



NAD Fellowship Programme

Neuroscience Academy Denmark (NAD) offers 16 fully funded PhD fellowships per year to exceptional and highly motivated candidates pursuing a career in neuroscience research. NAD is funded by the Lundbeck Foundation and is a nationally concerted effort involving the neuroscience research environments of Aalborg University, Aarhus University, University of Copenhagen, and the University of Southern Denmark. The neuroscience research environments based at the University hospitals and the Technical University of Denmark are also active partners of NAD.

The NAD programme runs over 4 years and consists of 1 pre-PhD year followed by a 3-year PhD project.

Key features

- 3x10 week lab rotations in excellent neuroscience labs across Denmark (200+ labs to choose from) during the pre-PhD year
- Specialised neuroscience courses and workshops
- Retreats and networking events
- The opportunity to design your own PhD project in close collaboration with your PhD supervisor(s)
- 3 years of PhD studies in a research lab that fits your interests

Application deadline is **11 August 2023 at 4 pm (CEST)**.

Read more about the programme below.



Programme Presentation

The pre-PhD year

The pre-PhD year runs from 1 January to 31 December 2024. The purpose of the pre-PhD year is to prepare you for doing an excellent PhD project in neuroscience by providing you with the opportunity to work in a variety of first-rate neuroscience labs, attend basic and advanced neuroscience courses and establish a strong scientific network. You will be introduced to various techniques and methodological approaches that you can use in the formulation of your PhD project.

In the course of the pre-PhD year, you must complete 3 laboratory rotations in 3 different NAD labs within basic and/or clinical neuroscience. Each lab rotation lasts 10 weeks. More than 200 labs across Denmark are affiliated with NAD, which means that there are many opportunities to find laboratories that are relevant to your specific field of interest.

To get an overview of labs and potential supervisors, [click here](#). You will plan your lab rotations in close collaboration with the NAD Executive Office.

During each lab rotation, you will be introduced to the lab's primary research focus areas and techniques. You will also participate in lab research activities, journal clubs etc. Immediately after each lab rotation, you must prepare a report and a presentation of your lab experience that you will present to your fellow NAD fellows.

The intention behind doing 3 lab rotations in 3 different labs across Denmark is to give all NAD fellows an opportunity to try new research environments before deciding on a PhD laboratory. Thus, you will get the chance to expand your neuroscience research network, get familiar with new techniques and methodologies and also to experience and develop new collaborations. Terms are: If you have already done your bachelor's or master's thesis or if you have had a paid job in a laboratory, you cannot choose this laboratory for any of your lab rotations. There is no such restriction in regard to choosing your PhD laboratory.

It is a clear expectation from NAD that you will put together a meaningful and relevant pre-PhD year in order for you to get the most out of this opportunity.

In parallel with the lab rotations, you will participate in neuroscience courses and workshops offered by NAD. Also, you will participate in NAD retreats and networking events. Half-way through your third and final lab rotation, you must have identified your preferred NAD lab/supervisor and co-supervisor for your PhD project. In collaboration with your supervisors, you will then formulate a PhD project proposal and a PhD study plan which will have to be approved by NAD's Executive Office as well as NAD's Scientific Board. After approval, you must submit an application for enrolment with the Graduate School at your host university.

In 2024, the 3 lab rotation periods are as follows:

1. 1 January – 10 March
2. 11 March – 19 May
3. 20 May – 28 July

From 29 July to 31 December, you will be affiliated with your PhD laboratory. In this period, you will write your PhD proposal.



