NACS DEI COMMITTEE

Seeks to advocate for and support individuals historically excluded from scientific or academic opportunities on the basis of their ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, first-generation, and/or disability status.

INCREASING DIVERSITY IN NEUROSCIENCE

NACS PhD Program

UMD DEI GROUPS

- Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI)
- Office of Graduate Diversity and Inclusion (OGDI)
- Multicultural Involvement Community Advocacy (MICA)
- Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Education (OMSE)

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

- LGBTQ+ Equity Center *(Ranked Nation's No. 1)*
- Nyumburu Cultural Center for Black Culture
- Black Student Involvement
- LatinX Student Involvement
- Asian, Pacific Islander, and Desi American Student Involvement
- Native American and Indigenous Student Involvement

Housekeeping

Agenda

- Welcome/NACS Program Overview
- NACS Student Research Flash Talks
- NACS Student Panel Q&A
- Short Break
- NACS Application and Fee Waiver Overview
- Final Open Q&A

Zoom

- Questions
  - Raise hand
  - Put in the chat
- Video
  - We encourage everyone to keep their video on.
- Microphone
  - Remain muted when not talking

PROGRAM IN
NEUROSCIENCE &
COGNITIVE SCIENCE

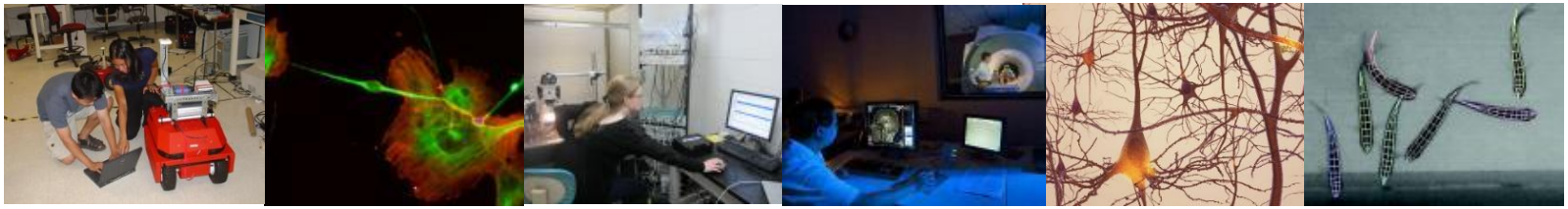
We are an **interdisciplinary** graduate training program that brings together Neuroscientists and Cognitive Scientists to better understand the brain and behavior.

nacs.umd.edu

PROGRAM IN
NEUROSCIENCE &
COGNITIVE SCIENCE

NACS Research Areas

- Cellular & Molecular
- Computational Modeling & Theory
- Cognition & Emotion
- Development & Aging
- Disorders & Treatment
- Language & Speech
- Sensory & Motor Systems



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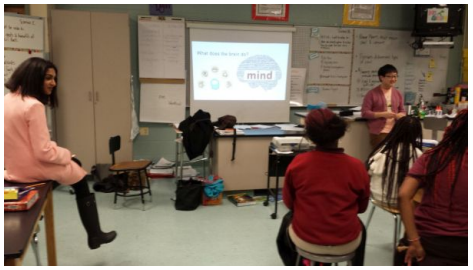
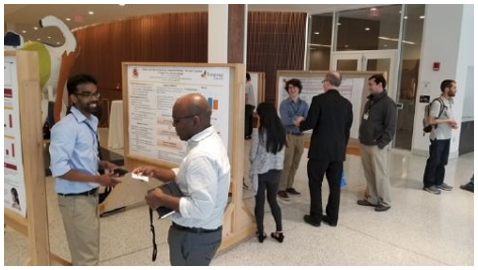
PROGRAM IN
NEUROSCIENCE &
COGNITIVE SCIENCE

Mentorship

Advisors can come from many different UMD departments

- Biology
- Psychology
- Human Development & Quantitative Methodology
- Hearing and Speech Sciences
- Linguistics
- Kinesiology
- …and more!





