

Report No. 3716 Revised

MEMORANDUM

- To: Executive Committee of Faculty Council (April 6, 2022) Faculty Council (April 27, 2022)
 From: Professor Julie Audet
 - Chair, Engineering Graduate Education Committee (EGEC)

Date: April 22, 2022

Re: Creation of Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation

REPORT CLASSIFICATION

This is a major policy matter that will be considered by the Executive Committee for endorsing and forwarding to Faculty Council for vote as a regular motion (requiring a simple majority of members present and voting to carry).

PROPOSED

It is proposed to establish a Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation, a multidisciplinary endeavor that will initially involve collaboration between the Departments of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry, Materials Science & Engineering, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering; the Institute of Biomedical Engineering; and the Institute of Medical Science in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine. It will eventually integrate different streams of research within the University.

The collaborative specialization will be the first of its kind in Toronto and will introduce students to various neuromodulation modalities. It will prepare them for research or industrial endeavors in neuromodulation, and provide them with hands-on experience performing neuromodulation research. The CRANIA Neuromodulation Institute (CNMI), an EDU:C within the Faculty, will play a key role as the supporting unit of the collaborative specialization.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

The proposed Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation was developed in consultation with the participating graduate units. All were in support of the collaborative specialization and no major issues were identified.

RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL

THAT the creation of a Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation, as described in Report 3716 Revised, be approved.

New Graduate Collaborative Specialization Proposal (Major Modification)

Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation

Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering University of Toronto

This template has been developed in line with the University of Toronto's Quality Assurance Process and should be used to bring forward all proposals for new graduate collaborative specializations for governance approval under the University of Toronto's Quality Assurance Process.

Name of proposed collaborative specialization:	Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation
Lead Faculty/academic division:	Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering
	CRANIA Neuromodulation Institute (CNMI)
Lead Faculty/academic division	Prof. Julie Audet, Vice Dean Graduate (FASE)
contact:	Dr. Taufik Valiante (CNMI Director)
	Dr. Sindhu Menon (CNMI Program Coordinator)
Anticipated start date of new	September 2022
collaborative specialization:	
Version date:	April 21, 2022

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1 Specialization Rationale

Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation

The Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering proposes to establish a Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation, a first of its kind in Toronto. The CRANIA Neuromodulation Institute (CNMI), an EDU:C within the Faculty, will play a key role as a supporting unit of the collaborative specialization. The proposed specialization will be a multidisciplinary endeavor that will initially involve collaboration between the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering (FASE) and the Temerty Faculty of Medicine (FoM) and eventually integrate different streams of research within the University. The collaborative specialization aims to create an environment that enables students with multiple education/research backgrounds to solve critical problems in neuromodulation.

Rationale

Neuromodulation is the field of study encompassing neuroscience and engineering that focuses on developing implantable and non-implantable technologies, electrical or chemical, that impact upon neural interfaces to help improve the quality of life of individuals that suffer from neurological conditions. Neuromodulation-based therapeutics are already helping those with Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, stroke, depression, chronic pain, spinal cord injury, bladder dysfunction, anorexia, and Alzheimer's disease – conditions that affect millions of Canadians.

The University of Toronto is a clinical pioneer in neuromodulation research for brain disorders, leaders in computing and advanced manufacturing infrastructure, a home to deep learning and artificial intelligence, a hub for collaborations to transform the field and a home to the top engineering departments in the world.

However, each discipline relevant to neuromodulation exists as a discrete entity and a uniquely focused approach to integrating these disciplines into a coherent, wholesome study does not currently exist. Therefore, there is an urgent requirement to bring together this knowledge as well as converge diverse skills, technologies and know-how from intersecting fields to realize the full potential of neuromodulation research at UofT.

The collaborative specialization aims to provide students with equal exposure to a neuroscientist or clinician, and an engineer or computer scientist, which will allow them to work interchangeably as the roles require.

- Specifically, the collaborative specialization will:
 - ► Train students including future clinicians, researchers and neurologists, alongside future engineers, computer scientists and material scientists.
 - Create an interdisciplinary environment that enables students with varied education backgrounds to apply their expertise to solve critical problems in neuromodulation.
 - Provide both medical and engineering students with hands-on experience in neuromodulation research, which is currently not offered by any other Institute within UofT.
 - Explore bioengineering challenges and solutions at the neural interface to critically appraise the likelihood of therapeutic success.
 - ► Foster integrative thinking in the neuromodulation space.

More broadly, the specialization will strengthen ties between the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering and the Temerty Faculty of Medicine. Through the establishment of this collaborative specialization, the University of Toronto has the potential to become a key player in an innovation drive towards technologically advanced neuromodulation therapeutics.

2 Participating Programs, Degrees and Names of Units

Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering

- Biomedical Engineering, MASc, PhD, Institute of Biomedical Engineering
- Electrical & Computer Engineering, MASc, PhD, The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry, MASc, PhD, Department of Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry
- Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, MASc, PhD, Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
- Materials Science & Engineering, MASc, PhD, Department of Materials Science & Engineering

Temerty Faculty of Medicine

• Medical Science, MSc, PhD, Institute of Medical Science

3 Objectives, Added Value for Students

The Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation aims to provide inter-disciplinary training opportunities for participating students and promote collaborative research in the field of neuromodulation. Presently, individuals are trained in specific disciplines such as engineering, medicine and neuroscience, rather than working collaboratively across these disparate fields. Our objective is to remove this barrier and specifically and intentionally develop neuromodulation professionals instead of training engineers or clinicians. This new generation of integrative thinkers will be able to operate seamlessly in the neuromodulation space in clinical/engineering environments.

