Who Are We?

A new scientific venture, the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences (ELSC) is unique in its approach to brain research. It is one of the few places in the world where scientists from fields as diverse as physics and psychology, or computer science and medicine, work closely together toward a better understanding of the brain. ELSC integrates the one-of-a-kind, revolutionary Ph.D. program of the Interdisciplinary Center for Neural Computation (ICNC) with the excellence and innovation of the Hebrew University, bringing together top experts, outstanding young faculty recruits, talented students, generous research funding, and state-of-the-art equipment.

At ELSC we study the brain from various angles, from genes through neural activity to behavior. We focus, in particular, on the theoretical and experimental study of the dynamics and computational capabilities of large networks, and develop new insights into the mechanisms underlying brain dysfunction. All of our research features the intense multidisciplinary collaboration that makes ELSC unique.

Why Study at ELSC?

Unraveling the mysteries of the mind and the brain is one of the most fascinating endeavors in all of science. At ELSC, we believe that the clue to solving this mystery lies in multidisciplinary collaboration.

This program is one of the largest graduate programs in computational neuroscience in the world. A large percentage of our graduates become independent researchers in various fields of neuroscience both at Israeli universities and abroad.

Our students take advanced courses that provide a comprehensive background in neuroscience: physiology of the nervous system; theoretical neural and cognitive sciences; cognitive psychology; machine learning and information processing; and advanced research methods in neuroscience. In addition, the program has a large number of elective courses that vary from year to year.

All scientific activities, as well as the classes, are conducted in English.

Why the Hebrew University?

The Hebrew University is consistently rated as the top Israeli university in international educational surveys. The Hebrew University’s 23,000 students—about half of whom are graduate students—represent Israel’s vibrant society, and include Jews, Christians and Muslims. The Hebrew University is open to all academically-qualified applicants, regardless of nationality, race, creed, color or religion.

Why Jerusalem?

Jerusalem offers an unparalleled mix of past and present culture. From world-class restaurants and cafes to historical religious sites, the city is a melting pot of ancient roots and modern innovations. Jerusalem is rich in art galleries, museums, theaters and concert halls. Exciting festivals, exhibitions, sports competitions and other special events are held throughout the year.

Prof. Adi Mizrahi’s Lab
ELSC New building, currently under construction
Jerusalem - Santiago Calatrava’s Bridge of Strings
The Program

The program has two tracks:

The first track is intended for students who are mostly interested in participating in the wide range of courses offered by the interdisciplinary graduate program at ELSC. The courses will be given in English. Students in this track will be expected to take about 10 credit points in formal courses in each of the two semesters that they spend at the Hebrew University, in addition to two lab rotations (one in each semester). They will be under the direct supervision of the head of the Ph.D. program.

The second track is designed for students who are mainly interested in working in a specific lab as part of their graduate research. These students will pre-arrange their visit with the target lab and will be expected to spend most of their time working on the pre-defined research project. While they will also be able to take courses at ELSC, they will not be required to do so. Track assignment will be discussed with the student after the interview, which is part of the application process.

Information about the participating laboratories can be found on the Internet at http://elsc.huji.ac.il. We encourage potential applicants to contact the labs in which they are interested beforehand. All participants will be expected to take two courses given at RIS. RIS offers courses designed for international graduate students in a wide variety of subjects, including language instruction in Hebrew and Arabic and seminars on Israeli society and politics, the Middle East, the Bible, comparative religion, Jewish studies, Jewish education, management of non-profit organizations and philanthropy studies.

Towards the end of their stay, students will be encouraged to present a lecture on their research, both for the students and faculty of RIS and for the students and faculty of ELSC.

Application

Candidates should send the following documents by e-mail to Ms. Ruthi Suchi, administrative director of the program (teaching@elsc.huji.ac.il):
1. Current CV.
2. One-page statement of scientific interests and objectives for the one-year visit.
3. Two or more letters of recommendation, one of them from their Ph.D. advisor.
4. Official transcripts from each university attended.
5. Proof of English proficiency (required only for non-native speakers of English), as detailed in http://elsc.huji.ac.il/content/one-year-fellowships-studying-brain-sciences-jerusalem.

Candidates who fulfill the excellence requirements of the program will be interviewed by the teaching committee of ELSC by phone or video conference. Track assignment and a detailed plan for the visit will be worked out with the accepted candidates. Applicants who require further information are invited to review the application process at: http://elsc.huji.ac.il/education.

Support

Students will be supported by a stipend of US $20,000. This stipend will cover registration at both ELSC and RIS, housing in the student village on Mt. Scopus or in the Liberman dorms on the Edmond J. Safra Campus at Givat Ram, health insurance, and a contribution towards living expenses. The stipend is not intended to cover travel expenses to and from Israel.

contact us

Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences (ELSC)
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Tel.: +972-2-6584899 Fax: +972-2-6586152
teaching@elsc.huji.ac.il
http://elsc.huji.ac.il

One-Year Fellowships for Studying Brain Sciences in Jerusalem

The Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences (ELSC), and the Rothberg International School (RIS) at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem are offering one-year fellowships for excellent Ph.D. students in Neuroscience.

The program is designed for students at any stage of their graduate studies, who have a record of excellence. The students will spend a year in Jerusalem, hosted and supported by RIS and ELSC, while participating in and contributing to the burgeoning brain research venture at the Hebrew University.