Conditions for proceeding from the pre-PhD year to a 3-year PhD project

NAD's Executive Office and NAD's Scientific Board will evaluate if you have completed the pre-PhD year satisfactorily based on the following criteria:

- Attendance and active participation in lab rotations – including lab work and completion of all three lab rotations. It is a requirement and a clear expectation from NAD that you are physically present in the laboratories that you choose for your lab rotations.
- Attendance and active participation in all courses, meetings, and assessments of own and fellow NAD PhD fellows
- Approved lab reports and presentations
- Approved PhD research plan by NAD Scientific Board
- Enrolment at the Graduate School of your host institution

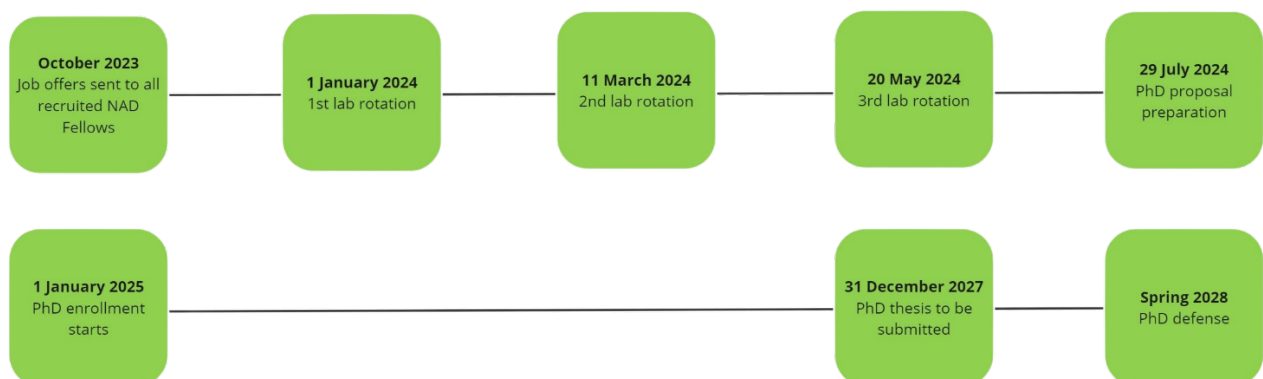
The PhD project

Your enrolment and employment as a PhD student run in the period from 1 January 2025 up to and including 31 December 2027. During your 3 years as a PhD student, you must carry out your PhD research project, be actively involved in your research lab and take courses offered by your graduate school corresponding to 30 ECTS. In parallel, NAD will also offer several activities and events that we expect you to join. Here, you will get the chance to network with other PhD students, postdocs and scientists from the Danish neuroscience environment, take part in NAD's mentor programme and join career events.

Responsibilities and tasks as during your PhD project

- Carrying out an independent research project under supervision
- Completing PhD courses corresponding to 30 ECTS
- Participating in active research environments, including a change of environment at another research institution – preferably abroad
- Teaching and knowledge dissemination activities
- Writing scientific papers aimed at high impact journals
- Writing and defending your PhD thesis based on your project
- Following the rules of the individual department and graduate school

NAD 4-year Fellowship Programme Timeline





Eligibility and requirements

You are expected to hold an MSc/MD in, e.g., neuroscience, medicine, molecular biomedicine, biology, biochemistry, psychology, pharmacology, engineering, computer science, or other relevant fields as long as you are keen on applying your expertise to a neuroscience question. What matters is your sincere interest in neuroscience.

All interested candidates with a background in neuroscience are encouraged to apply. At the time of entry to the NAD programme, it is a prerequisite and an indispensable condition that you must qualify for formal enrolment as a PhD student at any of the Health Graduate Schools of the participating Danish universities. This means that you must, at the time of application, hold either a Danish master's degree or a master's degree equivalent to a Danish master's degree (120 ECTS). Note that for applicants with an international Master of Science degree, we might send your master's degree to be assessed at the Danish Ministry of Education and Research where it will be determined whether your degree is equivalent to a Danish master's degree.

Only applicants at the required level will be considered. You must upload a scan of your master's degree diploma. NAD may at any time ask the Danish Ministry of Education and Research for an official assessment of a master's degree diploma.