The field of neuromodulation is experiencing unprecedented growth with novel, technologically advanced therapies driven by machine learning, optical interfaces, electronics, neuroscience and big data analyses being rapidly developed and deployed. Growth in this field is demonstrated by the current \$8.4 billion global market for neurodevices, which is forecast to reach \$15.1 billion by 2024 and will grow at a compound annual growth rate of more than 11% [*The Market for Neurotechnology: 2020-2024*, Neurotech Reports].

We launched the foundational course for the collaborative specialization, "BME1500H-Topics in Neuromodulation" in September 2021 as a lead-in for the collaborative specialization and to gain insight into student interest in the field. BME1500H filled to capacity (20 students) within 24 hours of opening the course for enrollment, which speaks for the high level of interest among students in the subject and validates the requirement for a neuromodulation focused offering. Additionally, the feedback received from discussions with participating faculty members and Chairs of various departments and institutes was extremely positive, with members looking forward to the integration of neuroscience within the engineering space. Given the student interest and subsequent enrollment in BME1500H, we anticipate an enrollment of 20 students in the collaborative specialization when it is launched.

The collaborative specialization will leverage existing graduate courses from participating departments and institutes in addition to the mandatory core neuromodulation course, BME1500H: Topics in Neuromodulation. The unique combination of courses currently available through this specialization will enable a multidisciplinary understanding of emerging neuromodulation technology and its clinical applications through collaborative and practical research projects. It will provide trainees with the strong skills and technical background necessary to be competitive in the field of neuromodulation. In addition, students will learn to

work collaboratively with team members and communicate effectively through oral presentations, presentations at research days and participation in team projects.

Students will engage in workshops on topics related to the commercialization of innovations, including "Entrepreneurship in the life-tech sector" and "Regulatory approval processes for technological applications." The collaborative specialization will also leverage the University's association with leading-edge Imaging facilities to offer hands-on workshops on various neuromodulation modalities such as Electroencephalography (EEG) and Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS). These workshops will be available exclusively to students participating in the collaborative specialization and aim to equip trainees with the practical knowledge and technical skill-set necessary to advance their research to its therapeutic application.

The topics covered by the Collaborative Specialization in Neuroscience (CSIN) may reflect some degree of overlap with the proposed Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation. The CSIN provides students with an overview of neuroscience and encompasses courses covering a wide range of topics including developmental neuroscience, imaging technology, cellular and molecular neurobiology, among others. While the CSIN includes a course that gives a broad overview of neuromodulation (BME1473H: Fundamentals of Neuromodulation Technology and Clinical Applications), there are currently no courses or programs that cover the scope of neuromodulation techniques and its therapeutic applications. Over the past decade, the market for neurotechnology has substantially grown as a result of advances in several fields of science and technology and neuromodulation currently comprises the largest segment of this market. Consequently, there is a need to develop more comprehensive education, training and infrastructure to better prepare students to excel in this field. As Canada's leading university, the University of Toronto has a distinctive role to play in bringing together the diverse skills and technologies from its disciplines and affiliated health care institutions. The coursework and workshops in the proposed Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation have been designed specifically with this vision to empower University of Toronto students with the skills and technical knowledge essential to advance the field of neuromodulation.

The Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation will provide students with the strong background necessary to excel in the field of neuromodulation by focusing its education mandate in the following key multidisciplinary research areas:

- 1. Neural Targets: Develop advanced surgical navigation technologies, advanced imaging and electrophysiological measurement techniques to identify disease-relevant regions or "targets" in the nervous system.
- 2. Electronics, Electrodes and Computing: Establish computational tools, bio-compatible electrodes and housings, implantable electronics, and wireless cloud-based data transfer technologies to capture and analyze neural activity.
- 3. Validated Closed-Loop Devices: Combine knowledge from 1) and 2), and linear and nonlinear control theory and practice, to create intelligent monitoring devices capable of synthesizing and analyzing neurological activity data in real-time to provide closed-loop strategies for stimulation of neural targets in a responsive manner.

Our expectation is that the proposed collaborative specialization will contribute to exciting changes in the neuromodulation sphere by fostering a new generation of scientists who will be well-equipped to create devices to improve brain, spinal cord and peripheral nerve health, and improve the quality of life of those suffering from neurological conditions.

4 Admission and Specialization Requirements

Admission Requirements

Students interested in joining must first apply to and be enrolled in a Master's or PhD program in one of the collaborating departments or institutes. Once accepted into a program, students can then apply for admission to the Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation. Students are encouraged to enroll in the collaborative specialization as soon as possible after beginning their graduate studies.

It will be the applicant's responsibility to find an appropriate supervisor to supervise them and support their thesis research. Applicants are therefore expected to contact and meet with potential supervisors among the core faculty of the collaborative specialization during the application process. The supervisor must provide a letter of recommendation in support of the student's application to the collaborative specialization.

Participating students are also encouraged to have a co-supervisor or a member of their supervisory committee with research expertise in a different field of study to their home department, although this is not mandatory.

The final decision to admit the student into the collaborative specialization is up to the collaborative specialization director and specialization committee.

Students who have completed the collaborative specialization at the master's level will not be eligible to enroll in it again during their PhD.

Program Requirements

The student's thesis requirement for the home program must be focused on a topic in the area of neuromodulation.

The course BME1500H Topics in Neuromodulation (0.5 FCE) is mandatory for all students. In addition, all students must complete at least 0.5 full-course equivalents (FCEs) chosen from the list of courses approved by the CNMI (listed below). Students are encouraged to select this elective course from a non-home faculty. Note: Some modular courses are worth 0.25 FCE. In this case, students will have to complete two 0.25 FCE courses to complete the 0.5 FCE elective course requirement.