PROGRAM IN
NEUROSCIENCE &
COGNITIVE SCIENCE

Mentorship

Advisors can also be adjunct faculty from nearby institutions

- National Institutes of Health
- Children's National Hospital
- Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
- UM-Baltimore
- Food and Drug Administration

PROGRAM IN
NEUROSCIENCE &
COGNITIVE SCIENCE

Mentorship

Before applying, you should reach out to potential mentors to see if they are recruiting and if the lab would be a good fit.

Lab rotations are not mandatory, but students can rotate between labs during the first year if the advisors agree.

PROGRAM IN
NEUROSCIENCE &
COGNITIVE SCIENCE

Financial Support

Students who are admitted into the NACS program receive **at least 5 years of funding**. Stipends range from $27,500 - $33,000 per year depending on the source & type of funding. Most students are funded through teaching & research assistantships.

Students on teaching & research assistantships receive tuition remission for up to 10 credits during fall and spring semesters.

PROGRAM IN
NEUROSCIENCE &
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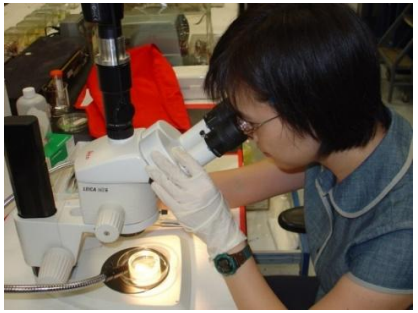
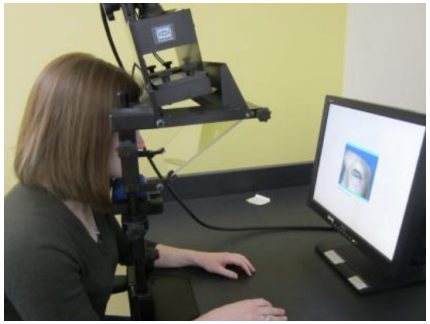
Student Timeline

Years 1-2: Core classes and First Year Research Project

Year 3: Qualifying exam

Years 4-5: Dissertation proposal and defense





Student Presentations

- First Year Research Project (Year 1)
  - Laura Castillo
- Qualifying exam (Year 3)
  - Yash Kommula
- Dissertation Proposal (Year 4)
  - Rachel Thompson
- PhD Defense (Year 5)
  - Felix Bartsch

Description

These presentations are intended to give examples of each of the student milestones.

PROGRAM IN
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Application Overview

