



uOttawa

Université d'Ottawa

Faculté des études supérieures
et postdoctorales

Cabinet du doyen

University of Ottawa

Faculty of Graduate and
Postdoctoral Studies

Office of the Dean

DEMANDE AU SÉNAT

2013-GAO-46

La Faculté des études supérieures et postdoctorales prie le Sénat de l'Université de bien vouloir approuver la demande ci-jointe :

Sujet : Résumé de l'évaluation périodique 2011-2012 des programmes de M.Sc./Ph.D. en neurosciences

Demande approuvée :

- Comité d'évaluation des programmes de la FÉSP, le 26 juin 2013

Ross Hastings
Doyen FÉSP

Le 10 septembre 2013

**Résumé de l'évaluation périodique 2011-2012 des programmes de maîtrise et de doctorat
en neuroscience
Présenté par le Comité d'évaluation des programmes d'études supérieures
Le 26 juin 2013**

Programme	Neuroscience
Grades	Maîtrise ès sciences (M.Sc.) en neuroscience Doctorat (Ph.D.) en neurosciences
Spécialisations	Psychiatrie cellulaire et moléculaire Neuroscience des systèmes Neuroscience cellulaire et moléculaire
Visite des évaluateurs	Les 23 et 24 janvier 2013
Évaluation finale	Programmes de bonne qualité

Les programmes d'études supérieures en neuroscience présentent des forces singulières en recherche translationnelle en raison de l'intégration des activités de recherche et d'enseignement à la pratique clinique de la médecine. Les évaluateurs externes ont souligné non seulement ces forces, mais aussi le degré d'excellence des professeurs qui enseignent et qui supervisent des étudiants en neuroscience. Le Comité d'évaluation des programmes d'études supérieures observe que, même si la formation est dispensée dans plusieurs lieux différents, les étudiants se sentent en général bien appuyés par leurs superviseurs, et ils ne cessent de faire l'éloge du grand esprit de collégialité dont sont empreintes leurs relations avec les professeurs. Les étudiants sont supervisés aussi bien par des professeurs réguliers que par des professeurs auxiliaires travaillant dans les instituts de recherche affiliés à l'Université d'Ottawa.

En dépit de ces forces, les évaluateurs ont soulevé trois points. D'abord, ils mettent en doute la pertinence des trois spécialisations, la neuroscience étant considérée comme un vaste domaine de recherche interdisciplinaire. En outre, le fonctionnement des comités de direction de thèse n'est pas très clair aux dires des étudiants, en particulier les procédures et les attentes relatives à l'examen de synthèse et aux rencontres annuelles avec le comité — point particulièrement important compte tenu de la dispersion géographique susmentionnée. Enfin, les évaluateurs ont relevé l'absence d'un plan mûrement réfléchi pour le recrutement d'étudiants. La nature interdisciplinaire des programmes et l'absence d'un programme de premier cycle en neuroscience font en sorte qu'il est difficile de recruter des étudiants. Il faudrait des services d'orientation et de mentorat professionnels à l'échelle du programme pour rassurer les étudiants à l'égard des perspectives d'emploi. La direction du programme a indiqué qu'elle envisageait déjà de donner suite aux préoccupations des évaluateurs.

Recommandations

- 1) Reconsidérer les trois spécialisations afin de présenter le programme plutôt comme un programme interdisciplinaire qui englobe un large éventail de champs de recherche.
- 2) Élaborer un plan de recrutement qui mise sur les forces du programme, en particulier l'intégration des activités de recherche et d'enseignement à la pratique clinique et l'extraordinaire esprit de collégialité entre les étudiants et les professeurs.
- 3) Clarifier les procédures et les attentes relatives à la supervision des thèses, au fonctionnement des comités de direction de thèse et aux examens de synthèse (doctorat), et les communiquer de façon systématique aussi bien aux professeurs qu'aux étudiants.
- 4) Offrir des ateliers de développement de carrière aux étudiants du programme, et prendre aussi des mesures pour que les étudiants de la Faculté de médecine et de la Faculté des études supérieures et postdoctorales soient au courant de ce genre d'activités.
- 5) Suivre de près les taux d'achèvement enregistrés à la maîtrise et au doctorat ainsi que les délais d'achèvement au doctorat.

Calendrier et dates limites

La prochaine évaluation périodique doit être réalisée d'ici le 1^{er} juillet 2019. Les cinq recommandations devront y être étudiées.

Autorités

Le directeur des programmes d'études supérieures en neurosciences, le directeur du Département de médecine cellulaire et moléculaire et le vice-doyen aux études supérieures de la Faculté de médecine ont la responsabilité de donner suite à ces recommandations.