All students must attend the professional development workshops organized by CNMI for CS students. The workshops topics may change from year to year and may include hands-on workshops on various neuromodulation modalities, translational neurophysiology workshops and lectures on Entrepreneurship in the life sciences sector. These workshops are designed to equip CS students with technical and professional skills that will complement the knowledge required from the CS coursework and will be offered 2-3 times a year. Information about workshops will be posted online as well as emailed to students once the workshop is announced. Participation in the workshops is mandatory and students are expected to sign up for the workshops via Quercus.

Students should enroll in the Specialization as soon as possible after beginning their graduate studies by completing the online application form that will be posted on CNMI website (*Link to be updated*). Students can contact CNMI at <u>info.cnmi@utoronto.ca</u> with any questions or concerns.

List of elective courses

Biomedical Engineering

BME1802H: Applying Human Factors to the Design of Medical Devices (0.5 FCE)
BME1473H: Acquisition and Processing of Bioelectric Signals (0.5 FCE)
BME1472H: Fundamentals of Neuromodulation Technology and Clinical Applications (0.5 FCE)
JEB1444H: Neural Engineering (0.5 FCE)
JPB1071H: Advanced Topics: Computational Neuroscience (0.5 FCE)
BME1466H: Advanced Topics on Magnetic Resonance Imaging (0.5 FCE)

Electrical & Computer Engineering

ECE516H1: Intelligent Image Processing (0.5 FCE) ECE1656H: Nonlinear Modeling and Analysis of Biological Systems (0.5 FCE) ECE537H1: Random Processes (0.5 FCE) ECE1475H: Bio Photonics (0.5 FCE) ECE1774H: Sensory Cybernetics (0.5 FCE) ECE1777H: Computer Methods for Circuit Simulation (0.5 FCE) ECE1647H: Introduction to Nonlinear Control Systems (0.5 FCE)

Mechanical & Industrial Engineering

MIE1359H: Engineering Cell Biology and Micro-Nanoengineered Platforms (0.5 FCE)
MIE1080H: Introduction to Healthcare Robotics (0.5 FCE)
MIE1208H: Microfluidic Biosensors (0.5 FCE)
MIE1232H: Microfluidics and Laboratory-on-a-Chip Systems (0.5 FCE)

Materials Science & Engineering

JMB1050H: Biological & Bio-Inspired Materials (0.5 FCE) MSE1038H: Computational Materials Design (0.5 FCE)

Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry

CHE1333H: Biomaterials Engineering for Nanomedicine (0.5 FCE) CHE1334H: Organ-on-a-Chip Engineering (0.5 FCE) CHE1053H: Electrochemistry (0.5 FCE)

Medical Science

MSC1006H: Neuroanatomy (0.5 FCE) MSC1087H: Neuroimaging Methods Using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (0.5 FCE) MSC1085H: Molecular Approaches to Mental Health and Addictions (0.5 FCE) MSC1102H: Psychiatric Implications of Traumatic Brain Injury (0.25 FCE) MSC1104H: Neurodegenerative Disease (0.25 FCE) MSC1109H: Introduction to Neuroimaging (0.25 FCE) MSC1113H: Radiomics and Machine Learning for Medical Imaging (0.25 FCE)

Verification of Completion of Specialization Requirements

All students enrolled in the Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation must complete the specific course requirements of the collaborative specialization, in addition to or within those requirements for the degree program in their home graduate unit, where possible. Upon completion of the CS requirements, students should fill out the CS completion form that will be posted on the CNMI website (*Link to be updated*).

The CNMI Program coordinator will coordinate with BME graduate office (or FASE graduate studies office) and SGS to ensure that students have completed all the program requirements. The collaborative specialization director is responsible for certifying the completion of the collaborative specialization requirements, with recommendations from the Neuromodulation Specialization Committee. The home graduate unit is solely responsible for the approval of the student's home degree requirements.

SGS Calendar Copy

Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation

Lead Faculty

Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering

Participating Degree Programs

- Biomedical Engineering, MASc, PhD
- Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry, MASc, PhD
- Electrical & Computer Engineering, MASc, PhD
- Materials Science & Engineering, MASc, PhD
- Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, MASc, PhD
- Medical Science, MSc, PhD

Supporting Units

University of Toronto CRANIA Neuromodulation Institute (CNMI)

Overview

The primary goal of the Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation is to introduce students to various neuromodulation modalities, provide students with the knowledge to be prepared for research or industrial endeavours in neuromodulation, and provide hands-on experience performing neuromodulation research. Essentially, this specialization will train future researchers and clinicians alongside engineers and provide students with crossdisciplinary exposure to the various aspects of neuromodulation-based therapeutic innovation.

The collaborative specialization is open to master's and PhD students in the participating graduate degree programs listed above. Upon successful completion of the degree requirements of the home department and the collaborative specialization, students receive the notation "Completed Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation" on their transcript.

Contact and Address

Sindhu Menon Web: *To be launched soon* Email: <u>info.cnmi@utoronto.ca</u> Telephone: *TBD*

Toronto Western Hospital 399 Bathurst Steet, McLaughlin Wing 14th Floor, Room 14MC413 Toronto, ON M5T 2S8

Master's Level

Admission Requirements

- Applicants must meet the admission requirements of both the home department and the collaborative specialization (CS).
- Applicants must apply to and be admitted to both the CS and a participating master's degree program.
- The supervisor must provide a letter of recommendation in support of the student's application to the CS.