— Melissa Caras, PhD and John Carlo J. Combista, MSc —

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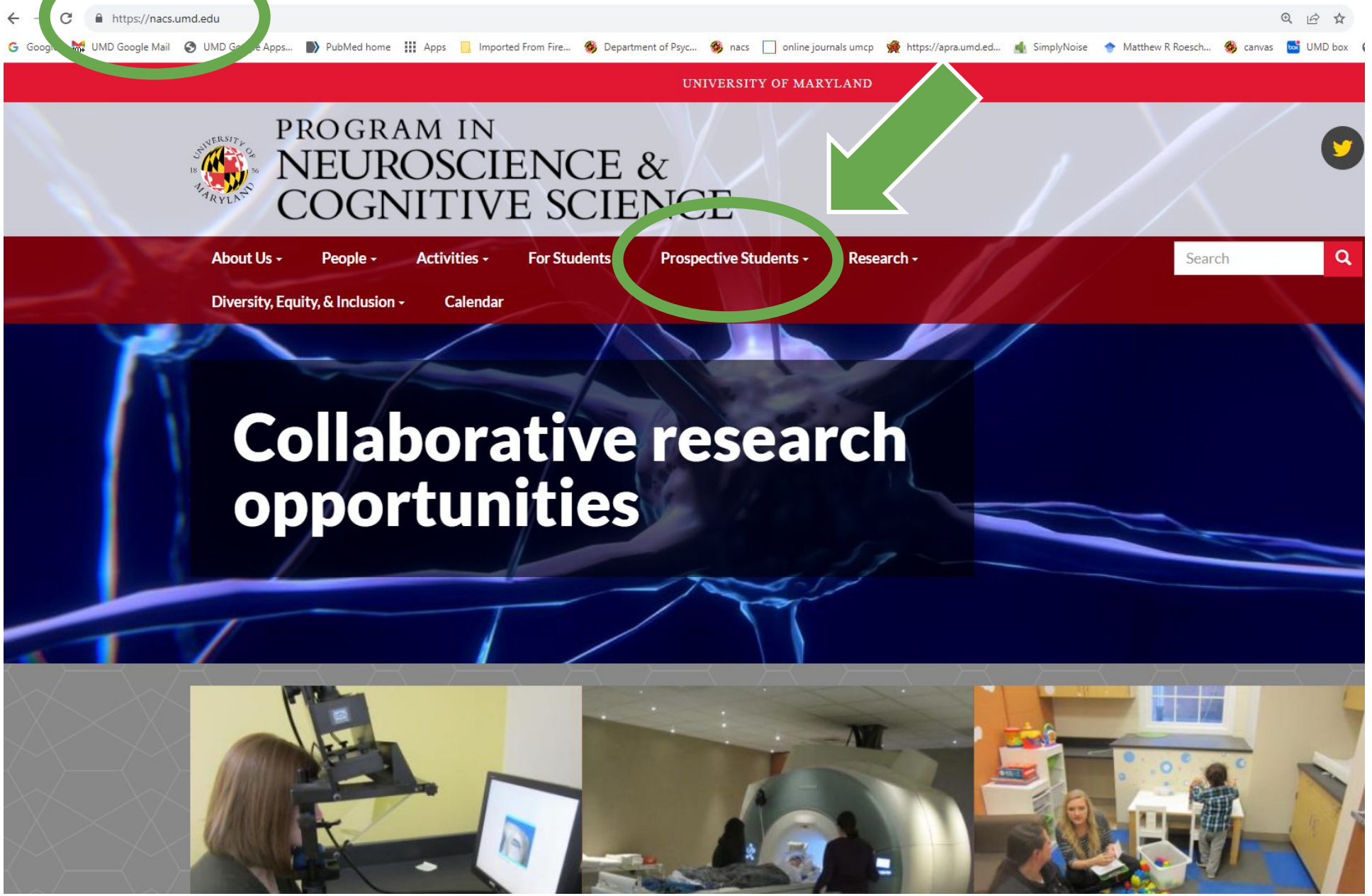
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SimplyNoise
Matthew R Roesch...
canvas
UMD box
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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

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PROGRAM IN
NEUROSCIENCE &
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Search

Prospective Students

General Information

The application deadline for the NACS program for Fall 2024 admission is December 1, 2023. Our application fee waiver eligibility procedure is listed under FAQs.

- FAQs
- Research Areas
- Potential Mentors
- NACS Courses Offered

Admissions

The NACS program enrol[illegible]-10 students each fall semester.

- Admissions Proce[illegible]
- How to Apply
- NACS-Fest
- Questions to Ask Prospective Mentors

Requirements and Expectations

Course and research requirements, as well as expectations, are available through the links below.

- Course and Research Requirements
- Expectations

Transcripts:

- Bachelor’s and, if applicable, Master's Transcripts.
- Need to upload **ONLY** the unofficial one(s).
- An official transcript will be required if you receive an offer and join the program.

Statement of Purpose:

Tell your story. This may include…

- Why do you want to pursue a PhD in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science?
- Describe experiences that make you qualified and have prepared you for Graduate School.
- Describe past research (do not just list techniques but briefly describe hypotheses, theories, results, and conclusions).
- Describe why you are applying to NACS. Describe who you would like to work with and why.
- Describe barriers and how you overcame them.
- Address poor grades if necessary.

Letters of Recommendation:

- **THREE** required:
  - Ideally, one is from a primary faculty member that you performed research with.
  - Others may include supervisors (e.g., post-docs, lab managers) or professors in relevant courses.
- Letters should support what you write about in your personal statement.
- Letters should speak to your ability and preparation to be a Graduate Student.
- Letters can address poor grades, if necessary, or barriers that the student faced.

