



Circle  
of Friends  
Paris Brain Institute

INTERNATIONAL

PhD

program

Reveal future talent in international  
neuroscience research





# Any answer to a global challenge lies in science without borders.



**Brian Lau**  
Scientific Director  
of Paris Brain Institute

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Still today, the brain remains one of the greatest mysteries in modern medicine.

Despite decades of scientific and therapeutic progress, neurological and psychiatric diseases are the leading cause of disability and the second cause of mortality worldwide. They are a stark reminder of just how much still needs to be done.

It is urgent to take action today to train the generations of scientists and doctors who have been called on to take up this major challenge. At Paris Brain Institute, we prepare these talented individuals to help pave the way for a brighter future by giving them the means they need to become scientific leaders capable of devising and developing innovative diagnostic and curative solutions for millions of patients all around the world. Our founding values: **scientific excellence, multidisciplinary collaboration, collective intelligence and daring.**

Convinced that science must extend beyond borders to tackle any global challenge, Paris Brain Institute makes openness and international partnerships essential pillars of its work. In practical terms, this involves regularly issuing international calls for applications for the creation of new research teams, hosting foreign researchers wanting to collaborate or continue their work in France, and drawing on the rich profiles that make up our scientific community.

**The International PhD program** perfectly embodies this ambition. Supporting this programme as an act of generosity means contributing to the emergence of scientific and medical talent who will address the most complex questions in neuroscience and design innovative treatments eagerly awaited by both patients and their families.

**Thank you in advance.** ”

INTERNATIONAL

# PhDprogram

Attracting **young international talent**  
to **support innovation** in neuroscience

The International PhD program is a programme of excellence that provides neuroscience students who have trained abroad with the opportunity to continue their doctoral studies at Paris Brain Institute. Every year, up to five merit scholarships are awarded after an application review process.



## Attractive conditions in a stimulating environment

Committed to open and collaborative science, Paris Brain Institute gives top profiles the opportunity to develop their skills. Over a three-year period, every doctoral student benefits from competitive compensation, a settling-in grant and a research allowance. In addition to high-level teaching, they receive personalised support combining mentoring, targeted training and weekly meetings with internationally renowned scientists. All this takes place in a multidisciplinary setting conducive to the emergence of new ideas.

**THE INTERNATIONAL PHD PROGRAM** is in line with the French and European initiatives **Choose France for Science** and **Choose Europe**, which aim to make France and the European area more attractive to scientific talent.





**Since 2023, 11 selected international PhD students have taken up the challenge.**

- **Kishalay Ghosh** - India
- **Chen He** - China
- **Esther Kozlowski** - France and United Kingdom
- **Carlo Leto** - Netherlands
- **Cibele Martins Pinho** - Brazil
- **Eleni Ionna Moysiadou** - Sweden and Greece
- **Marta Navarro Bernad** - Spain
- **Mathias Nordbeck** - Germany
- **Andrés Pordomingo Gonzales** - Spain
- **Thai Moc Tran** - Germany
- **Edisona Tsakani** - Greece



**€500,000**

**still needs to be raised to ensure the sustainability of the International PhD program**

**Initiated to build the future of neuroscientific research, the International PhD program has not yet been fully funded.**

Your philanthropic commitment is essential for the emergence of a new generation of researchers who have been called on to provide millions of patients worldwide with new therapeutic solutions.



**Contribute to the emergence of one of tomorrow's international scientific leaders**

Donate €75,000 or more to support a year of doctoral studies for a student in Paris Brain Institute's International PhD program.

With a multi-year commitment, you can fully finance a merit scholarship and monitor its real-life impact by holding regular discussions with the student and their director.

For a list of thesis topics, contact the Circle of Friends Office.

**Being  
a doctoral  
student  
at Paris Brain  
Institute**

**190**  
PhD projects  
in progress

**25**  
nationalities

**60%**  
women

Average age of  
**27** years

# Our international talents: focus

## Impulse-control disorders



**Thai Moc Tran**  
Germany

Thesis topic

### **Identifying a diagnostic marker for impulse-control disorders**

Under the guidance of Hilke Plassmann, Thai Moc Tran is undertaking her research in the **“BEND: Belief and decision-making”** team with the goal of exploring the biological foundations of impulsivity. Characterised by a tendency to choose immediate rewards instead of delayed gratification, impulsivity varies from individual to individual and increases with certain pathological conditions such as obesity, addiction and certain psychiatric disorders.

### **OBJECTIVE**

Use machine learning algorithms applied to functional MRI data to evaluate and validate the predictive power of a brain biomarker of impulsivity to develop personalised treatments.

## Multiple sclerosis



**Mathias Nordbeck**  
Germany

Thesis topic

### **Characterising cellular and molecular players in the repair of multiple sclerosis lesions**

Under the guidance of Violetta Zujovic, Mathias Nordbeck is carrying out his research in the **“MIND: Metabolism, Immunity and Neurodegeneration”** team. His doctoral project aims to identify the causes of failure in the spontaneous repair, i.e. remyelination, of multiple sclerosis lesions in the progressive form of the disease. All the RNA produced by the various cell types, as well as their interactions within demyelinated brain regions, will be analysed using innovative mathematical algorithms.

### **OBJECTIVE**

Decipher the temporal dynamics of the molecular and cellular factors that underlie remyelination failure in order to identify targets for remyelination therapies.

# on four research projects

## Brain tumours



**Andrés Pordomingo  
Gonzalez**  
Spain

Thesis topic  
**Understanding the origin  
of tumour development**

Under the guidance of Emmanuelle Huillard, in the **“NOVA: Neurovascular interfaces in tumours and vascular malformations of the brain”** team, Andrés Pordomingo Gonzalez is researching the poorly understood cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in the initiation and development of low-grade gliomas. These primary brain tumours are caused by the proliferation of myelinating oligodendrocytes with an IDH1 gene mutation.

### OBJECTIVE

Determine the consequences of the IDH1 gene mutation for oligodendrocyte function in 3D co-cultures called organoids mimicking the human brain.

## Autism



**Cibeles Martins Pinho**  
Brazil

Thesis topic  
**Identifying the cerebral  
mechanisms responsible  
for autism spectrum disorders**

Under the supervision of Nelson Rebola, leader of the **“CENSOR: Cellular mechanisms of sensory processing”** team, Cibeles Martins Pinho is seeking to determine the consequences for neuronal function of the mutations associated with autism spectrum disorders. The aims of the thesis project include testing the innovative assumption that the varying arrangements of synapses – areas where nerve signals are transmitted – determine the specific functions of a single neuron.

### OBJECTIVE

Establish a connection between gene mutations, the spatial organisation of synapses and the alteration of neuronal function to identify new treatment options.



## **BRAIN DISEASES HAVE NO BORDERS.**

**Neither do their solutions.**

**Let's work together to create a global community  
of researchers to take up the challenge.**



### **YOUR CONTACT AT THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS OFFICE**

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