Specialization Requirements

- The thesis topic must be in the neurotechnology/neuromodulation area.
- Participating students are encouraged to have a co-supervisor or a member of their supervisory committee with research expertise in an area of study different from their home department.
- The course BME1500H *Topics in Neuromodulation* is mandatory for all students. Students must attend all lectures in the course and present a project for course evaluation.
- In addition, all master's-level students must complete at least 0.5 full-course equivalent (FCE) chosen from the list of courses approved by CNMI.
- Students must attend the professional development workshops organized by CNMI as part of the CS. Students must enrol in the workshops via Quercus, which will be used to record and track attendance.
- Participating students from graduate units in FASE cannot count towards the total FCE requirements of their home program, the modular (0.25 FCE) MSC courses that are not letter graded.
- Participating Institute of Medical Science students may double-count the courses taken as part of the CS towards their degree, except in the case of some of the 0.25 FCE modular MSC courses, which are not letter graded. These students should consult with their graduate coordinator or the CNMI program coordinator to confirm this before opting for the modular elective courses.

Doctoral Level

Admission Requirements

- Applicants must meet the admission requirements of both the home department and the collaborative specialization (CS).
- Applicants must apply to and be admitted to both the CS and a participating doctoral degree program.
- The supervisor must provide a letter of recommendation in support of the student's application to the CS.
- Students who have already taken the CS during their master's degree program will not be eligible to take it again during their PhD.

Specialization Requirements

- The thesis topic must be in the neurotechnology/neuromodulation area.
- Participating students are encouraged to have a co-supervisor or a member of their supervisory committee with research expertise in an area of study different from their home department.
- The course BME1500H *Topics in Neuromodulation* is mandatory for all students. Students must attend all lectures in the course and present a project for course evaluation.
- In addition, all doctoral-level students must complete at least 0.5 full-course equivalent (FCE) chosen from the list of courses approved by CNMI.
- Students must attend the professional development workshops and seminars organized by CNMI as part of the CS. Students can enroll in the workshops via Quercus, which will be used to record and track attendance.
- In addition, doctoral students must attend the Annual CRANIA Research Day every year and are encouraged to present their research work at least once.
- Participating students from graduate units in FASE cannot count towards the total FCE requirements of their home program, the modular (0.25 FCE) MSC courses that are not letter graded.
- Participating Institute of Medical Science students may double-count the courses taken as part of the CS towards their degree, except in the case of some of the 0.25 FCE modular courses, which are not letter graded. These students should consult with their graduate coordinator or the CNMI program coordinator to confirm this before opting for the modular elective courses.

5 Degree Level Expectations, Program Learning Outcomes and Program Structure

A collaborative specialization is intended to provide an additional multidisciplinary experience for students enrolled in, and completing the requirements of, a degree program. The requirements for the Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation are **in addition to** the degree requirements and are not meant to extend the student's time to degree.

The primary purpose of the Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation is to provide engineers, clinicians and neuroscientists with the expertise required to accelerate the innovation pathway from discovery to therapeutic application. This will be made possible by providing graduate students with a multidisciplinary learning environment, in which they can perform translational neuromodulation research.

The principal benefit to students will be an improved capacity and knowledge to develop, validate and commercialize advanced neuromodulation technologies. Students will primarily achieve this capacity through the independent pursuit of a neuromodulation-based thesis supported by mentoring from an expert supervisor. This learning will be supported by the completion of a seminar course that will provide students with a basic understanding of neuromodulation modalities and attendance in workshops that improve students' skill set and practical knowledge.

Outcomes are goals that describe how a student will be different because of a learning experience. More specifically, learning outcomes are the knowledge, skills, attitudes and habits of mind that students take with them from a learning experience.

Participation in the Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation will enable students to critically analyze scientific data to improve treatment outcomes for neuromodulation, understand the bioengineering challenges and solutions at the neural interface and use this knowledge in the design of therapeutic innovations.

Details on the degree level expectations and learning outcomes for the Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation beyond those of the home program degree requirements are provided below. However, the primary degree level expectations will be met through the home department.

Table 1: Master's Degree Level Expectations

MASTER'S DEGREE-LEVEL EXPECTATIONS	MASTER'S PROGRAM LEARNING	HOW THE PROGRAM DESIGN AND
(based on the FASE GDLEs, approved	OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES	REQUIREMENT ELEMENTS SUPPORT THE
March 8, 2011 by Faculty Council)		ATTAINMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING
		OUTCOMES
EXPECTATIONS: This Collaborative Special	zation in Neuromodulation is awarded to st	udents who have demonstrated:
1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge	Depth and breadth of knowledge is	The program design and requirement
A systematic understanding of	defined in the Collaborative Specialization	elements that ensure these student
knowledge, and a critical awareness of	in Neuromodulation as:	outcomes for depth and breadth of
current problems and/or new insights,		knowledge are:
much of which is at, or informed by, the	A systematic understanding of the	
forefront of the academic discipline, field of study, or area of professional practice.	 scientific principles and methodological aspects of neuromodulation and its clinical applications in the treatment of neurological disorders. A critical awareness of current drawbacks in the field, with a vision towards advancing innovations in neuromodulation to its therapeutic application. This is reflected in students who are able to: 	 BME1500 core course that provides students with an overview of various neuromodulation modalities including interventions that are non-invasive, invasive, emerging and pre-clinical in the context of movement, psychiatric, pain, and memory disorders. Elective coursework from non-home departments which will complement the knowledge and skills obtained through BME1500.

