pathway), awarding the related CFUs.
- 7. The University of Pavia ensures full recognition of learning activities carried out during the mobility period if they meet the latest approved Learning Agreement.
- 8. If the recognized learning activities are not included in the students' last approved study plan, the students must revise the study plan according to the indications provided by the Didactic Council/Department.

9. Students who have completed a period of mobility and who request validation of the activities incurred abroad or at another affiliated university will not be admitted to the degree final exam if in default of the validation resolution.

Art. 18 – Admission to subsequent years

There are no conditions that affect registration in subsequent years.

Art. 19 – Certifications

There is no provision for the recognition of any certifications.

UNIVERSITY OF PAVIA – 'LAZZARO SPALLANZANI' DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

Study Plan, Master's degree in Neurobiology - Cohort 2025-26

LM-6 – Category of Master's degree in Biology

YEAR I (51 CREDITS)

COURSE	CREDITS	SEMESTER	SSD	TAF
Comparative neurodevelopment and neural stem cells	6	I	BIO/06	Characterising
Membrane biophysics and electrophysiology	9	I	BIO/09	Characterising
Human neuroanatomy	6	I	BIO/16	Characterising
Cellular and advanced systemic neurophysiology	9	II	BIO/09	Characterising
Cellular neurobiology and advanced methods in neuroscience (Integrated AF broken down into modules): - Mod. 1: Cellular Neurobiology - Mod.2 Advanced Methods in Neuroscience	9	II	3 CFU BIO/06 6 CFU BIO/18	Cognate Characterising
Neurochemistry, neuropharmacology and neurogenetics	9	II	BIO/14	Characterising
Other activities or Italian Language for Foreign Students	3	II		Other

YEAR II (69 CREDITS)

COURSE	CREDITS	SEMESTER	SSD	TAF
Computational neuroscience	6	I	BIO/09	Characterising
Neurobiology of brain disorders	9	I	MED/26	Cognate
Neuroimmunology and molecular neurobiology	9	6 credits - I + 3 credits - II	BIO/06	Characterising
Student must add in the study plan 9 elective credits (TAF D) choosing from: - 3 lab courses of 3 credits each - a 9 credits lab course - a 9 credits course - a 6 credits course + a 3 credits lab course.	9	I/II		Elective

The elective courses can be chosen				
from the ones listed below* or				
from the University of Pavia entire				
offering. Below is also a list of lab				
options offered by the Master's				
degree				
Neuropsycopharmacology	6	II	BIO/14	Characterising
Neural basis of behaviour and neuropsychology	6	II	M-PSI/02	Cognate
Final exam	24	II		Final exam

LIST OF 9 CREDITS LAB COURSES

COURSE	CREDITS	SEMESTER	SSD	TAF
Laboratory of Zoology	9	I	BIO/05	Elective
Laboratory of Comparative Anatomy and Cytology	9	I	BIO/06	Elective
Laboratory of Physiology	9	I	BIO/09	Elective
Laboratory of Biochemistry	9	I	BIO/10	Elective
Laboratory of Molecular Biology	9	I	BIO/11	Elective
Laboratory of Pharmacology	9	I	BIO/14	Elective
Laboratory of Genetics	9	I	BIO/18	Elective
Laboratory of Microbiology	9	I	BIO/19	Elective
Laboratory of General Pathology	9	I	MED/04	Elective
Laboratory of Immunology	9	I	MED/04	Elective
Laboratory of Bioinformatics	9	I	BIO/11	Elective

LIST OF 3 CREDITS LAB COURSES

COURSE	CREDITS	SEMESTER	SSD	TAF
Laboratory of Zoology	3	I	BIO/05	Elective
Laboratory of Comparative Anatomy and Cytology	3	I	BIO/06	Elective
Laboratory of Physiology	3	I	BIO/09	Elective
Laboratory of Biochemistry	3	I	BIO/10	Elective
Laboratory of Molecular Biology	3	I	BIO/11	Elective
Laboratory of Pharmacology	3	Ι	BIO/14	Elective
Laboratory of Genetics	3	Ι	BIO/18	Elective
Laboratory of Microbiology	3	Ι	BIO/19	Elective
Laboratory of General Pathology	3	Ι	MED/04	Elective
Laboratory of Immunology	3	I	MED/04	Elective
Laboratory of Bioinformatics	3	I	BIO/11	Elective

*Suggested free choice courses:

- Advanced microscopy (BIO/06 6 CFU)
- Statistics and big data analysis (BIO/11- 9 CFU)
- Bioinformatics (ING-INF/06 6 CFU)
- Radiation Biophysics and Radiobiology (MED/36 6CFU)
- Data science in everyday practice (BIO/11 3 CFU)
- Global Health One Health (VET/06 3 CFU)

Alternatively, students can choose between courses taught at the University of Pavia, except the medical and health areas courses with nationally restricted access and the psychology area courses.