**Executive Summary of the 2011-12 Cyclical Review of the Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Programs in Neuroscience
Submitted by the Graduate Program Evaluation Committee
June 26, 2013**

Program	Neuroscience
Degrees	Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Neuroscience
Fields	1. Cellular and Molecular Psychiatry 2. Systems Neuroscience 3. Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience
Date of evaluators' visit	January 23-24, 2013
Final rating	Good quality

The graduate programs in neuroscience have unique strengths in translational research arising from the close integration of its research and teaching with the clinical practice of medicine. The external evaluators underlined not only this strength but also the excellent quality of the professors who teach and supervise in the programs. The Graduate Program Evaluation Committee observed that even though students in the neuroscience programs are at different sites, these students generally feel well supported by their supervisors and repeatedly commented on the high degree of collegiality they enjoy with their professors. Students are supervised by both regular and adjunct professors, with the latter working in the research institutes affiliated with the University of Ottawa.

Notwithstanding the strengths of the programs, the review nonetheless identified three areas for improvement. The first area involves the current fields of study. External evaluators questioned the relevance of the three existing fields, noting that neuroscience is currently understood as a broad interdisciplinary area of research. The second element is related to thesis advisory committees. Students reported being confused about how the thesis advisory committees function, especially related to processes, expectations for the comprehensive examination as well as the yearly meetings with the advisory committee. These elements are especially important given the physical separation of the student population across different sites. The third area for improvement involves developing a well thought out plan for attracting and recruiting students. The ability to recruit students is hampered by both the interdisciplinary nature of the programs and the lack of an undergraduate program in neuroscience. Career mentoring and guidance at the program level are needed to help address student anxiety about an uncertain job market. Program administration has indicated that it is already considering making appropriate changes as a result of the concerns raised by the evaluators.

Recommendations

- 1) The three fields the programs offer should be revised with a view to promoting neuroscience as an interdisciplinary program within a broad continuum of research activity.
- 2) A recruitment plan should be developed that builds on the strengths of the programs, especially the integration of research and teaching with clinical practice and the extraordinary level of collegiality students enjoy with professors.
- 3) Clear procedures and expectations should be developed on thesis supervision, the functioning of thesis advisory committees and PhD comprehensive examinations and communicated on an ongoing basis to both professors and students.
- 4) There should be greater emphasis at the program level on providing students with career development workshops. Steps should be taken to make students more aware of such activities within the Faculty of Medicine and at FGPS.

- 5) Ongoing attention must be given to completion rates in both the MSc and the PhD programs and to PhD students' time-to-completion rates.

Calendar and deadlines

The next cyclical review must be completed by July 1, 2019. The five recommendations above are to be addressed in the next review.

Authority

The director of graduate studies for the neuroscience programs, the chair of the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine and the vice-dean of graduate studies at the Faculty of Medicine are responsible for following up on these recommendations.



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Rapport final d'évaluation / Final Assessment Report

**Évaluation périodique des programmes d'études supérieures
en Neurosciences en 2011-2012 /
2011-12 Cyclical Review of the Graduate Programs in Neuroscience**

Comité d'évaluation des programmes d'études supérieures /
Graduate Programs Evaluation Committee
Faculté des études supérieures et postdoctorales /
Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Soumis au / Submitted to the

Sénat de l'Université d'Ottawa /
Senate of the University of Ottawa

26 juin 2013 / June 26, 2013

Recommendation of the FGPS Graduate Program Evaluation Committee :

Good Quality

Programmes évalués / Programs Reviewed

- Maîtrise ès sciences et doctorat en neuroscience / Master of Science and PhD in Neuroscience

Champs /Fields

1. Cellular and Molecular Psychiatry/Psychiatrie cellulaire et moléculaire: This field addresses the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying mental illness.
2. Systems Neuroscience/Neuroscience des systèmes: This field addresses model systems for network behavior in neuronal systems.
3. Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience/Neuroscience cellulaire et moléculaire: This field addresses the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying neurological conditions including stroke, Parkinson's disease, developmental disorders.

Processus d'évaluation / Evaluation Process

Le présent rapport synthèse de l'évaluation des programmes ci-haut mentionnés a été rédigé à partir des documents suivants :

- (a) le rapport d'auto-évaluation produit par l'unité scolaire,
 - Volume 1: Les programmes
 - Volume 2: Curricula Vita
 - Volume 3: Évaluateurs externes
- (b) le rapport des deux évaluateurs externes rédigé à la suite de leur visite sur le campus,
- (c) le rapport de l'évaluateur interne,
- (d) la réponse de l'unité

The Graduate Program Evaluation Committee first examined the draft of the Self-Study, Volumes 1, 2, and 3 at its meeting of September 11, 2012. Comments were passed on to the unit and the revised report was examined by the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies before it was sent to the consultants.

La visite des évaluateurs externes, accompagnés de l'évaluateur interne, a été menée les 23 et 24 janvier 2013.

Évaluateurs externes

- 1) Professeur Ellis Cooper, Université McGill
- 2) Professeure Joséphine Nalbantoglu, Université McGill

Évaluateur interne :

Professeur Christopher Boddy, Département de chimie, Université d'Ottawa

Forces des programmes / Strengths of Programs

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Les possibilités d'améliorations / Possibilities for Improvements

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