	 M1: Analyze current and emerging 	
	neuromodulation modalities and the	
	scope of their therapeutic application.	
	 M2: Interpret existing scientific 	
	literature in the field of	
	neuromodulation, discuss and critique	
	the strengths and limitations of new	
	research studies and identify the	
	broader context and implications of the	
	research.	
2. Research and Scholarship	Research and Scholarship is defined in the	The program design and requirement
A conceptual understanding and	Collaborative Specialization in	elements that ensure these student
methodological competence that:	Neuromodulation as the ability to develop	outcomes for research and scholarship
	and implement research for the	are:
Enables a working comprehension of	generation of novel therapeutics and	
how established techniques of	technologies for their translational	 Expert supervision and guidance of
research and inquiry are used to create	application. This is reflected in students	students' research project that will
and interpret knowledge in the	who are able to:	allow to pursue cross-disciplinary
discipline.		research topics and articulate their
• Enables a critical evaluation of current	 M3: Design and carry out a research 	findings in a comprehensive, written
research and advanced research and	project that addresses the context,	dissertation.
scholarship in the discipline or area of	methods and novel, knowledge-	Workshops organized by CNMI along
professional competence.	generating aspects of the project and	with BME1500 term project provides
• Enables a treatment of complex issues	implications of their research in the	students with hands-on experience

	.
field of neuromodulation.	performing specific neuromodulation
 M4: Integrate the technical skills 	modalities and experience analyzing
specific to the study of	data from patients, which can be
neuromodulation into their research	applied in their thesis projects as well
project.	as in the clinical translation of their
	research.
Level of Application of Knowledge is	N/A
covered through the program learning	
outcomes of the home program.	
Professional Capacity/Autonomy is	N/A
covered through the program learning	
outcomes of the home degree program.	
	specific to the study of neuromodulation into their research project. Level of Application of Knowledge is covered through the program learning outcomes of the home program. Professional Capacity/Autonomy is covered through the program learning

 for continuing professional development. The ethical behavior consistent with academic integrity and the use of appropriate guidelines and procedures for responsible conduct of research. 		
• The ability to appreciate the broader implications of applying knowledge to particular contexts.		
5. Level of Communications Skills The ability to communicate ideas, issues and conclusions clearly.	The ability to communicate ideas, issues and conclusions clearly. Mainly covered through the program learning outcomes of the home program.	The program design and requirement elements that ensure these student outcomes for level of communication skills are:
	 Communications skill is defined in Collaborative Specialization in Neuromodulation as the ability to present their research clearly and concisely to peers in the field or to a person whose expertise lies outside that of the students' research. This is reflected in students who are able to: M5: Pitch their research ideas in a clear and coherent manner. 	 Team presentations of students' research projects in the core course BME1500 which presents a forum to practice, observe and improve students' communication skills and their ability to discuss their research findings. Peer review of trainee research reports in BME1500 course project, which provides students with first-hand

	• M6: Understand and analyze research presentations and communicate their	exposure to the peer-review process and helps students communicate
	questions/suggestions effectively.	scientific suggestions effectively.
6. Awareness of the Limits of Knowledge	Level of Awareness of Limits of	N/A
	Knowledge is covered through the	
Cognizance of the complexity of	program learning outcomes of the home	
knowledge, its underlying assumptions, and the potential contributions of other	program.	
interpretations, methods, and disciplines.		

Table 2: Doctoral DLEs

DOCTORAL DEGREE LEVEL	DOCTORAL PROGRAM LEARNING	HOW THE PROGRAM DESIGN AND
EXPECTATIONS (based on the FASE	OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES	REQUIREMENT ELEMENTS SUPPORT THE
GDLEs, approved March 8, 2011 by		ATTAINMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING
Faculty Council)		OUTCOMES
EXPECTATIONS: This Collaborative Special	zation in Neuromodulation extends the skil	Is associated with the Master's degree
and is awarded to students who have dem	onstrated:	
1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge	Depth and breadth of knowledge is	The program design and requirement
A thorough understanding of a	defined in the Collaborative Specialization	elements that ensure these student
substantial body of knowledge that is at	in Neuromodulation as:	outcomes for depth and breadth of
the forefront of their academic discipline		knowledge are:
or area of professional practice.	 A systematic understanding of the scientific principles and methodological aspects in neuromodulation and its clinical applications in the treatment of neurological disorders. A critical awareness of current drawbacks in the field, with a vision towards advancing innovations in neuromodulation to its therapeutic application. 	 BME1500 core course that provides students with an overview of various neuromodulation modalities including interventions that are non-invasive, invasive, emerging and pre-clinical in the context of movement, psychiatric, pain, and memory disorders. Elective coursework from related to the engineering aspects of neuromodulation approaches

	to:	which will complement the
	 D1: Analyze current and emerging neuromodulation modalities and the scope of their therapeutic application. D2: Interpret existing scientific literature, discuss, and critique the strengths and limitations of research methodologies in new research studies and identify the broader context and implications of the 	knowledge and skills students obtained through BME1500.
	research.	
2. Research and Scholarship	Research and Scholarship is defined in the	The program design and requirement
The ability to:	Collaborative Specialization in	elements that ensure these student
	Neuromodulation as the ability to	outcomes for research and scholarship
 conceptualize, design, and 	develop and implement research for the	are:
implement research for the	generation of novel therapeutics and	
generation of new knowledge,	technologies for their translational	• Expert supervision and guidance
applications, or understanding at	application. This is reflected in students	with students' research project
the forefront of the discipline, and	who are able to:	will provide students with the
to adjust the research design or	• D3: Prepare a clearly written	opportunity to pursue cross-
methodology in the light of	doctoral level dissertation	disciplinary thesis topics, develop
unforeseen problems;	outlining the context, methods	research proposals and articulate
	and novel, knowledge-generating	their research findings in a

 make informed judgments on complex issues in specialist fields, sometimes requiring new methods; and produce original research, or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, and to merit publication. 	 aspects of the project and implications of their research in the field of neuromodulation. The dissertation should meet the home program's doctoral level requirements. D4: Translate research findings into novel strategies for implementation in clinical applications that require an advanced understanding of pouroscionce and opgingering 	 comprehensive, written doctoral dissertation. In these activities, students will develop an advanced understanding of a substantial body of knowledge that is at the forefront of the field of neuromodulation. Workshops organized by CNMI along with BME1500 term project provides students with hands-on experience performing specific nouromodulation modalitios as
	advanced understanding of neuroscience and engineering science.	neuromodulation modalities as well as real brain data analysis, which can be applied in their thesis projects as well as in the clinical translation of their
3. Level of Application of Knowledge	Level of Application of Knowledge is	research.
 The capacity to: undertake pure and/or applied research at an advanced level; and contribute to the development of academic or professional skills, techniques, tools, practices, ideas, 	covered through the program learning outcomes of the home program.	

