

2017 Academic Program Review Summary

Neuroscience Graduate Program

The Neuroscience Graduate Program (NGP) underwent an external review with a site visit on February 6 and 7, 2017. Because of the unique multidisciplinary nature of the NGP, responses to the Academic Program Review were provided by not only the Head of the Division of Medical Sciences, but also by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

The reviewers noted that the field of neuroscience is growing and thriving in Canada, and UVic's new multidisciplinary Neuroscience Graduate Program is well positioned to contribute to and grow with it. Listed among the program's major strengths were enthusiastic and dedicated faculty from both the Island Medical Program and across campus, very strong student support with growing enrolment, high quality researchers, supervisors and staff, impressive teaching and research infrastructures, and excellent student outcomes. The program is linked through the Island Medical Program to the community. The Head of the Division was commended as effective and dedicated, and the students have self-organized and are proactive in contributing to the program's future. Recommendations fell into 5 broad categories;

1. Rewrite the program's course calendar so that students have a clear and certain understanding of the program requirements and processes.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies Graduate Supervision Policy (GSP) approved by the FGS Council in February of 2017 includes recommended handbook content and a template which all academic units will have adopted by July 1, 2018.

2. Review of processes and conduct of graduate supervision.
3. Solidify governance of the program by creating functional terms of reference for the Neuroscience Graduate Program Committee (NGPC). The position of Director will be phased out, and the graduate advisor and academic unit Head will provide leadership for the program in accordance to the GSP.
4. Invite greater student input into the program.

The program has an extremely high quality, organized and engaged student group, the Neuroscience Graduate Student's Association (NGSA). To further involve them in influencing the future of the program they will have voting representation on the NGPC. A retreat, inclusive of all stakeholders, was planned for October 2017 to craft a mission statement and program objectives. The Head of the Department has begun meeting regularly with the NGSA executive.

5. Ensure the sustainability of the program through academic resource planning. The Faculty of Graduate Studies is implementing an enrolment-based allocation model that will include the NGP as a full participant for funding for Fellowships, Scholarships and Awards.