MSc vs. MRes in Cognitive Neuroscience

The MSc (“Master in Science”) and MRes (“Master in Research”) programmes are both taught over one academic year and are offered on a full-time study basis. The tuition fees are identical.

During the MSc, you will spend two-thirds of your time on taught components, learning in the classroom. The remaining one-third of your time is allocated to an empirical research project in the area of cognitive neuroscience. The MRes programme has a stronger research focus, with two-thirds of your time spent on an empirical research project and only one-thirds of your time spent in the classroom. You are expected to be able to engage in the MRes project relatively independently and MRes students therefore normally already have experience executing research in a relevant area. The MRes is not designed to teach you how to do research (although you will of course improve your research skills when embarking on the MRes).

The MSc and MRes are modularised degree programmes that follow current UK teaching guidelines. The programmes are worth 180 UCL credits (corresponding to 1800 learning hours), which is equivalent to 72 European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) credits.

The MSc programme includes eight taught modules (each worth 15 UCL or 6 ECTS credits), all of which are compulsory. The research project is worth 60 UCL or 24 ECTS credits. The MRes programme consists of four taught modules, two of which are compulsory and two of which can be chosen according to your interests. Each taught module is worth 15 UCL or 6 ECTS credits and the research project is worth 120 UCL or 48 ECTS credits. Each element of the programmes will be assessed with a variety of methods (exams, essays, critical analysis, written reports, narrated scientific poster, popular science article, film, dissertation).

Taught Modules

- **MSc** students take all of the modules below except “Designing and Analysing fMRI Experiments”.
- **MRes** student take both core modules and one module from Group 1 and one module from Group 2.

**Compulsory Core Modules**

- Generic Research Skills – Statistics (PSYCGR01)
- Communication Skills in Cognitive Neuroscience (PSYCGC13)

**Group 1: Methods-Oriented Modules**

- Structure and Function of the Brain (PSYCGC14)
- Methods in Cognitive Neuroscience I: Lesion Approaches (PSYCGC15)
- Methods in Cognitive Neuroscience II: Neuroimaging (PSYCGC11)
- Designing and Analysing fMRI Experiments (PSYCGC20; **MRes ONLY and subject to availability**)

**Group 2: Topic-Oriented Modules**

- Current issues in Cognitive Neuroscience I: Fundamental Processes (PSYCGC10)
- Current issues in Cognitive Neuroscience II: Elaborative and Adaptive Processes (PSYCGC08)
- Current issues in Cognitive Neuroscience III: Translational Research (PSYCGC09)
Research Project

Students can choose from a list of available projects or approach potential supervisors themselves. MRes students are encouraged to start their research project as soon as possible after the start of the programme. Applicants for the MRes should therefore have some prior research experience and a clear idea of their research interests. MSc students usually secure a project by the end of the first term and start working on the project from the second term onwards. MSc students are not required to have a project idea when they start the programme.