



Virtual Open House
NACS PhD Program



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

Housekeeping

Agenda

- Welcome/NACS Program Overview
- NACS Student Research Flash Talks
- NACS Application and Fee Waiver Overview
- NACS Student Panel 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

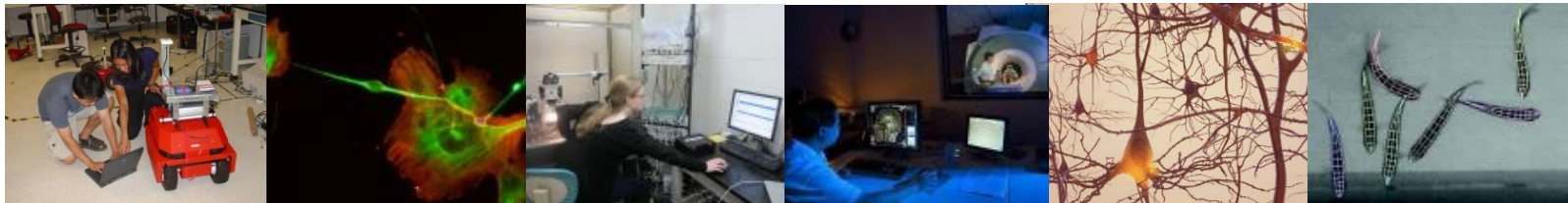
We are an **interdisciplinary** graduate training program
that brings together Neuroscientists and Cognitive
Scientists to better understand the brain and behavior.



PROGRAM IN
NEUROSCIENCE &
COGNITIVE SCIENCE

NACS Research Areas

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



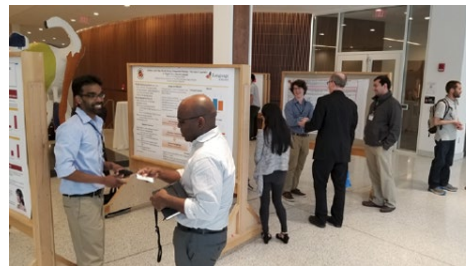


PROGRAM IN
NEUROSCIENCE &
COGNITIVE SCIENCE

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



PROGRAM IN
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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. Only applicants that faculty members have expressed interest in will be considered for admission. Applicants admitted into the NACS program will have a faculty mentor or co-mentors assigned to them.

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



PROGRAM IN
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Financial Support

Students who are admitted into the NACS program typically receive **5 years of funding**. Students are funded through teaching & research assistantships. The UMD Graduate School's minimum stipend for a full 9.5-month assistantship is \$28,467. Most students also receive summer funding, which ranges between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

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



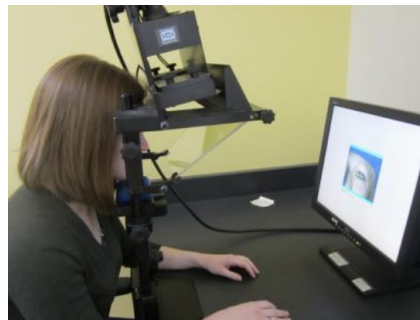
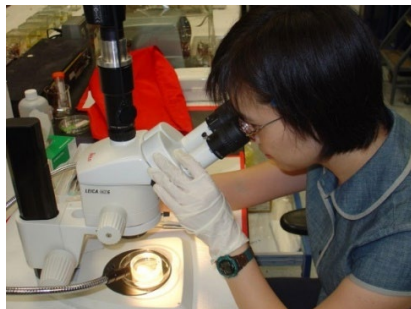
PROGRAM IN
NEUROSCIENCE &
COGNITIVE SCIENCE

Student Timeline

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

Year 3: Qualifying Examination (mock research proposal)

Years 4-5: Dissertation Proposal and Defense



Student Presentations

- Sarah Perry (Year 4)
- Kavya Rajendran (Year 5)
- Carlo Combista (Year 5)

Description

These presentations are intended to provide examples of some of the research being done by NACS students.