	theories, approaches, and/or materials.		
4.	Professional Capacity/Autonomy	Professional Capacity/Autonomy is	N/A
	• The qualities and transferable	covered through the program learning	
	skills necessary for employment	outcomes of the home doctoral degree	
	requiring the exercise of personal	program.	
	responsibility and largely		
	autonomous initiative in complex		
	situations.		
	• The intellectual independence to		
	be academically and		
	professionally engaged and		
	current.		
	• The ethical behaviour consistent		
	with academic integrity and the		
	use of appropriate guidelines and		
	procedures for responsible		
	conduct of research; and d. The		
	ability to evaluate the broader		
	implications of applying		
	knowledge to particular contexts.		
5.	Level of Communication Skills	Mainly covered through the program	The program design and requirement
The	e ability to communicate complex	learning outcomes of the home program.	elements that ensure these student
and	d/or ambiguous ideas, issues and		outcomes for level of communication

conclusions clearly and effectively.	Communications skill is defined in	skills are:
	Collaborative Specialization in	
	Neuromodulation as the ability to present	 Team presentations of students'
	their research clearly and concisely to	research projects in the core
	their peers in the field or to a person	course BME1500 and student
	whose expertise lies outside that of the	research presentations at CRANIA
	students' research. This is reflected in	Research day which present
	students who are able to:	forums to practice, observe and
		improve students' communication
	• D5: Pitch their research ideas in a	skills and their ability to lead
	clear and coherent manner.	discussions related to their
	• D6: Analyze research	research findings or those of their
	presentations and communicate	peers.
	their questions/suggestions	Ongoing feedback and guidance
	effectively.	from a supervisor and supervisory
	• D7: Lead, encourage and engage	committee with expertise in
	in peer-level advanced scientific	neuromodulation throughout the
	discourse on topics related to	documentation of their research
	neuromodulation, making claims	and the preparation for its
	and constructing credible	defence and presentation to
	arguments, and defending them	internal and external reviewers.
	logically and concisely using	Peer review of trainee research
	appropriate supporting evidence.	reports in BME1500 which
		provides students with first-hand

			exposure to the peer-review process and helps students communicate scientific suggestions effectively.
6. Awareness of Limits of Knowledge	Level of Awareness of Limits of Knowledge is covered through the	N/A	suggestions enectively.
An appreciation of the limitations of one's own work and discipline, of the complexity of knowledge, and of the potential contributions of other interpretations, methods, and disciplines. Competence in the research process by applying an existing body of knowledge in the critical analysis of a new question or of a specific problem or issue in a new	program learning outcomes of the home program.		

6 Assessment of Learning

The collaborative specialization will use a variety of methods to assess student development and progression in the Degree Level Expectations of primary focus namely, a) Depth and Breadth of Knowledge, b) Research and Scholarship and c) Communication skills.

- Evaluation of the Neuromodulation-related research thesis and its defense through an oral examination: The student's supervisor(s) will assume the primary responsibility for monitoring and assessing how well the student is performing relative to the expected learning objectives and degree-level expectations. However, the thesis committee will share partial responsibility to provide assessments of the student's progress throughout their degree. The collaborative specialization director will review feedback to make sure the student has demonstrated the expected degree-level expectations for the collaborative specialization.
- Academic performance in the core seminar course BME1500H which will be evaluated based on participation (20%), term project (70%), and an individually submitted project peer-review (10%). Participation in the seminar course is mandatory. The course instructor will monitor attendance and feedback to ensure those enrolled for credit have met the attendance requirement and completed the course evaluation requirements.
 - Participation (20.0): Each student can earn 2.0 grade points per lecture. Each student will receive 0.5 points for attendance, and 1.5 points for a meaningful question or comment during the discussion period of the lectures.
 - Project (70.0): Each student will be part of a group (2-4 students) that will complete a term project. These projects have been designed to provide students with experience analyzing neural data and includes data sets comprising of EEG recordings acquired from patients with Parkinson's disease, single-neuron recordings acquired intraoperatively from patients with Parkinson's disease, and single-neuron recordings form the thalamic ventral intermediate nucleus, as well as accelerometry during postural tremor, to name a few. Based on the data set, students will work in groups to write a "short format" academic paper (max. 2500 words and two figures). This will involve conducting a literature review on a relevant topic which can be used to formulate the *Introduction* section, analyzing the sample human brain dataset, writing an appropriate *Methods* section, generating *Figures and figure legends*, interpreting the results and writing a *Results* and relevant *Discussion* section. Students will then

choose one delegate to present the paper in the form a *Conference Presentation* of up to 12 min + 8 min for questions and discussion. Students must submit a copy of their report for grade evaluation.

- Peer-review (10.0): Each student will be appointed one research project final document to peer-review. The peer reviews will be graded depending on completion, effort, and meaningfulness of the feedback provided.
- Academic performance in the elective course: This will be graded for direct assessment of course material knowledge by the faculty members teaching these units and having focused expertise in these topics.
- Attendance in CNMI workshops: Attendance in the workshops is mandatory and will be tracked by CNMI's program coordinator using Quercus.