NACS Faculty of Interest:

- Email NACS faculty to determine if they are taking students.
  - Keep it short.
  - Briefly describe your background and why you are interested in their lab. Be specific!
  - Sometimes websites are outdated, so look up recent articles published by the faculty of interest.
  - Attach CV.

- Be sure to list the faculty names in the application!

Writing Sample:

Document that illustrates your ability to write and think scientifically or logically, which may include…

- ✔ Writing assignments from relevant courses.
- ✔ Undergraduate or Master's Thesis.
- ✔ Grant proposal written by the applicant.
- ✔ First or co-first author publications.

CV/ Resume:

The purpose is to concisely convey experiences that qualify you to be a NACS graduate student:

- List degree(s) *(include institution, major, minor, GPA, and graduation date).*
- List and briefly describe all research experiences and projects *(including roles, dates, and titles)*.
- List all publications, presentations, and conference posters *(include date, title, venue, and journal where appropriate)*.
- List all awards, honors, scholarships, and fellowships.
- List past experiences and extracurriculars outside of research *(e.g., jobs, clubs, outreach, volunteering, tutoring, etc.)*.
- Make it look professional! *(i.e., organized, clear headers, consistent and readable font, no typos, etc.)*

Publications:

- Not required at this point.
- Most students are admitted without prior publications.

Application Fee:

- $75
- To be considered for an application fee **WAIVER**, applicants need to submit a "*Request for Application Fee Waiver*" form by November 13.
  A link can be found in the FAQs on the NACS website (nacs.umd.edu).
  - After the form is reviewed by the NACS program, NACS Assistant Director Pam Komarek will email the applicants to let them know if they will receive an application fee waiver.

Do you fit ONE or more of the following criteria?

•You are Black or African American
•You are Hispanic or Latino
•You are American Indian or Alaska Native
•You are Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
•You have a disability (defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities)

OR

Do you fit TWO or more of the following criteria?

•You were or currently are homeless
•You were or currently are in the foster care system
•You were eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program for two or more years
•You have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree
•You were or currently are eligible for Federal Pell grants
•You received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) as a parent or child
•You grew up in one of the following areas:
    •A U.S. rural area (click **here** to see if an address qualifies) OR
    •A Low-Income and Health Professional Shortage Areas (click **here** for a list of qualifying zip codes)

◯ Yes

◯ No

If you answered "No" to the question above, but you have other reasons for requesting an application fee waiver, please explain below:

Your answer

Have you contacted a NACS faculty member to express interest in joining their lab? *

◯ Yes

◯ No

Is your undergraduate GPA at least 3.0 (out of a 4.0 scale), as required by the Graduate School? *

◯ Yes

◯ No

If you are an international student, do you meet the Graduate School's requirements for full admission for English Language Proficiency?

◯ Yes

◯ No

GRE, GPA, TOEFL iBT, or IELTS scores:

- GREs are not required.
- GPA Graduate School minimum for full admission: **3.0**
- TOEFL iBT or IELTS □

iBT TOEFL	Requirements for Full Enrollment	Requirements For Admission to English Bridge Program	Requirements for Admission to Intensive English
Total	96	88-95	87 and below*
Speaking	22	18-21	18-21
Listening	24	18-23	18-23
Reading	26	20-25	20-25
Writing	24	20-23	20-23

IELTS	Requirements for Full Enrollment	Requirements For Admission to English Bridge Program	Requirements for Admission to Intensive English
Overall	7	6.5	6.0 and below*
Listening	7	6.5	6.0
Reading	7	6.5	6.0
Writing	7	6.5	6.0
Speaking	6.5	6.5	6.0

PROGRAM IN
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COGNITIVE SCIENCE

Thank You for Attending!

— NACS DEI Committee —

NACS DEI

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to us; we would love to know more about you and your aspirations to contribute to the fields of neuroscience and cognitive science research.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

nacs@umd.edu