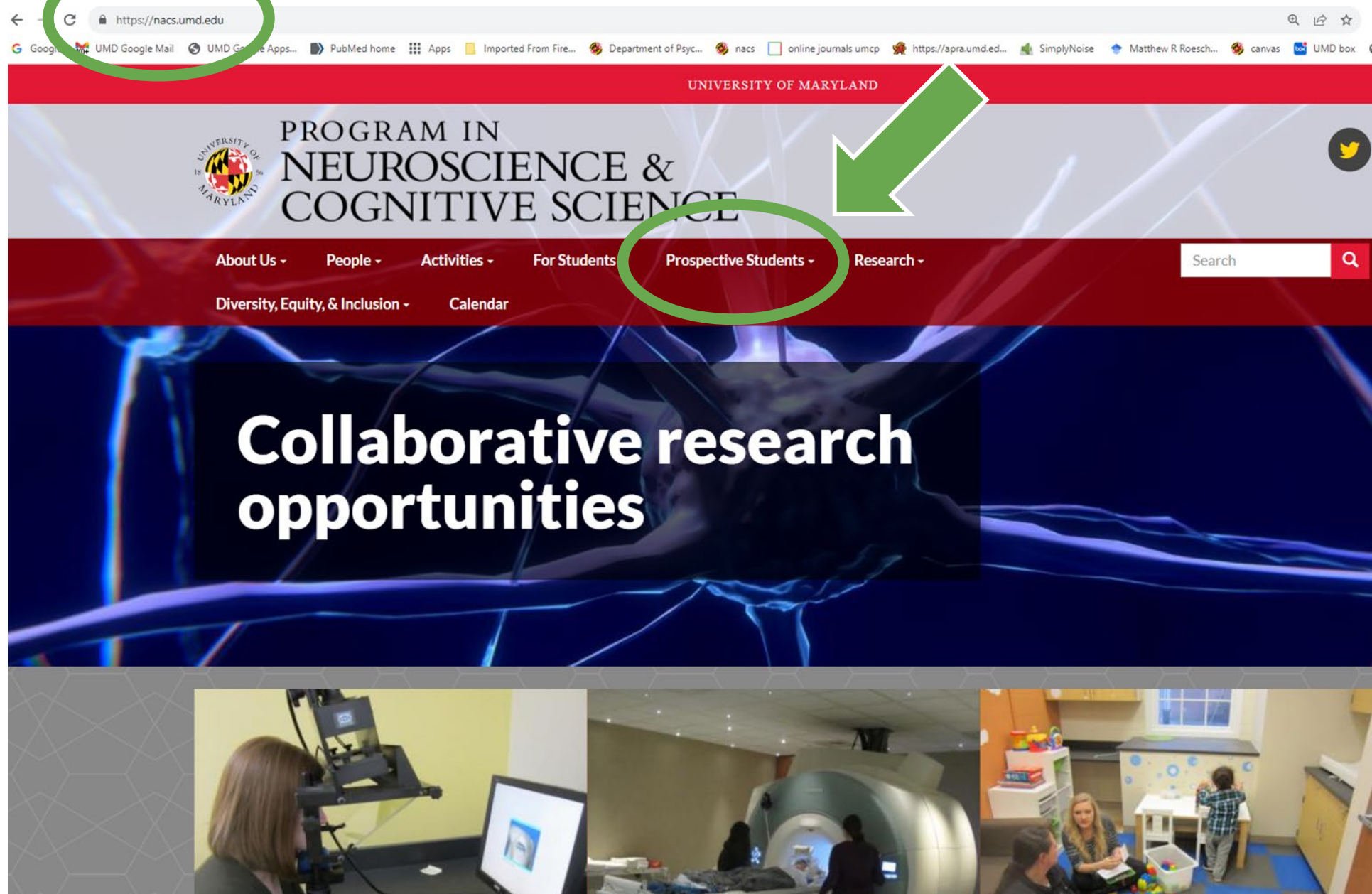
PROGRAM IN NEUROSCIENCE & COGNITIVE SCIENCE

Application Overview

The application deadline for the NACS Program is December 1, 2026



nacs.umd.edu



The screenshot shows the website for the Program in Neuroscience & Cognitive Science at the University of Maryland. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://nacs.umd.edu>, which is circled in green. The website header features the University of Maryland logo and the program name. A green arrow points to the 'Prospective Students' link in the navigation menu, which is also circled in green. Below the navigation bar, a large banner reads 'Collaborative research opportunities'. The footer contains three images: a person using a microscope, a person in an MRI scanner, and a person interacting with a child in a playroom.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

PROGRAM IN
NEUROSCIENCE &
COGNITIVE SCIENCE

About Us ▾ People ▾ Activities ▾ For Students ▾ **Prospective Students ▾** Research ▾

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion ▾ Calendar

Search

Collaborative research opportunities

Three images at the bottom: a person using a microscope, a person in an MRI scanner, and a person interacting with a child in a playroom.

Prospective Students



General Information

The application deadline for the NACS program for Fall 2027 admission is December 1, 2026. Our application fee waiver eligibility procedure is listed under FAQs.

[FAQs](#)[Research Areas](#)[Potential Mentors](#)[NACS Courses Offered](#)

Admissions

The NACS program enrolls typically 8-10 students each fall semester.

[Admissions Process](#)[How to Apply](#)[NACS Events](#)[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.

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.
- Many 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 Friday, November 20.
 - A link to the form can be found in the FAQs on the NACS website (nacs.umd.edu) under the Prospective Student tab.
 - After the form is reviewed by the NACS program, someone from the NACS Office will email the applicants to let them know if they will receive an application fee waiver.
 - **IMPORTANT:** you must start an application and upload all required documents before submitting the form!

Application Fee Waiver Request Form:

NACS Application Fee Waiver Request Form for Fall 2027 Admissions

IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR AN APPLICATION FEE WAIVER, you must start an application and upload all required documents before you complete and submit this form. After your submission is reviewed, you will be notified if you are eligible to receive an application fee waiver. The deadline to submit this form is November 20, 2026.

The following criteria will be used by the program to determine fee waiver eligibility:

- You've started an application and uploaded the required documents
- In your application, you've indicated which NACS faculty members you've contacted
- You meet The Graduate School's undergraduate 3.0 GPA requirement
- You meet The Graduate School's [English Language Proficiency requirements](#) for full admission if you are an international applicant

For any questions, please email Claire Morse at cmorse@umd.edu.

Email *

Your email

First Name *

Your answer

Last Name *

Your answer

What is your reason for requesting an application fee waiver? *

Your answer

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 with the Advanced English Writing Course	Requirements For Admission to English Bridge Program	Requirements for Admission to Intensive English
Total	96	96	88-95	87 and below*
Reading	26	26	20-25	20-25
Listening	24	24	18-23	18-23
Speaking	22	22	18-21	18-21
Writing	24	20-23	20-23	20-23

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