The CNMI Program coordinator will coordinate with the Institute of Biomedical Engineering graduate office and BME1500 course instructors to track attendance and monitor course evaluations of students in the core course BME1500. CNMI will also track student attendance using Quercus and coordinate with SGS to confirm students' completion of all program requirements. Upon completion of requirements, combined feedback from the core and elective courses, workshops and research thesis will be provided to the CS director, who, with recommendations from the Neuromodulation Specialization Committee, will assess if the student demonstrates the expected Degree level expectation by the end of the collaborative specialization.

7 Resources

The collaborative specialization's core faculty members are available to students in the home program as advisors or supervisors. As all the participating programs include a research thesis, it is expected that a core faculty member in the student's home department will be involved in thesis supervision. Core faculty members contribute to the collaborative specialization through teaching of the core course(s) and participating in the delivery of seminar series and other common learning elements. Some faculty may teach courses in the subject area of the collaborative specialization in the home program. Not all core faculty members are active in the collaborative specialization every year and, in many cases, simply may remain available to interested students. The list of core faculty members is available in Appendix B. Each participating degree program contributes to the collaborative specialization through student enrolments, although not necessarily every year.

Each collaborative specialization has a director and a specialization committee. Together they are responsible for admitting students to the collaborative specialization and ensuring that the faculty associated with the program have the capacity to supervise all program students. Consequently, an assessment of supervisory capacity occurs twice: once when students are admitted to their home degree program and once on their application to the collaborative specialization.

The University finds that the participation in a collaborative specialization does not normally add significantly to a faculty member's supervisory load. For the most part, students in the collaborative specialization will continue to have their thesis or major research project supervised by a faculty member in their home program who also participates in the collaborative specialization.

Please see Appendix B for a list, by program, of core graduate faculty.

8 Administration

See Appendix C: Memorandum of Agreement.

9 Governance Processes

Steps and Approvals	Date	
Development and consultation with unit(s)	June 2021-November 2021	
Consultation with Dean's Office (and VPAP)	November 2021-March 2022	
Graduate unit approval	March 2022	
VPAP sign-off	April 13, 2022	
Faculty/divisional governance	April 27, 2022	
Submission to Provost's Office	April 27, 2022	
Report to AP&P	Spring 2022	
Report to Ontario Quality Council	Spring 2022	

Appendix A: Collaborative Specialization Requirements and Degree Program Requirements

Please provide the following information for each participating program. The purpose is to clarify how the collaborative specialization requirements are accommodated within each participating program.

Following the format below, explain if the collaborative specialization requirements are in addition to the home program requirements or if they may be counted towards regular home program requirements. State explicitly, for example, "The core course (X FCE) may be counted as one of the electives."

For collaborative specialization students in a degree program that requires a thesis or major research paper, the topic should be in the area of the collaborative specialization. For students in a coursework-only master's degree program, at least 30% of the courses for the home degree must be in the area of the collaborative specialization — this includes the core course for the collaborative specialization (please see the Quality Assurance Framework "Collaborative Specialization" definition for more details). It is not necessary to reiterate all the requirements for each degree program.

Students who have completed the collaborative specialization at the master's level are not eligible to take it during their PhD.

Institute of Biomedical Engineering

PhD in Biomedical Engineering

PhD requirements: 1.0 FCEs total coursework

- 1.0 FCE of required core courses
- 0.0 FCEs elective space for courses

1.0 FCE (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization would be taken in addition to the total FCE home program requirements.

Note: PhD students within the Institute of Biomedical Engineering are free to self-enroll into a maximum of two half-courses (0.5 FCE each) in any given session. Therefore, completing the CS requirements in addition to the home department requirements should not extend students'

time to degree.

PhD in Biomedical Engineering (Transfer option for MASc students)

- PhD requirements: 3.0 FCE total coursework
- 1.0 FCE required core courses
- 2.0 FCE elective space
- 1.0 FCE (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization would be taken as electives
- no additional courses required

PhD in Biomedical Engineering (Direct-entry)

- PhD requirements: 3.0 FCEs total coursework
- 1.0 FCE of required core courses
- 2.0 FCEs elective space for courses
- 1.0 FCE (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization would be taken as electives
- no additional courses required

MASc in Biomedical Engineering

MASc requirements: 2.0 FCEs total coursework

- 1.0 FCE of required core courses
- 1.0 FCEs elective space for coursework
- 1.0 FCEs (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives
- no additional courses required

The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering

PhD requirements: 2.5 FCEs total coursework

- 2.5 FCEs elective space for courses
- 1.0 FCE (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives
- no additional courses are required

PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering (Transfer option)

PhD requirements: 4.0 FCEs total coursework (2.5FCE at the MASc level + minimum 1.5 FCE after transferring)

4.0 FCEs elective space for courses

1.0 FCE (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives
 — no additional courses are required

PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering (Direct-entry)

PhD requirements: 4.0 FCEs total coursework
4.0 FCEs elective space for courses
1.0 FCE (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives
— no additional courses are required

MASc in Electrical and Computer Engineering

MASc requirements: 2.5 FCEs total coursework
2.5 FCEs elective space for coursework
1.0 FCEs (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives
— no additional courses required

Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

PhD in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

PhD requirements: 2.5 FCEs total coursework
2.5 FCEs elective space for courses
1.0 FCE (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives
— no additional courses are required

PhD in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (Transfer option)

PhD requirements: 3.5 FCEs total coursework
3.5 FCEs elective space for courses
1.0 FCE (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives
— no additional courses are required

PhD in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (Direct-entry)

PhD requirements: 3.5 FCEs total coursework
3.5 FCEs elective space for courses
1.0 FCE (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives—no additional courses are required

MASc in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

MASc requirements: 2.0 FCEs total coursework
2.0 FCEs elective space for coursework
1.0 FCE (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives—no additional courses are required

Department of Materials Science & Engineering

PhD in Materials Science & Engineering

PhD requirements: 2.0 FCEs total coursework0.5 FCE of required core courses1.5 FCEs elective space for courses, one of which must be chosen from the list of MSE graduate course offerings.