Job description

Your key tasks as a PhD student are:

- Carrying through an independent research project under supervision
- Completing PhD courses or other equivalent education corresponding to approximately 30 ECTS points
- Participating in active research environments including a stay at another research team
- Teaching and disseminating your knowledge
- Completion of a PhD dissertation on basis of the PhD project, which must be publicly defended

To be considered for the NAD programme, you should:

- Have an investigative mindset and a genuine and heartfelt interest in neuroscience
- Be organized, self-motivated, result-oriented, and capable of working independently and in groups
- Be curious and motivated to learn new methods and techniques
- Possess strong written and oral English communication skills

English language skills

As an NAD Fellow, English will be your work language both in the lab and when writing an article or presenting papers of own findings. Your PhD thesis is also written and defended in English. Therefore, it is a requirement that you have profound English language skills.

- You need to upload your English language test unless you fall under one of these 3 categories:
- You are from a country where English is the official language
- You are from an EU or EEA country
- You can document that English was the language of instruction during your bachelor's or master's study programme



Application guidelines

All applications must be submitted through our online application portal. Applications received by mail or e-mail will not be taken into consideration.

7 things to prepare

1. CV – max two pages (in one PDF). Please do not include a photo in your CV.
2. Find 1-2 references
By the time of your submission of your application, your references must have consented to be your references. If relevant, NAD will contact your references as part of the recruitment process.
3. MSc degree diploma (certified English translation + in original language)
4. Bachelor's degree diploma (certified English translation + in original language)
5. Grade transcript (certified English translation + in original language)
6. English language proficiency test result certification. We only accept TOEFL (minimum 560 in the written) or IELTS (of minimum 6.5)
7. Up to two scientific papers that you find interesting of your own choice + URL of the paper(s)



Selection process – from application to job offer

After the application deadline, the selection committee evaluates all applications and shortlists a number of candidates who will then be invited for interviews. All interviews will be held via Zoom. If you are invited for an interview, you will receive detailed information about the interview format, the programme and what to prepare. After all interviews, the selection committee will recommend the 16 best qualified candidates to NAD's Governing Board that will render the final decision.

Candidates will be recruited both nationally and internationally aiming for diversity in gender, nationality, education, and research lab interests. The main goal of the selection process is to identify exceptionally motivated candidates with the potential to succeed in neuroscience.

As part of the recruitment process, all shortlisted candidates may be asked to do a personality test.

Important dates in the 2023 recruitment process

- 11 August 2023 at 4 pm (CET): Application deadline
- Beginning of September: Relevant, shortlisted candidates will receive an invitation for interview
- Mid to end September: Interviews
- October: Job offers/rejections are sent out



Terms and conditions

The average weekly working hours are 37 hours per week.

The NAD Fellowship is a fixed-term position limited to 1 year as a pre-PhD student at the level of a research assistant + 3 years as a PhD student enrolled and employed with one of NADs listed research laboratories.

Salary, pension and terms of employment are in accordance with the agreement between the Ministry of Taxation and The Danish Confederation of Professional Associations on Academics in the State.

As an integrated part of your first year as a pre-PhD, you will take part in a mandatory lab rotation programme in 3 different NAD labs. The labs are located at different geographical locations in Denmark, and you must be prepared to travel and stay at at least two different geographical locations.

During your first year as a pre-PhD, you will receive an employment contract at the level of a research assistant. Your employment will be with different universities depending on your lab rotation choices. You must at all times comply with the rules of your employer at that time. All individual agreements regarding projects and work scope as well as physical presence in the lab, among others, must be agreed upon with the lab PI prior to starting a lab rotation.

The applicant must meet the enrolment criteria of the graduate schools of the Danish universities by the time of submitting this application. This will be screened by the NAD Executive Office.

The PhD study must be completed in accordance with The Danish Ministerial Order on the PhD Programme (2013) and each university's rules on achieving the degree.

Upon your enrolment with the Graduate School of your host institution, you will report directly to your PI/supervisor in the lab where you will do your PhD work.



Additional information

Online information meetings will be held Thursday 11 May at 2:00 PM (CEST), Wednesday 5 July at 2:00 PM (CEST) and Wednesday 9 August at 2:00 PM (CEST). Sign up here:

Thursday 11 May 2023 at 2:00 pm (CEST): [Register](#)

Registration links for other dates will be added later.

For additional information about the call or the programme, contact the NAD Executive Office: office@neuroscienceacademydenmark.dk.