1.0 FCEs (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives—no additional courses required

PhD in Materials Science & Engineering (Transfer option)

PhD requirements: 2.5 FCEs total coursework

0.5 FCE of required core courses

2.0 FCEs elective space for courses, one of which must be chosen from the list of MSE graduate course offerings.

1.0 FCEs (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives—no additional courses required

PhD in Materials Science & Engineering (Direct-entry)

PhD requirements: 3.0 FCEs total coursework

0.5 FCE of required core courses

2.5 FCEs elective space for courses, one of which must be chosen from the list of MSE graduate course offerings.

1.0 FCEs (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives—no additional courses required

MASc in Materials Science & Engineering

MASc requirements: 2.0 FCEs total coursework

0.5 FCE of required core courses

1.5 FCEs elective space for courses, one of which must be chosen from the list of MSE graduate course offerings.

1.0 FCEs (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives—no additional courses required

Department of Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry

PhD in Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry
PhD requirements: 2.0 FCEs total coursework
0.5 FCE of required core courses
1.5 FCEs elective space for courses
1.0 FCEs (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives—no additional courses required

PhD in Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry (Transfer option)

PhD requirements: 3.0 FCEs total coursework
0.5 FCE of required core courses
2.5 FCEs elective space for courses
1.0 FCEs (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives – no additional courses required

PhD in Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry (Direct-entry)

PhD requirements: 3.0 FCEs total coursework
0.5 FCE of required core courses
2.5 FCEs elective space for courses
1.0 FCEs (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives

no additional courses required

MASc in Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry

MASc requirements: 1.5 FCEs total coursework 0.5 FCE of required core courses 1.0 FCEs elective space for courses 1.0 FCEs (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives—no additional courses required

Institute of Medical Science

PhD in Medical Science

PhD requirements: 2.0 FCEs total coursework
0.5 FCE of required core courses
0.5 FCE modular courses
1.0 FCEs elective space for courses
1.0 FCEs (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives—no additional courses required

PhD in Medical Science (Transfer option)

PhD requirements: 3.0 FCEs total coursework
0.5 FCE of required core courses
0.5 FCE modular courses
2.0 FCEs elective space for courses
1.0 FCEs (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives—no additional courses required

PhD in Medical Science (Direct-entry)

PhD requirements: 3.0 FCEs total coursework
0.5 FCE of required core courses
0.5 FCE modular courses
2.0 FCEs elective space for courses
1.0 FCEs (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives—no additional courses required

MSc in Medical Science

MSc requirements: 2.0 FCEs total coursework

0.5 FCE of required core courses

0.5 FCE modular course

1.0 FCEs elective space for courses

1.0 FCEs (coursework) required for the collaborative specialization may be counted as electives—no additional courses required.

Note: Participating IMS students will be able to double count the courses taken as part of the CS towards their degree, *except in the case of some of the 0.25 FCE modular courses, which are not letter graded*. IMS students should consult with their graduate coordinator or the CNMI program coordinator to confirm this, before opting for the modular elective courses.

Appendix B: Core Faculty Research Synopses

Note for proponents: Please provide a full list **of all faculty** who intend to participate in the collaborative specialization from each participating degree program. In each instance, provide two to four recent publications that show active engagement in the field.

Core faculty members are those who are eligible to teach and/or supervise in the collaborative specialization, as appropriate. Core faculty members must hold graduate faculty membership in one of the participating degree programs. The process of identifying a graduate faculty member as a collaborative specialization core faculty member is initiated by the faculty member or the collaborative specialization director. Both the faculty member's home graduate unit chair or director and the collaborative specialization director must agree, as well as the faculty member involved. The collaborative specialization director is responsible for maintaining records of agreements concerning assignment of core faculty members to the collaborative specialization. Formal cross-appointments to the graduate faculty are not required for core faculty members.

There must be at least one faculty member listed from each participating graduate program. Collaborative specialization students must have a core collaborative specialization graduate faculty member from the student's home graduate unit as a supervisor, where a supervisor is required.

All teaching staff identified as members of the collaborative specialization are core faculty of the participating approved graduate programs and have been approved by the chair or director of their home unit for cross-appointment to the collaborative specialization. In bringing forward a proposal for a new collaborative specialization, the concern is that, in addition to being approved members of the graduate teaching staff, all proposed faculty be active in the area of the collaborative specialization. This list highlights peer review publications by the approved faculty members in the collaborative specialization area.

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Paul Yoo

- Computational Study on Spatially Distributed Sequential Stimulation for Fatigue Resistant Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation. Agotici S, Masani K, Yoo PB.IEEE Trans Neural Syst Rehabil Eng. 2021;29:2578-2586.
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Ofer Levi

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Jose Zariffa

- Identifying Hand Use and Hand Roles After Stroke Using Egocentric Video. Meng-Fen Tsai, Rosalie H Wang, Jose Zariffa. IEEE J Transl Eng Health Med, 2021 Apr 9;9:2100510.
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Cesar Marquez

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Paul Santerre

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The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Willy Wong

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 B. Vatankhahghadim, P. Carlen, T. A. Valiante, R. Genov. *IEEE Transactions on Neural Systems & Rehabilitation Engineering*, Vol. 27, No. 4, pp. 582-593, Apr. 2019.

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Axel Guenther

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Molly Shoichet

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Taufik Valiante

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